



# What COVID19 means for speciality training in geriatric medicine

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What  
happened?

rotations gone

Geriatric  
Medicine service  
dismantled

## COVID-19 Pandemic

### Experiential Learning

#### Maximising Geriatric Medicine Higher Specialty Training (HST) in the Pandemic



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The pandemic presents a once in a lifetime clinical experience for trainees and trainers alike.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on training across all specialties remains unclear, though disruption is expected. However, early insights from those geriatric medicine trainees and trainers supporting COVID-19 cohort specific wards highlights an abundance of although challenging, highly applicable and varied training opportunities. The emergence of necessity for careful discussions around escalating care, robust palliative care knowledge and appreciation for homeostasis without previously encouraged 'hands-on' clinical approaches indicates a close alignment with the Geriatric Medicine HST.

This document is designed to highlight alignment of COVID-19 specific learning opportunities with the Geriatric Medicine HST (JRCPTB Geriatric Medicine Curriculum - Updated 2016):

Domain	Assessment Type	Focussed Opportunities To Explore
Common Competencies	Mini-CEX CBD	<b>Infection Control</b> PPE, minimising MDT exposure through joint working and contribution to nursing and HCA daily tasks during ward round.
		<b>Breaking Bad News</b> Utilising advanced communication skills to triangulate clinical plans with family members, discuss advanced care planning and provide communication in last days (via telephone, video media etc.).
		<b>Principles Of Medical Ethics and Confidentiality</b> Managing lines of communication with families, best interest decision making re: respiratory support specifically and de-escalation of care where appropriate (specifically

Training  
opportunities

# When are we going back to normal?

“Rotations – as previously communicated, we are planning for the August rotations to take place as normal as much as possible. Trainees and Trusts were notified of the rotations on 13th May where these had been finalised”

“Students and trainees should be provided with mandatory formal education using whatever methods of delivery are most suitable”

“There should be increased attention to the supervision and support of students and trainees in view of the disruption of normal team structure and service delivery locations- the time of educators and supervisors must be protected to deliver this”

# ARCPs

- these are now planned to take place virtually across specialties with the new guidance for Covid outcomes along with revised College decision aids

# Progression:

## Modified ARCP decision aid

- Completion of paperwork may be difficult during the pandemic and during this time, greater emphasis should be placed on the educational supervisor's report
- Supportive comments in the educational supervisor reports are more useful than specific numbers of SLEs in this situation
- Lower annual attendance during pandemic response would be acceptable. Discretion of TPD advised.
- Management course could be completed in acting up or period of grace and should not be a bar to CCT.
- Consultant reports from consultant colleagues outside the specialty (eg supporting work in Nightingale units) will be acceptable.



**CONTROVERSY**

## Recruitment

Round 2 recruitment - offers will be finalised by the end of May and updates to any rotations will be notified to relevant Trusts as soon as possible.

# Deferral

- Deferral for 2020 start dates – trainees have been given an option to defer for reasons linked to Covid-19 and these requests are being reviewed and do need to be approved by the Dean.
- Any agreed changes to rotations will be notified ASAP.
- deaneries are also mapping those trainees where extensions to training due to Covid are required.



# Out of Programme

- trainees who returned from OOP early to support the pandemic regarding their plans to either return to OOP or remain within the programme.
- deaneries processing new requests for OOP as appropriate and if trainees are able to take this up logistically.

# Rotations

- Changes to rotations prior to August –
- the impact of round 2 recruitment outcomes, ARCPs outcomes, potential extensions, trainee requests for deferrals and delays in OOP may well impact on the number of exceptions to the rotations
- Trainees who are shielding are not be able to undertake patient facing contact roles. As part of the guidance paper from HEE Deans, we will be requesting more detailed information soon to assess numbers and how we can best support these trainees.

# Less Than Full Time Training

- several trainees have increased their working percentage as a response to Covid-19. Their CCT dates will be reviewed by their next ARCP panel to assess the competences achieved during this time.
- SuppoRTT - there are a range of resources that the SuppoRTT team have developed which are available for trainees and can be accessed.

# Academic Training

- Like everybody else it is not clear when return to normal will happen although as mentioned above there is a strong desire across all nations to start normalising processes.
- It is likely to depend on local circumstances and how quickly things are returning to normal in the country and in the area you are working in.
- <https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/news/clinical-academics-and-covid-19> for more information.

- Study Leave and regional teaching – TPDs and HoS are looking at alternative ways to restart regional and local teaching sessions for trainees and HEE is developing on-line learning platforms to be used across HEE.
- Relocation Guidance - a new HEE wide framework for relocation expenses is due to be finalised soon and will apply to all trainees commencing in training programmes from August 2020.
- Induction for new trainees – these will be run virtually over the summer, again we are looking at a webinar to enable many trainees to join and we are liaising with HoS and TPDs on how specialty inductions will take place.

- Autumn Recruitment – planning is underway for autumn recruitment as well as for 2021-22 to consider what contingencies may need to be in place to ensure a safe and robust recruitment process.
- Educational and Clinical Supervisor approvals Approvals that are due to expire up to 31 December 2020 are being automatically extended for 12 months.

**Do You Know  
What's Going  
to Happen?**

