

CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON GP SUPERVISION/ MENTORING

A survey of training supervisors during 2018 indicated that 20% of registrars did not have a nominated general practice mentor during their training and less than 53% of sites had a rural GP anaesthetist employed within their department. With the shift in training positions to larger regional centres, the exposure to a rural GP anaesthetist for those undertaking training has become more limited.

The curriculum states the following regarding GP supervision for registrars:

Each JCCA post should have two nominated supervisors, one of whom is a specialist anaesthetist, who may be the Head of Department or Training Supervisor, and the other a non-specialist or general practitioner providing an anaesthesia service nominated by the hospital. It is recognised that a GP anaesthetist (GPA) may not be readily accessible in some training locations in which case a second specialist is acceptable; in this instance the registrar having a GP mentor is even more important. It is also strongly recommended that all JCCA registrars have a mentor relationship with a general practitioner providing anaesthesia services who is not directly involved with their supervision and training. This GP's role is to provide the JCCA registrar with a professional mentor with whom they can freely discuss matters.

It has become clear that the requirement for a non-specialist anaesthetist to be on staff and act as a supervisor is not possible in many training sites. In these circumstances, the second supervisor should be a specialist and in these circumstances it is essential that a GP (or non-specialist mentor is in place).

The role of the mentor:

- The mentor should preferably be in the location of the registrar and available for support throughout the training.
- If this is not possible, the mentor should be available by modern forms of communication (such as videoconferencing or Skype)
- The role of the mentor is as follows:
 - To act as a support during training process
 - To review caseload and to ensure that the registrar is being adequately prepared for rural/remote anaesthetic practice
 - To ensure teaching and education are sufficiently rurally focused to ensure that the registrar is prepared for rural/remote anaesthetic practice
 - It is not a requirement of the GP mentor to make an assessment of the capabilities of the registrar
- The mentor and registrar should meet/correspond at a minimum of three-monthly intervals. In the absence of a GP supervisor, the mentor should provide a report to the JCCA at the six month and 12-month mark to ensure that the registrar has adequate caseload and education to prepare for independent rural practice

- In the event of no GP supervisor, the training supervisor should be made aware of the GP mentor and as needed they should discuss the registrar's training progression.

The importance of an experienced GP anaesthetist in the training of our future GP anaesthetists cannot be underestimated. It is essential that GP anaesthetic registrars have an understanding of the rural context in which they will inevitably work and that they are adequately prepared to undertake this work.

Joint Consultative Committee on Anaesthesia