

ARCPs Outcomes June 2020

Dear All,

We would like to thank you for all your hard work in preparation for your ARCPs. We are sorry we were not able to meet you directly or communicate with you personally. We certainly missed that opportunity.

We spent 2 long days of intense work and successfully carried out 55 virtual ARCPs using small panels and Microsoft Teams. It was very hard work and not our favourite way to do this but we have 55 appropriate decisions based on the evidence available to us, confirmed with the RCOG Vice President for Education, Miss Sue Ward, who has been invaluable in helping us to quality control the processes with the new portfolio and curriculum and the use of the emergency outcome codes needed to appropriately register any impact that COVID may have had on your training. Some of these outcomes have been quality controlled further by HEIW.

We are impressed how you have all embraced the new portfolio and the majority have made very good use of the training development it allows you to record. The assessments have been easier even with all the challenges, especially when the portfolio has been used well. It has allowed us to see all the hard work you have been doing.

This has been reflected in 72% of you having an immediate favourable outcome – 1, 6, 10.1 and 8.1. The majority of you achieved an outcome 1 despite the clear disruption you would have faced with the current epidemic. 22% of the outcomes were 10.1 which our STC regards as a favourable outcome which shows that the trainee is progressing well but the Pandemic has had some impact. This is a no fault outcome which has no effect on your progression or your ability to go out of programme. It allows you and your trainers to focus on any remaining competencies in the next 12 months.

The COVID code 10.2 – a no fault outcome which allows the trainee to have extra time to complete a practical competency was only required once. We anticipate that this may be needed more next year particularly if the surgical lock down is prolonged.

With the new portfolio, we were expecting outcome 5s and 24 % of you had this initial outcome. Reasons for these were:

1. The panel was unable to see a vital piece of information e.g. evidence of CTG training and many were rapidly sorted out. Thank you for doing this Certificates for key courses should be linked to the first other evidence list in section 3 of the ESR so they can be confirmed. In the second other evidence box, we can't see the confirmation. We were not hunting through the other evidence section under search as this was too time consuming.
2. Incorrect CiP completion. Errors may need the help of Alex Baker at the RCOG to free up a saved ESR to allow these to be corrected.
3. Competent OSATS logged in ESR section 2 for key skills which were in the old portfolio and were impossible or difficult to find in the PDF. Where these were being used to demonstrate that the trainees has 3 competent OSATS to sign off a procedure, the panel needed to see the evidence. To make things easier for your educational supervisor and the assessing panels, please load an image of the relevant OSAT to the other evidence part of Section 3. You only need to do this to provide the 3 required for sign off – not every single one you have ever done.

4. Inconsistencies between numbers of OSATS done in the new portfolio in Section 2 and those linked in section 3.

Most of you were able to correct these issues rapidly and reverted to outcome 1 or 10.1. So 89% of trainees now have a favourable outcome (1, 10.1, 6, 8.1). Well done and thank you to everyone for your hard work to achieve this in a short time frame.

A few of you have an outcome 10.2, 2, and 3. These outcomes help highlight specific areas that need development often because of lack of opportunity. We recognise that these outcomes are challenging for the trainee but they are there to help. These allow your trainers to provide specific training and extra support to develop the required competencies and should be regarded as an opportunity to develop. We will provide these trainees with as much support as we can to assist them to make continued progression.

So again, thank you for all your hard work and for embracing the new curriculum and portfolio. We feel confident this is a better, more appropriate way to assess trainee progress. Don't forget to have a post ARCP meeting with your educational supervisor and make sure you record any recommendations from your ARCP in a PDP for the next year.

Good luck with your next year of training. We all hope it will be less challenging than this. It is likely that the 10.1 and 10.2 codes will be needed for some time to come. We hope to be able to meet some of you next year although virtual assessments are likely to continue for many of the non transition years as before.

Best wishes

Ms R Goddard

Mr Leeson

Mr Kevelighan