

South West

COVID-19 Workforce and Training Cell Bulletin – 26 June 2020

This weekly bulletin aims to provide a summary of key information and updates on COVID-19 guidance that has been shared to date. It should be read in conjunction with the national COVID-19 advice and guidance hosted by [Health Education England](#) and [NHS England and NHS Improvement](#).

The south west COVID-19 workforce and training cell is operational from 8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

[COVID19workforce.sw@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:covid19workforce.sw@hee.nhs.uk) / Out of hours emergencies: 01454 252 679

This bulletin covers:

- [Importance of risk assessing and supporting rotating junior doctors from a BAME background](#)
- [FAQs for nursing and midwifery students](#)
- [Supporting the well-being of the health and care workforce](#)
- [Rapid Expansion of AHP placements: Simulation and Technology Enabled Care Services \(TECS\) webinar](#)
- [Student Number Controls cap \(bidding for additional undergraduate healthcare places\)](#)
- [Clinical Placement Expansion Programme](#)
- [NMC Emergency Standards](#)
- [COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Toolkit for NHS Trusts](#)
- [A new resource pack to help doctors in Foundation training](#)
- [Greater flexibility for doctors in training](#)
- [Choose GP](#)
- [e-LfH COVID-19 programme](#)
- [Other e-LfH resources](#)

Importance of risk assessing and supporting rotating junior doctors from a BAME background

On Monday 22 June HEE, NHS England and NHS Improvement sent a [letter](#) to Regional Medical Directors and Regional Postgraduate Deans highlighting the importance of employers having sufficient processes in place to identify, risk assess and support all rotating junior doctors from a BAME background. The letter also highlighted the [published guidance on how to enhance risk assessments for staff](#), particularly for at risk vulnerable groups.

FAQs for nursing and midwifery students

A [set of FAQs for nursing and midwifery students](#), developed by HEE, the Council of Deans of Health, NHS Employers and union partners, has now been published. The

document sets out the transition back to supernumerary placements to enable students to progress with their education or complete their programme and join the NMC register.

Supporting the well-being of the health and care workforce

Key links:

- [WRES briefing for boards and COVID-19 EPRR membership in the NHS](#)
- <https://people.nhs.uk/guides/shielding-and-returning-to-work/>
- <https://people.nhs.uk/help/support-apps/>
- <https://people.nhs.uk/help/>

HEE's Professional Support Unit (PSU) has released two new professional development and SuppoRTT podcasts to support trainees during COVID-19. The most recent podcast episode is: perspectives from the frontline and the sidelines.

To find out more or to listen to the podcasts, visit either [HEE's anchor.fm profile here](#) or [HEE's Spotify profile here](#)

Psychological first aid training course now available: the Department of Health and Social Care has [announced](#) the [Psychological First Aid training course](#) developed by Public Health England, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) and HEE, will be freely available for frontline staff and volunteers. This training course aims to equip staff and volunteers to provide support and recognise people at risk of distress and follows a globally recommended model for supporting people during emergencies, tailored to the specific challenges of COVID-19.

Please visit eHealth at www.ehealthlearning.org.uk or <https://publichealthengland.kallidus-suite.com/LMS/> to complete the module. Once you have signed in you can find the module by clicking on the link on the homepage or through the 'My courses' page.

Rapid Expansion of AHP placements: Simulation and Technology Enabled Care Services (TECS) webinar

Whilst we aim to expand our workforce by increasing the number of Allied Health Professionals in education, we need to ensure that we also have adequate good quality placements and learning environments to support this. There is increasing potential to include simulation and TECS* placements as part of this.

A webinar is being held on Tuesday 7 July, 9am-midday to define what we mean by simulated and TECS* placements; explain and share the opportunities and resources already in place to support simulation; provide the regulatory and professional body position on simulation and TECS placements; and showcase examples from around the country, many of which are easily applicable to different professions and areas. The webinar will take place on Tuesday 7 July, 9am-midday. To join on the day, please click [here](#).

*Technology enabled care services (TECS) refers to the use of telehealth, telecare, telemedicine, telecoaching and self-care in providing care for patients with long term conditions that is convenient, accessible and cost-effective.

Student Number Controls cap (bidding for additional undergraduate healthcare places)

In May, the Department of Health and Social Care announced its support package for universities and students, which included temporary controls capping the number of students for the 2020/21 academic year. The controls allow HEIs to recruit UK and EU students for 2020/21 up to a set level, based on their forecast plus an additional 5%.

To ensure that barriers are not put in the way of increasing the future domestic supply of nursing and allied health professionals, the announcement included a number of dispensations and supporting measures for full-time healthcare courses at degree level. These included an additional 5,000 course places ringfenced for students studying nursing, midwifery or selected allied health profession courses.

