

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

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

1. Establishing Schools

Haematology is handled differently in different Deaneries, and is sometimes (more frequently) included within the medical specialties school, and sometimes within the school of Pathology.

2. Triggered Visits

No triggered visits have been reported by the respondents and the SAC Chairman is unaware of any in Haematology

3. Effect of changes to the specialty

In terms of changes to the specialty and delivery of service, there are a number of potential issues that may impact on Haematology training. These include the Independent Review of NHS Pathology Services (The Carter Report) which made specific recommendations about consolidating Pathology services. Implementation of 'Our NHS, Our Future: NHS Next Stage Review' (Darzi Report) may also have an impact, as may the ongoing evolution of cancer networks. However, to date, these reports and processes have not had a significant effect on our ability to deliver high quality Haematology training. As it becomes clearer what the operational changes resulting from the Darzi and Carter Reports are, we will need to be alert for potential impacts on training in Haematology. In terms of therapeutic advances, it is true that Haematology in general, and malignant Haematology in particular, is an area of rapidly advancing therapeutic developments and, whilst these continue to have a significant impact on patient care, they have not, to date, significantly impacted on the delivery of training.

4. Key concerns for the future of the specialty

A number of issues for Haematology training arise out of subspecialization. Paediatric Haematology is a particular area of concern in terms of recruitment and training opportunities and it is possible that we may wish to develop this as a formally recognized subspecialty. The SAC is continuing to look closely at this area. Other subspecialty areas are also developing and particular issues have been highlighted in haemoglobinopathy training (the Department of Health is involved in an initiative in this area) and the area of bone marrow transplantation. The SAC is working with appropriate professional groups in these areas and is currently exploring the possibility of post-CCT credentialing. An important component of achieving competencies in Haematology training is obtaining the FRCPath in Haematology. This examination has been radically altered over the last few years to make it fit for purpose and this is an ongoing process. The SAC works closely with the Royal College of Pathologists (as well as the Royal College of Physicians) and the Senior

Haematology Examiner at the Royal College of Pathologists sits on the SAC. The SAC is committed to ensuring that the FRCPath examination accurately reflects the competencies required by the Haematology curriculum. The Haematology SAC has set up a Curriculum Subcommittee to deal with minor amendments to the curriculum on an ongoing basis, and to ensure that we are developing appropriate work based assessments etc. to verify that competencies have been achieved. We are working hard at developing the e-portfolio.

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

All trainees for this specialty have had successful RITAs/ARCPs. For the 376 trainees enrolled in Haematology it was been reported that 4 RITA Es were issued in this period with one changed to a D on appeal and one followed by G shortly afterwards.

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

EWTD remains problematic, and will have an impact on out of hours rotas as a move to shift work would have a major impact on training and is not thought to be a feasible option. In some hospitals without a fully staffed middle grade rota there will be an impact on consultant workload. Some Trusts by introducing hospital at night cover, are hoping to decrease the impact of these changes. In some Trusts it has been reported that registrars are having to have days off in lieu during the week

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 highlight no 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 the eportfolio for Haematology is expected to be available for use by enrolled StRs by April 2009. During the transition period trainees have been advised to complete paper records or

to continue to use their CMT e-portfolio.