

e-Portfolio for Physicians Training **Newsletter – June 2008**

Enrolments - News

We are advising trainees, supervisors and Heads of Schools that enrolment with the JRCPTB online enrolment system is, in many of the deaneries already, a requirement prior to having an ARCP.

For CMT (including ACCS for those going into Acute Medicine, FTSTA or LAT) level, this is particularly important as without confirmation of enrolment (and a receipt for payment of this) we are not in a position to sign off JRCPTB Certificates of Completion of Core Medical Training.

All ST3 (Including LAT or FTSTA) level post holders need to ensure they have enrolled with the JRCPTB. Delay in doing this can result in award of CCT being delayed.

The enrolment fees to be paid on enrolment are as follows:

CMT = £250 (ST1 and ST2)

ST3 = £625 (ST3 - CCT)

LAT/ FTSTA = £125

There is the option of paying by instalments through Collegiate or Associate Membership of one of the 3 Colleges of Physicians:

Glasgow www.rcpsg.ac.uk

Edinburgh www.rcpe.ac.uk/about/join/coll-mems.php

London www.rcplondon.ac.uk

Further enquiries can be made with the JRCPTB - Enrolments Department via enrolments@jrcptb.org.uk

e-Portfolio

Since last August the e-portfolio has become well established as the single record of progress for trainees in CMT programmes. This newsletter is to provide an update on where we have got to and our plans for the e-portfolio. We hope to build on the advantages that the e-portfolio has given in the last year whilst responding to feedback from users.

Usage

At the end of March 2008 we had 3248 trainees registered on the e-portfolio (not including Scotland) and the great majority of these had been linked to a supervisor. The mean number of workplace-based assessments per trainee since August was encouraging:

ACAT	1.8
Mini-CEX	2.0
CbD	2.3
DOPS	3.4
Total	9.5

Induction appraisal forms were recorded in 67% of posts, which is good considering that in some areas trainees and supervisors did not get usernames and passwords until well after the start of their first posts. End of Attachment appraisal forms had been less well used (17% of posts) which is probably partly because for many people their second post had only just finished, but is also likely to be related to the fact that only supervisors can complete the End of Attachment forms. Overall we are very pleased with the take-up of the e-portfolio in its first year.

ARCPs and Supervisors Reports

The Supervisor's Report and New ARCP form have been available in the CMT e-portfolio since early May. They are both on the "Posts/Meetings" page along with the appraisal and RITA form. Both these new forms have been kept fairly simple in their functioning at the moment but should contain more automation in future (e.g. counts of workplace based assessments). We have retained the old RITA-style ARCP form as well for now because we know it has already been used but it can no longer be written to. We are aware that there is variation across deaneries in how ARCPs are being managed.

Version 2.0

The e-portfolio software is currently being rewritten by NHS Education for Scotland, who say this about it:
"In August 2008 e-Portfolio 2.0 will launch providing users with significant enhancements in functionality and ease of use. The new e-Portfolio has been developed based on three years experience and the continuous valued feedback from the diverse range of groups that have used the system. The use of a new programming language has enabled many improvements in processes and system architecture."

We have given NES our requirements and hope to see many improvements to make life easier for trainees, supervisors and administrators. Although we realise that many people have just got used to the current e-portfolio, we believe that changing now will give us many advantages with the e-portfolio in future.

We are currently testing the CMT view and there is more work to be done to finish this. Time is tight but we hope to ask a number of external reviewers (trainees, supervisors, tutors and administrators) to look at it after our testing is complete and give us feedback so we can make any essential adjustments before August.

Specialty Portfolios

Our plan is to have a basic e-portfolio ready for all our 28 specialities in August, which will look very much like the CMT e-portfolio but with the relevant curricula represented. There would be no significant new features at this stage. Trainees moving from ST2 to ST3 would continue to use their existing username and password.

Current ST3 trainees already in the specialty (i.e. moving to ST4 in August) will continue with their current (CD-ROM) arrangement, at least initially. Current SpRs will continue with existing "grey book" arrangements.

This is still subject to final confirmation with individual specialties and there may be a gap in the availability of some specialty curricula. We will keep you informed.

Although it has been commonly referred to as the "CMT e-portfolio" we should start to think of it rather as the "JRCPTB e-portfolio", as it starts to encompass more than just core training.

August 2008

We know that some deaneries have started to think about how to get the new intake of trainees set up on the e-portfolio. Although, many trainees starting in CMT or ST3 posts in August 2008 may already have e-portfolio access from previous Foundation or CMT jobs, this will not be true for all. Some trainees will have been using the e-portfolio in a different deanery. We will shortly propose a process to our deanery contacts to be followed for this.

Trainees moving into ST3 posts will need to have post details updated accordingly with their year of training and specialty in order to see the appropriate higher curricula.

On 5th August the e-portfolio software will be upgraded to Version 2.0 and it will be unavailable on that day. The web address will stay the same. All data currently in the system will be transferred across. All existing usernames and passwords will continue to work. On 6th August anyone logging in will see the new look.

Scotland

For this year the e-portfolio for trainees in Scotland has had to be kept separate to that for the rest of the UK. This, along with other factors, has made the implementation very difficult in Scotland. From August the Scottish system will be combined into a single UK-wide e-portfolio, which we hope will be the basis for more successful use.

Acute Care Common Stem

There has been a lot of confusion about ACCS trainees. The advice we have been providing is:

All ACCS trainees are identified with one of three parent specialties – Acute Medicine (physicians), Emergency Medicine or Anaesthetics. Anyone who is ACCS (Medicine) should be registered with JRCPTB and should use the e-portfolio, at least for the time in Acute Medicine posts. It is harder to specify that it must be used to the same extent while in A&E, anaesthetics, ITU as we do not have these covered by our curricula and have less control over what approach is taken to assessment. We would however encourage its use for recording appraisal, PDPs, progress in generic competencies etc.

Conversely ACCS (EM) or ACCS (Anaes) trainees are welcome to use the e-portfolio to record Acute Medicine competencies etc., though it is up to their parent colleges to specify what their requirements are for documenting progress.

Other Colleges

We are keeping in touch with many other colleges in order to share information about

our e-portfolios. The RCGP are using a version of the same e-portfolio from NES but are running it independently themselves. Therefore any physician who is asked to access a GP trainee's portfolio needs a separate username and password. The RCPCH, RCoA, RCEM and RCOG are all different stages of planning and preparation to use the NES e-portfolio – this will be a single shared system but with different features and views according to each College's requirements. Most Foundation trainees will also be using a Foundation view of the same e-portfolio.

Training Materials

In parallel with our testing and review of V2.0 we will be compiling new user guides and training materials. This will include slides and notes that can support deanery or trust arranged training sessions for trainees and supervisors. These materials will not be available until the latter part of July and will depend on the success of our testing and review and the subsequent changes coming from that.

Support

If you have questions about the interpretation and use of the e-portfolio please contact us via enrolments@jrcptb.org.uk or 020 7935 1174 ext 283 (e-mail preferred)

For any technical support please use the "e-portfolio enquiries" form within the e-portfolio.

Contacts

For more information about anything in this newsletter, contact enrolments@jrcptb.org.uk

Newsletter Circulation:

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