

Frequently Asked Questions - The JCST Quality Indicators

1. What are the Quality Indicators?

The JCST Quality Indicators (QIs) have been developed to enable the assessment of the quality of training placements within each surgical specialty and at core level. The first 9 QIs are generic and are applicable to all training placements, regardless of their specialty or level. The remainder are divided into 2 groups: those for all training placements within each surgical specialty; and those relevant to training placements at specific levels.

From August 2019 onwards, a set of generic Programme QIs are available for use in conjunction with the QIs for training placements.

2. Where can I find a copy of the QIs?

The QIs are available to download from the JCST website: <https://www.jcst.org/quality-assurance/quality-indicators/>

3. What are the QIs for?

The individual training placement QIs act as a benchmark against which the quality of individual training placements is judged. Trainees are asked questions in the JCST trainee survey to measure the QIs, which enables the identification of training placements that are consistently rated well or poorly.

The generic QIs for all training programmes support training programme management, including educational delivery, the structure of Specialty Training Committees (STCs), support for trainees and support for trainers.

4. What happens if my training placement fails to meet the QIs?

Training placements which fail to meet the QIs will be investigated to identify why the QIs couldn't be met so any appropriate action can be taken. The requirements in the QIs, for example, the provision of at least 2 hours of facilitated formal teaching per week, can be averaged out over the training year.

5. Why has QI 6: "Trainees in surgery should complete a minimum of 40 WBAs per year" been introduced?

The workplace should offer a constructive environment in which trainees can learn through frequent formative feedback. QI 6 supports this objective by helping to ensure trainees can make use of workplace-based assessments in order to take advantage of a wide range of learning opportunities.

Workplace-based assessments channel feedback to inform trainees and help them develop their practice in all aspects of their performance. In order to be effective, assessments should be frequent and with a range of assessors covering a range of contexts and environments in which the trainee is working. Taking into consideration periods of annual and study leave, 40 WBAs equates to approximately one per week.

6. Will a failure to complete 40 WBAs in a training year affect the outcome of my ARCP?

The JCST QIs are a tool to assess the quality of training placements. They are monitored, from a quality assurance perspective, through the JCST trainee survey so any placements that repeatedly fail to offer the required opportunities can be identified.

If a trainee fails to complete 40 WBAs in a training year, the ARCP Panel will need to find out the reason(s) why in order to assess whether there is an issue with the trainers/unit or the trainee. If there is an issue with the trainee, for example a lack of engagement with the assessment process or a lack of overall enthusiasm, the Panel will need to decide whether the trainee's overall ARCP outcome should be affected. In addition, the Panel may find that a failure to complete 40 WBAs means that the trainee has provided insufficient evidence to allow an outcome 1 to be awarded.

7. As a trainee, how often should I complete a multi-source feedback?

A multi-source feedback should be completed on an annual basis and will count as 1 WBA.

If you have any queries about the QIs, please contact the QA Team on qa@jcst.org.