

Covid-19 PGME Training Recovery

Radiology Virtual Learning

In Wessex, the School of Radiology is developing plans to offer high quality web-based resources for trainees to support self-directed learning.

The intervention aims to address the loss of face-to-face training opportunities for case reporting, due to social distancing restrictions during the pandemic.

Background

Radiology has traditionally involved apprentice-style training, with close contact with trainers and supplemented by tutorials, formal lectures and self-directed learning.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced a change in practice to a varying degree for all radiology training programmes. Social distancing has meant that hot-desking and sharing of workstations is no longer feasible. Restrictions on close proximity gatherings have reduced face-to-face individual and small group teaching, which are often where the highest quality interactive learning occurs when reporting cases. Supervision has also increasingly been carried out virtually through MS Teams. Consequently, the School has reported an adverse impact on clinical exam pass rates for some trainees in the region due to the impact of the pandemic.

This has highlighted the need to provide each trainee with access to their own workstation during their working day. Furthermore, access to high quality reference resources and materials can help support self-directed learning while reporting. These resources can help to optimise case-based discussions with trainers and support trainees to successfully pass clinical radiology exams at the first attempt. Electronic resources can also be effective in supporting trainees to develop confidence and competence in independent reporting.

Radiology virtual learning

In Wessex, the School of Radiology are developing plans to provide high-quality web-based resources to support trainees across various grades with exam preparation and the development of reporting competencies. These include:

- **Imaios** – radiological anatomy e-learning;
- **Radiopaedia** – a reference resource with images;

- **Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology Society of Europe (CIRSE) All-Access Pass** – an educational resource for Interventional Radiology trainees;
- **STATdx** – diagnostic decision support tool including common and complex diagnoses with cine clips, annotated image examples, differential diagnosis modules, normal imaging anatomy modules and examples of patient cases.

Supporting training recovery

The provision of suitable high-quality web-based resources will deliver a number of benefits for radiology trainees by enabling them to:

- read around the cases they are reporting;
- acquire the level of knowledge required for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists (FRCR) exams from an early stage;
- optimise face-to-face training time and organised teaching sessions.

These resources will support training recovery in radiology by building trainees' knowledge and developing their reporting competencies. The resources will also support trainees with exam preparation, which will help to improve pass rates at the first attempt.

PLEASE NOTE: Reference to any specific commercial products, services, manufacturer or company does not constitute a HEE endorsement.