

This newsletter has been designed to provide you with regular correspondence and updates from your Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC).

2020 Curriculum delayed until 2021

The implementation of the new curriculum has been postponed until Aug 2021.

All Neurosurgery trainees except those starting ST8 in or before Aug 2021 will now move to the new curriculum in Aug 2021. There are special rules for flexible trainees and those on OOPs to allow them to complete a training year on the old curriculum before moving to the new one.

Phase 3 and the FRCS Examination

This was not clear at the webinar on 22nd Apr, so to clarify: The exam application states that "The applicant must have a successful ARCP Outcome 1 at ST6 onwards" to apply to sit the examination. For most people this means the first sitting that you are eligible for is in the Spring of the ST7 year. There is no intention to change this when the new curriculum starts.

Phase 3 of the new curriculum starts once the trainee can satisfy all the criteria required to pass through the critical progression point at the end of phase 2 and this is assessed at an ARCP. The criteria include that the trainee has passed the examination so you cannot progress to phase 3 without passing the examination.

In the new curriculum, progression through the phases of training is outcome based, not time based. So for most people they will pass the exam in their ST7 year, move through the phase 2 critical progression point at the ST7 ARCP and have a year as phase 3 before achieving CCT at the end of ST8. For those who fail the exam or take it later for some other reason, they will remain in phase 2 until they pass, some may require extended training to achieve this. However, once they have passed the exam and entered phase 3 they may find that they satisfy the CCT criteria more quickly and spend less time in phase 3.

ARCP outcome 10.1 and 10.2

Outcome 10 is a "no fault" outcome and may be awarded at an ARCP if a trainee has failed to achieve the necessary requirements due to COVID related changes in training. 10.1 allows a trainee to progress to the following training year with the deficient training requirements deferred to the following ARCP. 10.2 applies only at CCT in Neurosurgery – it allows a trainee to have additional training time to achieve the necessary requirements for CCT. See [here](#) for details. **Ensure you document clearly on ISCP any periods of isolation/deployment or other activity during the COVID period.**

Workforce Planning

Please welcome the 26 new trainees when they start in August. This number has been reduced from last year to reflect workforce and training concerns. Capping of trainee recruitment numbers will continue next year.

Temporary National Teaching Programme

Thrice weekly teaching webinars aimed at trainees are being run through zoom. To enhance security these are moving to ebrain. Many thanks to all the teachers, some of these have attracted over 200 attendees, the quality has been very high indeed. See [here](#) for details.

Induction Simulation Training Dates

ST1:	28 th Sept – 2 nd Oct*	Preston*	Ankur Saxena / Arup Ray
ST3:	7 th - 13 th December	Coventry	Sandeep Solanki / Amar Saxena
ST8:	16 th - 20 th November	Bristol	Venkat Iyer

* Note change of date and location. Please contact the organisers if you can help teach

Curriculum links

[ISCP: New curriculum](#)

[Neurosurgery curriculum \(current\)](#)

Quality Assurance

[JCIE - FRCS examination results](#)

[Quality Indicators](#)

[GMC survey data explorer](#)

Workforce

[GMC data explorer](#)

Training resources

[Gold Guide](#)

[ebrain](#)

Neurosurgical reading

Iorio-Morin 2020. The Risk of COVID-19 Infection During Neurosurgical Procedures. *Neurosurgery*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/neuros/nyaa157>

Whitehouse et al. 2020 UK Neurosurgical workforce planning. *BJ*, DOI: [10.1080/02688697.2020.1749986](https://doi.org/10.1080/02688697.2020.1749986)

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