

**JOINT ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS TRAINING BOARD
(JRCPTB)**

**Annual Specialty Report for Clinical Neurophysiology to
The Postgraduate Medical Training Board (PMETB)
for August 2007 to July 2008**

1. Establishing Schools

Difficulty has been experienced in identifying Heads of Specialty Training for Clinical Neurophysiology. Representatives for the following areas have been nominated to sit on the SAC: Scotland, and the English SHAs of Yorkshire and Humber, West Midlands, South Central, London and South East Coast.

Only one of these Heads of Specialist Training has completed a report on training for 2007-2008 (Scotland).

The large areas of the country without Heads of Specialist Training and the lack of reports from those in post imply that this report is a limited overview unsupported by documentary evidence.

The small number of identified Heads of Specialty Training severely hampers any external review of quality.

2. Triggered Visits

None reported in this specialty

3. Effect of changes to the specialty

No major changes of clinical practice have been identified

4. Key concerns for the future of the specialty

The specialty specific questions on the 2007 PMETB Trainee survey are considered by the SAC to be very important, as they interrogate the ability of training programmes to deliver specialised areas of the curriculum. The SAC is concerned that some programmes may have difficulty providing training in mandatory areas of the curriculum. PMETB has been unable to supply the results of the specialty specific questions, and the concerns remain.

No examinations have been held in the specialty. The SAC has been considering the difficulty of developing a written examination. After much deliberation it is of the view that it is not possible to develop a written examination for the specialty with either validity or utility.

National training days organized by the British Society for Clinical Neurophysiology (BSCN) with the Association of Trainee Clinical Neurophysiologists have been well attended. The educational content of these days has been determined by the BSCN to supplement work-based educational opportunity, and has been well received by

trainees.

5. RITAs/ARCPs. The following includes the responses we have received from the Heads of Specialist Training for this specialty

No information available for this specialty

6. European Working Time Directive (EWTD): The following includes the responses we have received from the Heads of Specialist Training for this specialty

No information available for this specialty

7. Training Programme Director Report information

We have not received these reports for every Deanery for this reporting period but intend to include the themes in subsequent reports. However, we have received various Education Committee meeting minutes for this specialty which do not highlight any training or assessment concerns

8. Examinations

We do not have examination data available for this reporting period.

9. Assessments

Workplace based assessments for the medical specialties including Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPs), mini CEX, and Multisource Feedback (MSF) have been in place since 2005. Although there have been concerns within each specialty with regard to the time involved to complete these, their use has been widely encouraged so that PMETB standards are met. We continue to pilot further workplace based assessments.

10. e-portfolio

Pilots for the specialty e-portfolios have been completed and will be available from April 2009. In the meantime, trainees have been advised to complete paper records or to continue to use their CMT e-portfolio.