

Statement regarding healthcare education quality visits during the Covid-19 pandemic

Health Education England is stopping all routine healthcare education quality activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our primary objective is to support the NHS workforce response to the pandemic and deliver high quality care to patients.

We will continue to work to support those education providers who have existing critical quality concerns to ensure that agreed remedial plans already in place are maintained and progress. This will ensure that the quality of education and critically, patient safety, is maintained during this time.

The unprecedented pressure on the health and care system may require learners and trainees to work outside of their usual training pathway and/or contracted duties. HEE has developed a set of principles to ensure the welfare of all learners and trainees; that they can continue to practise safely and are not exposed to risk. HEE will also be seeking assurances that the quality of induction and clinical supervision is maintained and that trainees and learners have access to training such as Advanced Life Support/Advanced Trauma Life Support.

Where learners or trainees are being redeployed or rotated, we expect providers to ensure they are given adequate support and training to equip them for their roles. Where redeployment/rotation is considered, Regional Postgraduate Deans must be involved. We will do everything that we can to reduce the impact on learning and training progression of any placement move or change in service provision.

Trainees will continue to be able to report any concerns directly to Heads of School or Directors of Medical Education via the emerging concerns email for non-medical students and learners. We will monitor this and liaise with the NHS trust or education provider if trainee or patient safety is at significant risk.

HEE is grateful for your ongoing support in providing high quality education and training in a highly challenging period and will continue to work with partners to deliver high quality learning environments for all learners and trainees.