

Explanatory notes on the Joint Consultative Committee of Anaesthesia's Paediatric Policy

The Joint Consultative Committee on Anaesthesia's (JCCA) Paediatric policy is detailed on page 15 of the [Curriculum for general practitioner anaesthesia](#), as below. There should be early focus on obtaining experience with paediatric cases so that the JCCA registrar can have sufficient volume of practice as per the curriculum for endorsement down to least five years and above, and preferably down to three years and above where hospital caseload allows.

Paediatric surgery and JCCA policy on paediatric anaesthesia

- principles of paediatric anaesthesia
- modification of apparatus and technique

The JCCA believes that competency in paediatric anaesthetics is essential for the practice of anaesthesia in rural and remote areas. As such, it is strongly desirable that all registrars undertake adequate training in paediatric anaesthesia and it is anticipated that most registrars will achieve the minimum caseload for endorsement to the age of five years and above. The JCCA recommends that registrars undertake a period of training in a paediatric anaesthesia unit if there is inadequate exposure at their primary training location.

The JCCA endorses [ANZCA Policy Document PS29](#) acknowledging that safe practice will involve consideration of all the health professionals involved, the patient and the institution in which procedures are proposed to occur.

The two levels for clinical scope for endorsement for general practitioners providing anaesthesia services in the area of paediatric anaesthetics for GPAs are:¹

1. Endorsement to the age of five years and above.
 - i. The registrar must have: undertaken a minimum of 30 cases below the age of 10 years prior to the examination.
 - ii. A training supervisor's endorsement that the JCCA registrar can provide independent anaesthesia in this age group.

Where these requirements are not met and a candidate is endorsed for anaesthesia above the age of 10 years only, a tertiary paediatric attachment is strongly encouraged to allow later endorsement to the younger age.

2. Endorsement for an age limit of 3–5 years. The registrar must have:
 - i. undertaken a further 20 cases in the age bracket less than 5 years (minimum of 50 paediatric cases total)
 - ii. a satisfactory training supervisors' report, indicating competency in paediatric anaesthesia.
3. When a previous JCCA registrar completes the paediatric requirement subsequent to initial accreditation and seeks endorsement to a younger age, the following is required:
 - i. Documented numbers of cases within a two year (24 month) period just prior to submission of application (minimum 30 patients below 10 years for endorsement to 5 years and above, with an additional minimum 20 cases less than 5 years for endorsement to age 3 years and above. This 24 months may **include** a period of the initial training if completed in proximity to the first period of training.
The training numbers must be presented in format prescribed in JCCA Curriculum.
 - ii. Written endorsement by the Paediatric Anaesthesia attachment Supervisor of JCCA candidate that the candidate has reached the required standard for independent practice in the age group of patients.

¹ If the registrar is finding it difficult to obtain adequate exposure to paediatric anaesthetics, they should seek advice and assistance from their training college.

Ongoing competency in paediatric anaesthesia requires ongoing volume of practice. This will be reviewed by credentialing committees. Failure to provide evidence of ongoing volume of practice, CPD including paediatric emergency skills may result in reclassification of paediatric endorsement.

Paediatric anaesthesia training, initial credentialing and ongoing credentialing are local jurisdictional matters with varying requirements and minimum age restrictions, which are not governed by the Terms of Reference of the JCCA.

Explanatory notes on paediatric ages for endorsement

1. Endorsement to the age of five years and above

- The JCCA requires a minimum of 30 cases **before** the age of 10 to be accredited for the age group 5-10 years of age
 - This mean 9 years 364 days and below
 - Children anaesthetised by the registrar **under** 5 can contribute towards the overall count of the 30 for recognition of the 5-10 years skill set.

Examples

- Logbook showing 40 paediatric cases from 5-9 years 364 days
 - recognised for 5 years and up
- Logbook showing 70 paediatric cases from 3-9 years 364 days *but* only 10 in the 3-5 age bracket
 - recognised for 5 years and up

2. Endorsement for an age limit of 3–5 years

- The JCCA requires a further 20 cases **in the** 3-5 year age bracket
 - This is from 3 years 0 days up to 4 years 364 days
 - Children anaesthetised by the registrar **under** 3 can contribute towards that count of 20 for recognition of the 3-5 year skill set
 - Children above the age of 5 years 0 days cannot be counted in the overall summary to recognise the 3-5 year skill set
 - The intent is that the registrar has shown enough experience **specifically** in the 3-5 year age group to be considered safe for independent practice in this younger group, which has its own particular issues.

Example

- Logbook showing 50+ paediatric cases with 20 in the less than 5 age bracket and 30+ in the 5-10 age bracket
 - recognised for 3 years and up

3. Endorsement for an age limit of 10 years

- Where the requirements for the age limits of five years or 3-5 years are not met a registrar is endorsed for anaesthesia above the age of 10 years only. In this case a tertiary paediatric attachment is strongly encouraged to allow for later endorsement to a younger age. This requires –
 - Documented volume of practice of numbers of cases within a two year period (30 patients below 10 years for endorsement to 5 years and above, with an additional 20 patients in age group less than 5 years for endorsement to age 3 years and above.
 - Written endorsement by a JCCA Supervisor that the registrar has reached the required standard for independent practice in the age group of patients.

Example

- Logbook showing 40 paediatric cases over 5, *but* 20 are 10-12 years of age
 - recognised for 10 years and up.

4. Summary

- The JCCA's recognition of skills is –
 - An endorsed age of 10 years and up is from 10 years 0 days and above
 - An endorsed age of 5-10 years means from 5 years 0 days through to 9 years 364 days
 - An endorsed age of 3-5 years means from 3 years 0 days through to 4 years 364 days – although children under 3 years can be counted towards this requirement.

Submission of the paediatric log of cases

- The paediatric log of cases is to be collated in a [spreadsheet](#) with the patients' ages in order of age as follows:
 - With the relevant (deidentified) details and date of each case
 - Totals for each age range as detailed in the foregoing are to be included
 - Logbooks not provided in the correct format are unable to be accepted and will be returned to be updated.
- The paediatric log of cases is to be submitted by the registrar to the training supervisors at the time of preparation of their end of training report. The training supervisors will confirm the actual numbers of cases performed and include these numbers in the report. The log of cases is to be attached to the training supervisors' report before submission to the JCCA.

Joint Consultative Committee on Anaesthesia