



Working during COVID – guidance for anaesthetists in training who are required to shield

This document is to aid anaesthetists in training and their supervisors to organise their programme of work. The clear message is that any Doctor in this group is acting in accordance with Public Health Wales Guidance.

The guidance is available on this link:

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-new-advice-those-who-are-clinically-extremely-vulnerable-previously-shielding>

Employers and/or departments of anaesthesia are advised to undertake individual risk assessments for staff members in this group. This should consider the individual circumstances, underlying health conditions and the risks of the employment setting alongside the latest clinical advice.

It is likely that your risk assessment will dictate that you should not be working in a COVID positive or COVID 'unknown' areas. There are modules, clinical and non-clinical (potential for remote working) that can be achieved during this time.

Out of hours clinical work is an essential part of anaesthesia training and the role of the consultant anaesthetist. Trainees will be considered on an individual basis as to whether the module will be counted towards training with or without out of hours work depending upon the exposure of the individual trainee to cases and the stage of training. ALL mandatory modules will need to be completed. In line with RCoA recommendations the Welsh school will work with each trainee and perform a 'gap analysis' of work lost. It is inevitable that some trainees may require an extension to training for some modules. This will be discussed at your annual review.

It is important to record all aspects of your training on the lifelong learning platform i.e. logbook of cases/ procedures as well as work placed based assessments so these can be reviewed as evidence of training progression.

The RCoA Training Committee are currently reviewing the potential to complete intermediate and higher modules side by side. Any changes like this should be discussed with the TPD who will liaise with the relevant College Tutor and organise the modules in this way.

Clinical - COVID negative 'green' areas

1. Perioperative Medicine
Preoperative assessment clinic - notes review, virtual patient assessment, professional correspondence.
Post anaesthetic care unit working can be included in this module.
2. Any practical module that is delivered in a 'green area' - major colorectal, gynaecology, hepatobiliary.
3. Pain medicine - virtual and telephone consults with patients
4. Other clinical - participate in virtual MDT meetings

Non-clinical (mapped to RCoA Annex G)

Academic and Research

- Try and get involved with a research project in the hospital in which you are based.
- Write one or more of an abstract, case report, review article, poster, presentation at a meeting
- Evidence of attendance at online educational/CPD events with good reflection.
- Evidence and reflection of clinical governance, M and M, journal meetings

Improvement Science

- Involvement in a major Quality Improvement project with clear measurable outcomes e.g. IQT silver, oral/poster presentation.
- Evidence of implementing change through an audit cycle
- Write guidelines and protocols - update old or provide new
- Attendance at educational/CPD events online

Teaching and Learning

- Attendance at teaching/educational events regularly for appropriate stage of training e.g. SWABS, primary/final exam sessions, PFSD, Trust grand rounds, departmental teaching
- Organise your own departmental teaching with appropriate feedback and reflection
- Delivery of teaching and educational resources within the Welsh School of Anaesthesia including development of e-learning material. Discuss with Dr Duff & Dr Adamson available opportunities
- Other remote teaching examples

Management

- Involvement in risk management, safety and service development
- Management of trainee day to day and on call rotas
- Involvement in well-being support

You should liaise with your Educational Supervisor and College Tutor regularly to ensure your plan for this ongoing work is sufficient to allow your training timeline to progress in line with the RCoA curriculum. Evidence will be assessed at your ARCP.

Resources

The following link is available to all trainees via the HEE webpages, any trainee can access.

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/doctors-training/supporting-doctors-returning-training-after-time-out/supportt-digital-online-resources>