

JCCA Policy on recognition of prior learning

Background

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) refers to the acknowledgement of skills and knowledge already attained in the context of awarding credit/recognition against a course of study or qualification.

The RPL statement of equivalence is a separate process to the granting of a letter of completion of JCCA training, to achieve this a candidate must also complete the JCCA viva examination.

Objectives

- To enable a robust and transparent process to issue a *statement of equivalence of training* to the JCCA's curriculum for those general practitioners (GPs) who have previously completed some form of recognised anaesthesia training and are practising as GP anaesthetists
- Following the JCCA RPL adjudication process a statement of the level of equivalence of training of the applicant is provided, including any further supervision, education and/or training that is required.
- The statement of the level of equivalence of training, may be used for credentialing purposes by local committees or as a part of formal JCCA training.

Outcomes for the GP seeking RPL

The recognition granted to the GP can be used as evidence of appropriate training in anaesthesia which can be submitted to a hospital credentialing committee when the GP applies for privileges in a rural area.

The statement's scope is recognition of attainment of a level of anaesthesia education and training. The statement is not approval to practise as a GP anaesthetist in a rural area in the future. This is not the JCCA's decision and requires credentialing by a hospital credentialing committee.

RPL as granted can contribute to attaining formal JCCA training and the letter of completion of that training.

Principles

The principles on which the JCCA makes decisions about RPL for GP anaesthesia training and ongoing education are –

- **Jurisdiction**

The jurisdiction of the JCCA is only for, Fellows of the RACGP or ACRRM, a registrar enrolled in a rural general practice training program, or a practitioner with a stated intention of entering rural general practice in the immediate future.

- **Assessment of prior learning**

These GPs must have appropriate training deemed to be equivalent to the JCCA curriculum. Appropriate training includes:

- The individual has undertaken basic training at an ANZCA approved site for a minimum of 12 months, and during that time they have received satisfactory supervisor reports.

- The individual has undertaken formal anaesthetic training for the equivalent of 12 months in a non-approved ANZCA training site, under another recognised body. The decision will require a clinical assessment of the applicant's abilities
- The individual has achieved anaesthetic competency via a workplace-based training program. The decision will require a clinical assessment of the applicant's abilities
- A clinical assessment is a minimum of two weeks clinical attachment at an approved JCCA training site
- If no external anaesthesia exams have been undertaken the applicant may be required to sit the JCCA viva exam as part of their assessment.

- **Maintenance of anaesthetic skills and knowledge**

- These GPs must have maintained their anaesthesia skills and knowledge, ie have demonstrated a regular caseload commitment to anaesthesia
- Participation in ongoing approved continuing professional development (CPD) programs in the field of anaesthesia.
- Satisfactory referee and supervisor's reports.

Any decision, approval, consent, or the exercise of any discretion by the JCCA of these requirements will be considered on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the particular circumstances of each case. Notwithstanding these requirements the JCCA may exercise or dispense other decisions in extraordinary circumstances.

Any such decision, approval, consent or exercise of discretion will not be binding on any other or future decisions or set any precedent for other or future decisions.

JCCA RPL assessment process

A GP wishing to apply for JCCA RPL must complete the details on the prescribed application form including evidence of the following items –

1. Current CV
2. Current AHPRA medical registration
3. Details of anaesthesia training including course curriculum, academic transcript and certificate of completion
4. A logbook of the most recent anaesthesia work (last five years)
5. The names of three referees with whom they have worked in the last two years who are familiar with the GP's anaesthesia work
6. A list of professional development activities undertaken in the area of anaesthesia in the last two years.
7. Certificate of completion for an emergency course (as described in the JCCA Curriculum for general practitioner anaesthesia (2020))
8. Details of paediatric anaesthesia experience, using the registrar logbook template which can be downloaded from the JCCA' [website](#).
9. Details of epidural skills.

The committee may also require applicants to complete –

- A period of supervised clinical attachment (two weeks) in an accredited hospital in order that the level of skills and knowledge can be assessed. Following review of the supervisor's report of this initial attachment, additional periods of supervised clinical attachment (up to one year) may be required by the committee. Recency of anaesthesia practice is a major factor in determining the length of clinical attachments or retraining.
- The JCCA's viva.

Related policies, documents

- Curriculum statement in anaesthesia for advanced rural skills and advanced specialised training (CSA) — Fourth Edition 2010, Fifth edition 2018, [Sixth edition 2020](#)
- ANZCA PS1 (2010) - Recommendations on essential training for rural general practitioners in Australia proposing to administer anaesthesia (now withdrawn) — www.anzca.edu.au
- JCCA CPD Standard 2017-19, 2020-22
- Maintenance of Professional Standards Program (MOPS) for Rural GP Anaesthetists 2005-2007, 2008-2010, 2011-13, 2014-16
- Anaesthetics Advanced Rural Skills Curriculum Statement — Third Edition 2003
- Accreditation Process and Maintenance of Professional Standards of JCCA 2002-2004
- Anaesthetics Advanced Rural Skills Curriculum Statement — Second Edition April 1998
- Program for the Maintenance of Professional Standards of Rural GP Anaesthetists (MOPS) 1999-2001

Information

1. JCCA [website](#)
2. [Curriculum for general practice anaesthesia](#), Sixth edition, 2020
3. JCCA recognition of prior learning (RPL) [policy](#) including RPL application

Joint Consultative Committee on Anaesthesia