

7 May 2020

**For the information of**  
**Joint Consultative Committee on Anaesthesia training supervisors and registrars in training**

The Joint Consultative Committee on Anaesthesia (JCCA) committee is acutely aware that the current restrictions forced upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic, have potentially interrupted the usual training process for JCCA registrars in 2020. In some cases this may mean that the expected learning may not be occurring (eg if registrars have had to be redeployed to other areas, lack of elective surgery, etc).

The JCCA are requesting of both supervisors **and** registrars to formally review their progress in this 2020 training year at no later than the six month mark and to report this to the JCCA. Whilst many uncertainties remain for 2020, the committee wishes to be proactive in determining which registrars may require additional time or support to achieve their skills acquisition and competency for independent anaesthetic practice.

The committee feels that flexibility and good communication will help to provide the best solutions for all registrars but also has a responsibility to ensure the standard of training is not compromised. The committee is open to discussion and working with registrars and supervisors to achieve a high quality outcome.

There are some specific issues that may help in this review –

- For the registrar group, up to six weeks of annual leave is deemed to be acceptable, leaving 46 weeks of full time employment as the minimum time to fulfil the base requirements of a JCCA registrar. The committee has defined a minimum of 35 weeks of that 46 to be spent within the practice of anaesthesia. If a registrar has had to take additional time off due to COVID-19 restrictions, this may give a guide to planning how to accommodate those absences. The committee is **not** requiring a minimum number of procedures for general anaesthesia training.
- Whilst the current curriculum has stated that the maximum amount of time spent in ICU is restricted to six weeks, the committee recognises some registrars may be asked to work within that environment for longer periods, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee is open to relaxing that upper limit of six weeks in this context.
- The committee has defined some numerical benchmarks for specific skill sets which include –
  - Ideally, a minimum of 30 supervised epidural insertions
  - A minimum of 30 paediatric anaesthetics between the ages of 5-10 years to achieve a certification of five years and over
  - A minimum further 20 paediatric anaesthetics in the 3-5 year old age group for certification of three years and above:
    - These particular numerical limits are likely to continue to be respected.

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We would ask that supervisors and registrars respond in good time to the JCCA in this. The committee are in close contact with both RACGP and ACRRM in an effort to assist registrars as much as practical. It is possible that some interruptions to registrars will require additional time beyond 12 months and if that is the case, the earlier that can be addressed the better.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Philip Gribble**  
Chair  
Joint Consultative Committee on Anaesthesia