Clinical endoscopist training programme

Programme overview

GI endoscopic procedures, traditionally carried out by doctors, are being performed increasingly by nurses and other non-medical registered practitioners ? known as clinical endoscopists (CEs) or non-medical endoscopists (NMEs).

To address the increasing demand for endoscopy services, HEE has worked with senior medical and clinical endoscopists, the Joint Advisory Group in GI Endoscopy (JAG), the University College London and Liverpool John Moores University, to develop and deliver a comprehensive Clinical endoscopist training programme. To date the programme has successfully been delivered across 10 cohorts.

The 30-week Clinical endoscopist training programme [8] has been designed to train appropriate registered healthcare professionals (NMC Adult Nurses and Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registered) to perform safe diagnostic procedures in either upper gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy or flexible sigmoidoscopy.

In addition, HEE plans to pilot a 40-week Progression to Colonoscopy training programme [9] to upskill suitable clinical endoscopists in colonoscopy. This pilot will commence in 2020/21. With demand in endoscopy continuing to increase, the 40-week programme will help trusts to meet endoscopy challenges, support workforce flexibility and increase trust diagnostic capacity. In addition, this programme has been designed to further develop individuals who are already certified in flexible sigmoidoscopy procedures, to perform safe independent colonoscopy procedures to meet the requirements of the JAG full colonoscopy certification.

Watch our short video on the Clinical endoscopist training programme [10].

Support package

HEE is offering a training grant which can be used to support trusts to create sufficient capacity for training and supervision for trainees to complete the required number of practical procedures within the trust. See the 30-week programme [8] and the 40-week programme [9] for details.
About the programme

The accelerated training programme takes seven months and comprises of:

- clinical in house practical skills training to achieve JAG certification (suggested minimum of two dedicated endoscopy training sessions per week) requiring at least 200 procedures.
- regular meetings with local mentor and clinical supervisor
- attendance at study days at a university, leading to academic accreditation
- completion of academic assignment (currently 4,000 word case study)
- completion of JAG certification in either diagnostic upper GI (OGD) or flexible sigmoidoscopy
- completion of the competency portfolio [11] signed off by clinical supervisor
- completion of SLATE e-learning package
- attendance at JAG Basic Skills course (2-3 days)

To enable trainees to train within the timeframe, employing organisations are expected to provide local support, including clinical supervision, good access to clinical lists to enable trainees to complete the necessary 200 clinical procedures, and sufficient release from other responsibilities to support trainees to focus on the programme requirements.

For experienced clinical endoscopists

Applicants who have completed the HEE clinical endoscopist course previously.

- Submission of application form and associated plans from their organisation to show full support of the student
- No requirement to attend the selection day. Confirmation of place by email.
- All parts of the course to be undertaken, but some academic sessions may be optional and time given for personal study to account for prior learning.

Applicants who have not attended the HEE clinical endoscopist course previously

- JAG certification for the modality you have experience in is not necessary but recent JAG clinical KPIs must be supplied with the application form.
- Attendance at selection day
- Completion of all parts of the programme, with recognition of prior learning (RPL) potential for academic work.

Who can apply?

Applications are welcome from suitably experienced, NMC or HCPC registered healthcare professionals. This includes but is not limited to;

- Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists in Cancer,
- Clinical Nurse Specialists in Endoscopy, GI Radiology, GI Surgery, Gastroenterology
- Dieticians
- Radiographers - Therapeutic and Diagnostic
- Operating Department Practitioners
- Specialist Screening Practitioners

Note: If your role if not listed you may still be eligible to apply, please get in touch [12]. The programme is not open to medically qualified applicants.

From 2019 onwards, HEE will welcome experienced clinical endoscopists to the clinical endoscopist training programme.

By ‘experienced clinical endoscopist’, we mean an NMC or HCPC registered healthcare professionals who have completed training in one endoscopy modality (e.g. flexible-sigmoidoscopy, OGD or colonoscopy) and now wishes to train in either flexible-sigmoidoscopy or upper GI endoscopy. There is a requirement that no more than 100 lifetime procedures have been undertaken in the modality you are applying to train in.

Cohort dates

The next cohorts are due to start in October 2020, with subsequent cohorts planned for January 2021, April/May and September/October. This is an open application process and as such there is no closing date. Your details will be added to a waiting list if places on the next cohort are filled. You will be notified of the status of your application.

A London cohort for the Progression to Colonoscopy training programme is planned for October 2020 and open to trainees from the London region.

Application form

To apply for a place on the 30-week Clinical endoscopist training programme please complete this online application form [13].

To apply for a place on the 40-week Progression to Colonoscopy training programme please complete this online application form
This is an open application process and as such there is no closing date. Your details will be added to a waiting list if places on the next cohort are filled. You will be notified of the status of your application.

Please send your Expression of Interest form [15] to diagnosticsprogramme@hee.nhs.uk [12]

Quick links
Application form for the 30-week Clinical endoscopist training programme [13]
Application form for the 40-week Progression to Colonoscopy training programme [14]
Expression of interest form [15]
HEE clinical endoscopist training programme supporting documents [16]
DOPS advice for trainees/trainers [17]
ENTS handbook [18]
JAG certification - Flexible sigmoidoscopy criteria [19]
JAG certification - OGD criteria [20]
JAG certification - Colonoscopy criteria [21]

Contact us
Contact our team on diagnosticsprogramme@hee.nhs.uk [12]

Case studies

They fit in with departmental needs [22]? Ed Seward is a consultant gastroenterologist, responsible for training nurse endoscopists that come through the department at University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

There is no cost to the Trust?its really beneficial? [23] - Sue Priestley is the Clinical Director for Gastroenterology at St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and also a JAG lead.
Pilot cohorts

Two pilot trainee cohorts completed the training in 2016. Following a positive initial evaluation report by the Office for Public Management [24] (OPM), the programme is being rolled out more widely. Successful trainees from the programme have advanced their careers while helping to meet endoscopy service demands in their trust and freeing up medical colleagues to concentrate on more complicated cases.

To date, some 247 trainees are now either in training or have completed training.

*It is such a brilliant programme! It is intense, but provides robust quality training?*

Jun Wang, Nurse Endoscopist/ Endoscopy Specialist practitioner ? University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust.

Feedback shows trainees are helping to meet clinical demand, reduce waiting lists and contributing to a better patient experience. The full follow-up evaluation will be published in the spring and will be available on this page.

I think actually what it?s done has put better practices in place, before it was very ad hoc, the trust has focused on training massively and the planning worked has benefited us and the registrars.?

Developing your career

Trainees who have completed the programme have found it a rewarding way to develop their skills and advance their career in a practical patient focused role. They are taking on new roles such as clinical research, leading clinics and designing pre-assessment services alongside using their new scoping skills to have a positive direct impact on quality of care for patients.

I thoroughly enjoyed the course and I am now running my own list in the endoscopy unit alongside my role as an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) nurse. It has expanded my knowledge, skill base and my role as a IBD nurse?

Alexandra Westhoff, IBD Nurse Specialist/ Non-medical Endoscopist ? St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust.

Related Documents

- Expression of Interest form (.pdf) 224.88 KB [15]

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Links