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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