

## **Pilot of a Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS) for cerebral reperfusion with intravenous thrombolysis**

The General Medical Council's position on cerebral reperfusion with intravenous thrombolysis is that it is a complex and potentially life-threatening scenario. As such, for both patient and public reassurance, there is a requirement to confirm a trainee's experience and familiarity with the process, demonstrating knowledge of the benefits and the risks the benefits as well as confirming expertise in CT scan interpretation. Additionally there is a need to assess the trainee's confidence in his or her own ability and from a supervisor perspective the need for solid reassurance of the trainee's capability to undertake intravenous thrombolysis.

For this reason a direct observation format assessment (Direct Observation of Procedural Skill or DOPS) has been developed to allow assessment of a single encounter of a trainee's ability to undertake intravenous thrombolysis, to ascertain the level of independent practice and provide immediate structured feedback as part of a formative assessment.

While it is appreciated that specific numbers of procedures do not equate to competency, the GMC have requested the derivation of an *indicative number* of thrombolysis cases from the pilot phase. The trainee will therefore be required to maintain a logbook of thrombolysis encounters. A template logbook has been provided on the Stroke Medicine page of the JRCPTB website (via [this link](#)). This should be uploaded and saved to the trainee's ePortfolio personal library.

The pilot for the intravenous thrombolysis DOPS will run from 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015 for 6 months until 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016. The participating specialties and Local Education Training Boards will include:

1. **All advanced year Stroke Medicine trainees** from all Local Education Training Boards ('Deaneries') across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
2. **Neurology Higher trainees** from the following selected Local Education Training Boards: London, Northern Ireland, Peninsula, Scotland, Wales, Wessex, Yorkshire and the Humber.

Those undertaking higher training programmes in other Stroke Medicine parent specialties are not involved in this pilot process.

Jon Cooper  
Vice Chair of Stroke Medicine sub-SAC

July 2015