

Covid-19 PGME Training Recovery

Core surgical training e-learning

HEE's Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) programme is working with the Surgical TEL Advancement group, to develop an e-learning programme that delivers aspects of the knowledge domain of the core surgical training (CST) curriculum.

The programme will provide a high-quality training resource, delivered to the ISCP national standard, which addresses the reduction in face-to-face training opportunities during the pandemic, and builds upon improvements in digital training during this period.

The programme will standardise and consolidate key aspects of the core surgical syllabus via digital training.

Background

Within the 2021 CST Curriculum, the Common Content Module sets out knowledge, clinical skills and technical skills which represent the generic competence required to be obtained by all future surgeons.

Traditionally, the learning outcomes contained within the Common Content Module are delivered variably across the UK, as teaching is dependent on local and regional educators. As a result, variability has been identified in the scope and quality of trainees' learning outcomes.

The COVID-19 pandemic saw an increased uptake in the use of digital technologies and platforms for information sharing, enabling high-quality resources to be disseminated to a large number of users. A number of national teaching programmes in surgical specialties have been developed and delivered online with great success during the pandemic.

The programme

The programme will consolidate online resource developed during the pandemic, through one platform accessible to all core surgical trainees nationally. There is the potential to develop additional layers utilising innovative solutions for digital anatomy, surgical case libraries, interactive intraoperative case navigation, skill evaluation through quantitative and qualitative metrics.

All medical trainees in core surgical training in the UK are able to access this e-learning programme, which delivers the knowledge domains of the Common Content Module learning objectives. The modules include:

- Basic Sciences
- The clinical method in surgical practice
- Peri-operative care
- Basic surgical skills
- Basic surgical tools
- Basic surgical techniques
- Critical care
- Surgical care of the paediatric patient
- Management of the dying patient
- Health promotion

The programme will feature a basic, peer-reviewed webinar series, with TEL layers built onto this, e.g. anatomy, virtual reality platforms for step/tool selection, and technical and non-technical skills assessments.

Supporting training recovery

This is a low cost, high-quality teaching programme, accessible to all surgical core trainees across the UK. The programme delivers a number of benefits to trainees and educators, including:

- Standardised delivery of learning outcomes, eliminating local variation of teaching to trainees
- Systems are interactive, improving knowledge retention and deeper learning
- The programme is available to other members of the multidisciplinary surgical team who are working to the same knowledge learning outcomes (e.g., Surgical Advanced Clinical Practitioner), enabling greater shared learning across professions
- Programme materials are accessible at any time after delivery, providing trainees with greater flexibility to access learning.

This resource promises to help trainees with exam preparation, ease curriculum delivery and bring focus and support to CSTs, who do not currently benefit from specialty societies providing this support.

How HEE is supporting the development of the programme

HEE has funded a small team of training programme directors to develop the learning content over the course of six months and provided resource for the online platform license and development.

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