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And more...



Message from the resident reps

We have a LOT of updates following our recent Deanery and School board meetings this month. Apologies for the long email; we've tried to keep it succinct!

Sadly, as you know, David will be stepping down from his term at the end of the month, and welcomes those interested in replacing him to contact him at david.hillier7@nhs.net. Applications close this Fri 19th June.

We wish the best of luck to those of you sitting the Final SOE next week. Go smash it!

Thanks everyone. Hope you're enjoying the World Cup!

David, Elliot & Mo

New LTFT application process

- As you may be aware, NHS England has implemented a new LTFT application process (for new LTFT applications and changes to LTFT percentage).
- Applications must be submitted within a set timeframe that will open ~21 weeks before the rotation start date and will be open for 3 weeks.
- Applications should be submitted via the Deanery website (<https://www.westmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/support/trainees/less-than-full-time-training>).
- There are typically 4 anaesthesia rotations per year (February, May, August, November), though the website doesn't yet reflect this. New ST4s may not hear about their post before the application window closes; please submit ASAP and explain the situation on the form.
- Residents should receive a formal NHS England letter once LTFT is approved; however, there have been some teething issues with the new system; please email Dr Zoe Huish with any concerns if you've not heard back.
- Exceptional circumstances will be considered with ES/TPD support, so please include as much information as possible on the form in support of this.

In-person ID checks

- In-person checks are officially not required for Aug/Feb. Other rotation dates, however, would need an in-person check prior to receiving your ID badge. Dr Brennan is pushing for May/Nov also being added as standard rotation dates to curb this issue.
- WRH ID checks - Lots of work going on behind the scenes here. Director of medical education (DME) met with head of HR. Current stance is that if trainee has a valid DBS, there is no need to attend a face-to-face check. Can do verification day 1.
- If there is no valid DBS - there are three options:
 - 1.) Face to face check
 - 2.) Ask current local HR to do ID check for them (take in documents to have signed and then sent onto new HR)
 - 3.) Use post office verification process at own cost.

DBS check issue

- Your DBS should be valid for 3 years, but some trusts ask for a fresh one on rotation.
- WRH - residents are being asked to check a box during the onboarding paperwork that will not allow progression until consent is given to deduct the cost of a new DBS check from their first month's wages (with no other option).
- It is generally understood that the trust should accept a valid and in-date DBS certificate (generally within the last three years), which is not happening currently.
- This is being escalated to the lead DME to ensure consistency across the school. We have the support of college tutors about this.
- If you are currently/have been in this position, do not check the box if you have a valid DBS certificate and email WRH HR about this.
- Interestingly, this is not something trusts have to provide, and in the case of Stoke trainees, for example, they pay for the DBS update service (£16/yr).

Study leave application change

- NHS England has streamlined the approved course list, and now only essential courses will be on the list for automatic approval.
- Other courses will need to be approved via Accent's discretionary leave processes (previously aspirational leave).
- This includes revision courses.
- If you are unsure, we recommend emailing Dr Elin Jones (elin.jones1@nhs.net) who approves discretionary leave, or apply very early.

Exam updates

- The RCoA have produced a number of resources, including recorded webinars here - <https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/examinations/2027-launch-new-frca-exams/resource-hub>

AI software use in portfolios

- Microsoft Copilot is officially the only AI 'endorsed' by the NHS. This doesn't mean you cannot use others but it limits our ability to advertise, including some of the great work done by our residents.
- New guidance from the joint colleges regarding use of AI in portfolio practice [here](#).
- No patient-identifiable information is allowed.
- Remember to declare use of AI for SLEs if used and familiarise with use of AI guidance from colleges:
 - [RCoA](#)
 - [FICM](#)

Acceleration to training

- A change to national guidelines means that those seeking to accelerate at end of stage 2 will not be approved unless exceptional circumstances only (RCOA guidance).
- Residents cannot do formal acceleration until penultimate ARCP (end of ST6) as RCOA argue lots of training time left.
- Those who are keen to accelerate, please approach Zoe Huish. If you have experience out of training, then generally you can use this to escalate.

Curriculum update from August

- Incorporating procedure list into LLP
- Removing low thoracic epidural from the procedure list
- Removing Paediatric anaesthesia: key capability O from General to resuscitation & transfer HALO.
- Airway-related procedures and SLEs to increase
- Complex airway paed component removed
- Regional anaesthesia - knowledge of nerve catheters instead of proficiency

Bridging the gap courses

- Helping those unfamiliar with the training programme through portfolio, previously this was for non-UK graduates entering the UK system, but this has been opened up to anyone who feels they need extra support. They offer a bi-annual course as well as a Mentor to support them through the process.
- They also need residents to present on various topics with the reward of a certificate for their portfolio.
- Any questions or interest, please email c.persad@nhs.net.

LLP notes

- Registrars have to re-register for stage 2 on LLP currently. This is being reviewed.
- 7-year life of LLP post CCT - ensure you download so that your data is not deleted.

PGVLE

- PGVLE is great - use it. It has a LOT of resources.
- If you don't have access, let PGVLE fellow Hassan know - hassan.abdullah1@nhs.net.

Academia and research

- Interested in an academic career? Want to tick the research aspects of your portfolio? Email the academic lead for Birmingham Dr Dhruv Parekh D.Parekh@bham.ac.uk
- He can help suggest a program for whatever stage of training you are at as well as support the Associate PI scheme and OOPR options.

Locum shifts

- All locum shifts need to be declared on Form R for our ARCP.
- The previous formal cap of 1-2 locums/month has been removed.
- Other guidelines still exist:
 - Residents cannot pick up own rota slot gaps.
 - Residents cannot locum during a strike if they were meant to be working.
- If locums are not declared, this is considered a probity issue.
- If residents run into educational difficulties then working pattern + locums will be assessed to see if this is contributing.
- LTFT residents may trigger a LTFT status review if they are deemed to be doing too many.

Other bits

- Mentorship programme pushed to TPDs. If you'd like to be a mentor or mentee, please email your college tutor in the first instance.
- FRCA reveal funding - this is ongoing
- Lead employer update - still on national agenda. Still no further progress.

BSA prize evening

- Join us on 1st July for free Pizza and a chance to hear and learn about interesting cases and projects by colleagues in the region.
- Thanks to those who submitted abstracts for the BSA prize evening. We had a great response and will be in touch shortly! We still welcome those wanting to come along for a chat and some free pizza to register their attendance [here](#).

Thanks for making it this far! As always, any questions or feedback, please let us know!

P.S. Don't forget:

- *NEW* Anonymous feedback option [here](#)

NEW Virtual feedback option [here](#)