HEIs can bid for the additional healthcare places, and the Department for Education's (DfE) bidding portal opened on Thursday 18th June 2020. Originally set to close on the 26th June 2020, due to extremely strong demand for additional nursing, midwifery and healthcare places, the Department of Health and Social Care and HEE have agreed with DfE to extend the timetable for bids until 5pm on Friday 17th July 2020. HEIs can bid [here](#).

Clinical Placement Expansion Programme

To support healthcare course growth, both planned and as a consequence of the '5,000 additional place' bidding, HEE has launched the Clinical Placement Expansion Programme.

NHS England & NHS Improvement ran the Clinical Placements Support Programme for nursing in 2019, with 142 NHS Trusts working together with their local higher education institutions to create more than 7,500 new nursing clinical placement places. HEE is repeating this scheme for 2020 and expanding this to include placements for students training in selected allied health professions (AHP).

Bids to the Clinical Placements Expansion Programme can complement other funding bids, such as those already entered for AHP clinical facilities and to the Strategic Support Fund. Only by increasing both course places and placement capacity together will see the growth in pre-registration training that the Interim People Plan demands, and we hope to see alignment of bids between bids to the DfE for additional course places and to HEE for clinical placement expansion funding. There are bidding forms for placement providers/facilitators to complete, and these need to be returned to educationfunding@hee.nhs.uk also by 5pm on Friday 17th July.

NMC Emergency Standards

The Nursing and Midwifery Council have agreed the following recommendations:

- Emergency standards will be removed from 30 September 2020
- Recovery standards will be in place 30 September 2020
- Implementation deadline for the new midwifery standards has been extended until September 2022

The NMC commended the amazing work of students, educators and commented on how closely all of the stakeholders have worked during this period.

COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Toolkit for NHS Trusts

A [toolkit to support NHS Trusts](#) during the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic was developed from a library search requested on Recovery by the Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, which has since been shared with 46 other Trusts.

The toolkit is a collation of resources including sections on recovery planning, capacity and long-term impacts, workforce wellbeing, learning lessons, organisational resilience and innovation and is available to all NHS Trusts. For any further assistance with evidence and knowledge please do connect with your local library service for your NHS organisations.

A new resource pack to help doctors in Foundation training

On Thursday 25 June, HEE launched a [new resource pack to help doctors in Foundation training](#). HEE worked with partners to produce this pack of new resources aimed at easing student doctors into Foundation training and supporting them during the training programme. It follows HEE's review of the Foundation Medical Training Programme, which resulted in several recommendations to improve support for trainees, educators, and the wider system. To find out more about this resource pack, read [the full update on HEE's website](#).

Greater flexibility for doctors in training

As part of HEE's Medical Education Reform Programme, HEE has announced plans to provide greater flexibility to medical trainees across the country by extending its out of programme pause programme (OOPP) to include all specialties.

To find out more about the new plans, read [the full update on HEE's website](#). Please note, HEE are managing these opportunities locally – trainees should contact their local hubs directly to find out more.

Choose GP

The next round of GP specialty training applications opens from 28 July – 13 August (for a February 2021 start). Follow 'Choose GP' on [Facebook](#) or find case studies, FAQs and career information on the [GP National Recruitment Office \(GNRO\) website](#).

e-LfH COVID-19 programme

The e-Learning for Healthcare (e-LfH) COVID-19 programme is still being well used by the health and care workforce responding to the pandemic. Since its launch in March 2020 there have been 1.57 million session launches and during June 2020 the programme averaged 10,000 session launches each day.

For more information about the programme please visit: www.e-lfh.org.uk/coronavirus/

Other e-LfH resources

HEE e-LfH has worked with Skills for Care to add new content to the Care Certificate e-learning programme.

The Care Certificate programme: is an identified set of standards that health and social care workers adhere to in their daily working life. Designed with the unregistered workforce in mind, the Care Certificate was developed to provide structured and consistent learning to ensure that care workers have the same introductory skills, knowledge and behaviours to provide compassionate, safe, quality care and support.

New scenario sessions have been launched to support learners working towards the 15 Standards of the Care Certificate. The scenarios are an opportunity for learners to apply the principles behind the Care Certificate in a range of settings and represents the breadth of environments where the Care Certificate can be applied. The existing scenario sessions, which were launched in 2018, have also been updated and are now suitable for those who wish to learn via a mobile phone.

For more information on the Care Certificate e-learning programme, see: <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/care-certificate/>

National Breast Imaging Academy (NBIA): Last month the National Breast Imaging Academy (NBIA), in partnership with HEE e-LfH, launched their e-learning programme for radiographers, radiologists and breast clinicians. e-Learning sessions are part of the NBIA's aim to provide online learning to complement face-to-face clinical training. The sessions are designed to support trainees in breast imaging and to provide valuable continuing professional development (CPD) resources for all qualified staff.

Additional sessions will be added to the e-learning catalogue as soon as they are ready. For further information about the NBIA please visit: www.nationalbreastimagingacademy.org.

For more information about the sessions, including details on how to access the NBIA e-learning programme, please visit: <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/national-breast-imaging-academy/>.