

Impact on Medical and Dental Training Programmes of COVID-19 Response

Guidance to Trainees

NIMDTA is aware of the multiple concerns around the impact of supporting the response to COVID-19 on postgraduate medical and dental education and training.

There will be increasing requirements for trainees to support the HSC in managing the care of acutely ill patients and the statutory education bodies (HEE, NES, HEIW and NIMDTA) are working together with the Chief Medical Officers, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, the GMC and the GDC to manage the impact on the longer term needs of doctors and dentists in training.

All guidance and correspondence which has been issued to trainees in relation to supporting the COVID-19 response is available at www.nimmdta.gov.uk/. FAQs are also being developed and trainees are advised to email ValuedTrainees@hscni.net with any additional queries or concerns.

Teaching and Training Events

DoH and HSC guidance has been received advising that in order to focus on the training required to up skill and train staff to support essential services, all non-essential events and training will cease. There will also be no attendance at regional, national or international courses. As a result all NIMDTA postgraduate teaching and training events have been postponed or cancelled.

The GMC NTS has also been postponed during this period.

ARCP and Training Progression

Guidance on contingency planning for ARCP has been developed across the 4 nations to adapt assessments to ensure patient care remains a primary focus. This correspondence is available at www.nimmdta.gov.uk/. The ARCP process will proceed but will be modified to minimise the potential impact of these educational processes on delivering front line services. ARCP panels will take into account the impact of the pandemic when arriving at an Outcome. The GMC has advised that revalidation recommendations due to be made before September 2020 will be postponed for one year.

There has been 4 nation agreement with the JRCPTB that PYAs for Medical Specialty trainees should be temporarily suspended until such time as the current crisis recedes.

Redeployment of Trainees

Due to the unprecedented demands placed on healthcare delivery there may be a requirement for trainees to be temporarily redeployed to support the most urgent clinical areas. In this event the Postgraduate Dean will be informed of plans to redeploy trainees and will require assurance that trainees will be provided with appropriate induction and will be informed of who they are reporting to and who is providing supervision. Trainees should not working outside of their capabilities.

Exams

V1 18.03.20 – this will be updated as further information is available

All College examinations have been cancelled with effect from Monday 23 March 2020. Trainees can claim for travel and accommodation expenses that they have incurred associated with examinations if this is not refundable via other methods. If you are impacted by this please email studyleave@hscni.net

Recruitment Processes for August 2020

A decision has been made to cancel all face to face specialty recruitment interviews with immediate effect. Recruitment processes are being revised to ensure selection can take place using different methods. Trainees who have been impacted by this will receive email correspondence and further information will be made available via <https://www.nimmdta.gov.uk/> as soon as possible.

Academic Training

Trainees in Clinical Academic Training Programmes or OOPR are being approached to return to clinical work to support the HSC. Discussions are taking place with universities and funding bodies in relation to the impact on research programmes.

Rotations from 1 April 2020

Correspondence has been issued to trainees advising that all planned rotations due to take place on 1 April 2020 will cease with trainees being asked to remain in their present working environment unless by exception. F2 trainees who are currently in a General Practice or Academic Placement will return to the hospital environment.

Study Leave

Trainees are advised that no further study leave should be applied for or booked. Trainees should endeavour to obtain a refund for pre-booked expenses. Trainees who had applied for and been approved for study leave to attend courses will be reimbursed for the expenses already incurred on submission of receipts and in line with study leave guidelines. Any queries should be issued to studyleave@hscni.net.

Trainee Health and Wellbeing

NIMDTA will continue to provide access to Professional Support services during this crisis. If you wish to make an appointment please email professionalsupport.nimmdta@hscni.net.

Trainees who are Pregnant or with Underlying Health Issues

Further guidance is awaiting from DoH

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