

Anaesthetics CT3 pilot and COVID-19 recovery programme

In the East Midlands, the School of Anaesthesia has run a pilot CT3 training year and a suite of training recovery courses. These interventions address curriculum competency gaps caused by the pandemic and the introduction of the new anaesthetics curriculum.

Background

A cohort of trainees nationally have been unable to gain their primary FRCA or to acquire a number of curriculum competencies, due to redeployment to critical care and disruption to exams. Furthermore, widespread cancellation of elective activity significantly impaired anaesthetic trainees' ability to gain competencies outside of critical care.

The introduction of the 2021 anaesthetics curriculum caused further complexities, with trainees experiencing high levels of competition in the final rounds of ST3 recruitment. The School aimed to support and retain CT2 trainees who faced the prospect of having their training extended or who would need to seek employment outside training to acquire CT3 equivalent competencies.

Pilot CT3 training year and COVID recovery activities

The School has worked with local education providers to launch a pilot CT3 training year, ahead of the implementation of CT3. Each CT2 trainee who was unable to secure a ST3 post in national recruitment was eligible, with the majority accepting a post. These posts provide this cohort with continuity of training and educational support to enable them to obtain CT3 level competencies.

The School is also running a number of additional courses to support trainees across the region with curriculum competency gaps. These include:

- a *Transfer of the Critically Ill Patient* course
- additional monthly targeted simulation sessions
- development of the School IT platform to support blended learning
- a new regional weekly virtual critical care training programme.

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