

# J R C P T B

## JOINT ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS TRAINING BOARD

5 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LB

### STROKE SPECIALIST TRAINING

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

***What elements does a stroke medicine training programme need to be recognised for training approval?***

The training programme needs to fully cover the curriculum for all three modules. Training in the Acute Stroke module will need to take place on an acute stroke unit taking patients directly from Accident & Emergency and/or the ambulance service. It is expected that the acute service will offer thrombolysis. Training in the Rehabilitation module should include experience on a stroke unit providing rehabilitation both acutely and longer term. Opportunities should be available for some training on a neurorehabilitation unit to cover specialised rehabilitation topics, e.g. relating to younger patients. Training in Prevention should include experience in a neurovascular clinic dedicated to assessment of suspected cerebrovascular disease. It is expected that training will be provided by consultants with an interest in stroke from a range of different specialities including, as a minimum, care of the elderly physicians, neurologists and consultants in rehabilitation.

***If my hospital or Trust does not have all the necessary elements to provide a comprehensive training programme, can I still apply to be recognised for training approval?***

Yes, but only as part of a proposed or existing stroke medicine training programme. It is expected that most training programmes will incorporate several hospitals and/or Trusts. If you complete the STP2 form for your hospital, it will identify those parts of the training curriculum which you are able to provide. It will then be up to the local training programme director to use the training resources at his/her disposal to construct a programme. If certain parts of the curriculum, e.g. experience of thrombolysis, are not available in the locality, arrangements will need to be made with other units in the country to provide this.

***If there is a gap in an existing parent speciality rota, can the funding be used to create a training post in Stroke Medicine?***

Yes - subject to the approval of your regional PGD. However, you must remember that the post must be advertised and be open to trainees in ALL the parents specialities, i.e. there is no guarantee that you will get a trainee from the same parent speciality as the original training rota.

***Can the Stroke Medicine trainee contribute to a general medicine on-call rota?***

Yes - but it is very important that this does not detract significantly from the time available for training in Stroke Medicine. For example, if such on-call required time off afterwards, then the Stroke Medicine training might need to be prolonged.

***Will previous experience in Stroke Medicine acquired as part of parent speciality training reduce the duration of Stroke Medicine training?***

Yes and no! The minimum duration of Stroke Medicine training is 12 months, but otherwise the successful completion of the curriculum is based on the acquisition of competencies rather than time served. However, it is estimated that (a) someone coming into training with no prior experience of Stroke Medicine (not encouraged) would probably need about 2 years to satisfy the standards in the curriculum, whereas (b) someone coming from the main parent specialities whose own training programmes require some exposure to Stroke Medicine would probably require only an extra year of specific Stroke Medicine training. It is up to the discretion of the individual parent

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SACs whether any part of specialist Stroke Medicine training can be counted against the overall training requirements of the parent speciality.

### *Will people be able to apply retrospectively for accreditation in Stroke Medicine?*

No - accreditation will only be available for those people who successfully complete an accredited training programme, having been appointed to the post in open competition. The post must have had prior educational approval.

### *Whom should you approach to discuss training in Stroke Medicine locally?*

The Regional Postgraduate Dean will appoint a Regional Specialist Advisor. There may also be a separate local Programme Director. Both individuals should be able to advise you about how to pursue training opportunities in Stroke Medicine.

### *How do I get my training approved?*

On appointment to a post, you need to complete the Stroke Medicine Sub-Speciality Approval form, available on the JCHMT website, and return it to the JCHMT. At the start of the post you will need meet with your Stroke Medicine programme director to decide how your training will be tailored to your needs. During the post you will need to complete records of your clinical experience and get these signed off by your education supervisors. About 3 months before you anticipate completing your Stroke Medicine training, you will need to have a sub-speciality year assessment arranged by your PGD to review your progress and recommend a date for completion of your sub-speciality training. Once this is completed, you will be eligible to have Stroke Medicine included in your final CCT once the latter is awarded.

### *Can I undergo Stroke Medicine sub-speciality training after I have been awarded a CCT?*

No, not at present. However, discussions are in progress about introducing a system of post CCT specialist qualifications in the future.