

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

### Pilot extended to August 2016

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 has been extended and will run from 5 August 2015 until 2 August 2016. The participating specialties and Local Education Training Boards (LETBs)/deaneries are as follows:

1. **All advanced year Stroke Medicine trainees** from all LETBs/deaneries across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
2. **Neurology higher trainees** from the following LETBs/deaneries: London, Northern Ireland, Peninsula, Scotland, Wales, Wessex, Yorkshire and the Humber.

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