



HEE London and KSS

COVID-19 Trainee Update – 23 March 2020

Further to the previous trainee bulletin about rotations, we are now writing to update you on education and training matters. HEE's priority is to ensure trainees and learners are kept informed of immediate changes to their training and recruitment as a result of COVID-19. These communications should be read in conjunction with the National HEE COVID-19 webpage [here](#). Please note this complex and challenging situation is developing very rapidly at present. The information in this update will change over time and we hope that you will bear with us if guidance changes.

In this bulletin we will provide:

- Working together
- SuppoRRT webinar – recording
- Guidance on changes to manage Covid response – Redistribution, Redeployment, Medical Students and cross skills training
- Infection and pregnancy guidance RCOG
- Rotations, ARCPs, Exams, GMC Survey - latest
- Returning to programme – academic and OOP trainees
- Information on HEE's next steps and planning (pg.7-8).
- Signposting to useful resources and contact information (pg.8-9).

With increasing critical care demand being particularly experienced in London and the South East, mixed teams of anaesthetists, intensivists, surgeons, and physicians are starting to work

with nursing and allied health profession staff from a variety of backgrounds to care for patients in differing environments. Local adaptation of teams will be required depending on local critical care and other service demands. Additional support should be identified in advance of being required to assist with the delivery of critical care services. Local surge protocols should be in place for this eventuality.

SuppoRTT for doctors returning to work in the pandemic

Webinar: **Monday March 23rd, 8pm**

Presented by Dr Caroline Walker of The Joyful Doctor, expert in doctors' wellbeing; and Dr Lizy Townshend, Clinical Fellow for Health Education England's Supported Return to Training (SuppoRTT) program.

We'll be discussing wellbeing and the concerns that people have about coming back from a break from clinical practice into an unprecedented and uncertain period of clinical work. Once registered for this free event, you will be sent a link to join the event (on Zoom) by email. Please feel free to listen along in noisy environments.

This has been recorded and will be available shortly

HEE COVID-19 - plans for management of medical & dental training

A letter was sent to trusts and GP practices on 10 March 2020, which reiterates and reinforces HEE's guidance developed for winter pressures and flu management. It provides information about the plans and contingency for the management of medical and dental training programmes during the COVID-19 outbreak. The letter can be viewed [here](#). The national guidance of redeployment of foundation and other grades of junior doctors can be viewed [here](#).

RCOG - Coronavirus infection and pregnancy – helpful guidance

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-virus-infection-and-pregnancy/>

Trainees should contact their employer HR services for further advice

Medical Schools Council - Medical School Council plans are in place to graduate as many doctors as possible where it is safe to do so with an update [here](#).

Cross-skill training for COVID-19 – this cross-skill training for pandemic COVID-19 document summarises an approach to the training of non-ICU members of staff with transferable and/or trainable/retrainable skills to facilitate safe and effective care of COVID-19 patients. To find out more visit [here](#).

Rotations – April

Plans for Management of Medical Training Rotations letter can be found [here](#).

Trainees who have **NOT** transferred to their planned training rotation but **were** due to receive a higher payment rate will still receive payment at a higher rate as planned.

ARCPs

Updated national guidance is awaited and will be shared as soon as available

There will be no Penultimate Year Assessments (PYA's), please see national with local implementation letter [here](#).

Exams - Exam guidance for all doctors in training can be viewed [here](#)

GMC Survey - The GMC National Training survey has been postponed.

Recruitment and selection centers - Many recruitment and selection centers are being cancelled with information to be found on HEE's website [here](#). Other recruitment and selection methods are being developed by HEE nationally, as national processes are still required.

Academic doctors in training - All Academic doctors in training have been asked to return to the clinical service. The update and letter can be viewed [here](#). We wrote to all trainees last week and are now working with trusts and the wider Incident team to enable these returners. Interact have provided a further update which is being added to the HEE website below under resources

Out of Programme (OOP) requests - New OOP applications are suspended for now and we are reviewing applications in progress. We are also reviewing decisions regards those already in training. If you have already made arrangements to return to a trust please let us know through the support portal which can be found here by using topic Out of Programme in the type of enquiry [PGMDE support portal](#) as this forms part of the London wide response to the pandemic

London office and the Healthcare Education Team:

London HET staff are now working remotely as Stewart House has closed. They are well equipped, there for you, and available on e-mail, telephone and Skype. Please continue to submit any queries via the [PGMDE support portal](#) in the first instance. HET staff are responding to any queries as quickly as possible.

The LPMDE website will hold local information and can be found here. National information links can be found below under resources

Trainees are encouraged to do their best to look after their physical and mental wellbeing. If trainees are finding this time difficult they should seek support as soon as possible, this can be done via trusts Occupational Health departments, local Guardians for Safe Working or via the **London and South East professional support unit** [here](#) which contains updated guidance.

Events

Conferences and events have been cancelled and where possible will be rescheduled for later dates

Meetings such as Boards/STCs etc. will convert to Skype where possible, but we appreciate attendance may be very limited.

Training days will be converted to Skype where possible, but the team appreciate this is not practical in most cases in which case these have been cancelled for now

Useful resources:

HEE's national update page:

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/coronavirus-information-trainees> this includes frequently asked questions that are updated as further information and guidance is available

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