

TRAINING IN OBSTETRIC ANAESTHESIA

INTRODUCTION:

The following brief curriculum outline and suggested assessment schedule was devised by an OAA working party. Originally written for the Royal College of Anaesthetists, it was considered for inclusion in the 'CCST in Anaesthesia', 2003. However, the Training Committee of the RCA did not wish to be unduly prescriptive about the detail of assessments (except for the initial assessment of anaesthetic competency). The following schedule was therefore greatly abridged before inclusion in the final RCA document. Nevertheless, it is felt by the OAA that it may be helpful to trainers and trainees. We would welcome any feedback that you have about any aspect of these documents (to secretariat@oaa-anaes.ac.uk) and would point out that these assessments have not yet been rigorously tested in practice. Future revision will reflect experience and feedback.

- **The curriculum consists of four separate units of training. Only [1] (below) is reproduced in this document.**
- **The Royal College of Anaesthetists CCST documents, which incorporate details of [2], [3] and [4] (below), can be accessed at www.rcoa.ac.uk/index.asp?PageID=57 .**

[1] The initial training and assessment of trainees prior to working with distant supervision.

[2] SpR Years 1/2 training.

[3] SpR Years 3/4/5/ training: - for trainees not intending to sub-specialise in obstetric anaesthesia.

[4] Advanced training in obstetric anaesthesia – for trainees wishing to become consultants with a special interest in obstetric anaesthesia.

1.THE INITIAL TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT OF TRAINEES PRIOR TO WORKING WITH DISTANT SUPERVISION IN OBSTETRIC ANAESTHESIA.

We consider that initial training in obstetric anaesthesia for a 'typical' SHO should consist of a minimum of 20 directly supervised obstetric anaesthesia sessions taken within a 4 month period, in a reasonably busy unit. At least 50% of these sessions should be supervised by a consultant.* We would expect the majority of trainees to have successfully completed this training and assessment by the end of their SHO training. More experienced trainees, whatever their grade, may be deemed ready for assessment after a relatively short period of supervision.

KNOWLEDGE

The following broad topics include what we consider to be the minimum knowledge base required before a trainee could be expected to work with distant supervision. Obviously these are all huge topics, and judgment is required as to the detail necessary at this stage of training. We have not suggested an assessment schedule for knowledge per se, but leave this to the discretion of trainers and trainees. There are 'tick boxes' after each topic; these could be used to record a discussion between trainer and trainee (initials and date), or alternatively for trainees to record their own learning.

1	Labour analgesia (including options other than regional anaesthesia)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Anatomy – spine, airway, obstetric	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Labour physiology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Basic obstetrics, including basic fetal assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Relevant pharmacology, including oxytocics, vasopressors, magnesium sulphate etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Obstetric general anaesthesia; including revision of failed intubation protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Epidural or CSE analgesia in labour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Regional anaesthesia for operative delivery – including management of hypotension, total spinal anaesthesia and accidental intravenous injection of local anaesthesia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Recognition and initial management of major haemorrhage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Recognition and initial management of pre-eclampsia and eclampsia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* The supervising consultant should be a specialist in obstetric anaesthesia.

WORKPLACE ASSESSMENT

There are four assessments covering four different procedures which the trainee should be directly observed performing.

This assessment applies to trainees new to obstetric anaesthesia, to more experienced trainees who are working in the United Kingdom for the first time, and to newly appointed SpRs (or experienced SHOs who have changed posts) who have not successfully completed this formal assessment of their obstetric anaesthetic practice to enable them to work with distant supervision

If assessment is unsatisfactory:

If the trainee fails the assessment then they may need targeted instruction before a re-test. Whether the whole assessment is to be repeated, or targeted at deficient areas is a decision to be taken locally, with regard to local circumstances, and is left to the discretion of the assessors.

Initial Assessment of Competency in Obstetric Anaesthesia: Preconditions prior to workplace assessments

Name of trainee

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Trainer should initial and date boxes when satisfied that preconditions are met:

1. The Trainee has progressed to working with distant supervision in adult non-obstetric practice. He/She is appropriately confident and has undergone satisfactory workplace assessments in this role.

2. The trainee has had satisfactory workplace assessments in the following topics : Pre-operative assessment, premedication, anaesthesia equipment: monitoring and safety, induction of general anaesthesia, intraoperative care, and postoperative care (5,6,7,8,9 and 10 in The CCST in Anaesthesia, II, Royal College of Anaesthetists, 2003).

3. The trainee has an adequate knowledge base (see above for details)

4. The trainee has received an appropriate induction to the obstetric unit, including familiarization with all relevant equipment, protocols and guidelines

5. The Trainee knows when and how to request more experienced assistance.

Each part of each of the following assessments can be assessed by one (or more) trainers, but not all parts can be "signed off" by the same single trainer. At least two consultants with fixed sessions in obstetric anaesthesia must be involved in the overall assessment. One of these should be the supervising consultant. **The checklists are given as a guide, and may be useful in providing feedback. The checklists may be modified to suit local protocols.**

1. Assessment of competence to administer an epidural / CSE for pain relief in labour
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Name of trainee

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Date of assessment

Place of assessment

Direct observation of procedural skills

The checklist below may be used, and may be particularly helpful if the overall assessment is not satisfactory.

A tick indicates satisfactory performance in the stated competence

✓	Date
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- | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Assesses the patient | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 2 | Chooses anaesthetic technique appropriately | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 3 | Obtains informed consent | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 4 | Establishes IV access / gives a preload according to local protocol. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 5 | Demonstrates satisfactory aseptic technique | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 6 | Positions patient correctly for the block | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 7 | Inserts epidural catheter satisfactorily using appropriate technique | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 8 | Performs aspiration test and responds appropriately to the result | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 9 | Administers test dose according to local protocol. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 10 | Ensures further care of patient as appropriate | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 11 | Demonstrates good record keeping. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 12 | Demonstrates good behaviour, communication skills and attitudes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |

This assessment was completed satisfactorily : Yes / No

If not, you must give details overleaf

Signed	Name.....(Lead trainer)	Date.....
Signed	Name.....(Trainee)	Date.....

2. Assessment of competence to administer an epidural top-up for an emergency Caesarean section
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Name of trainee

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Date of assessment

Place of assessment

Direct observation of procedural skills

The checklist below may be used, and may be particularly helpful if the overall assessment is not satisfactory.

A tick indicates satisfactory performance in the stated competence

✓	Date
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1	Assesses the patient, obtains informed consent and ensures an appropriate pre-medication is given	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	Chooses the anaesthetic technique appropriately	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
3	Checks equipment, prepares required drugs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
4	Establishes appropriate IV access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
5	Establishes monitoring according to local protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
6	Prepares and administers epidural drug(s) according to local protocol.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
7	Positions patient appropriately for the top up and development of the block	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
8	Demonstrates adequate vigilance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
9	Treats complications and manages difficulties appropriately	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
10	Checks adequacy of anaesthesia prior to surgery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
11	Gives other intra-operative therapy as required and/or per protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
12	Maintains a good anaesthetic record	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
13	Prescribes post-operative analgesia and other therapy as per unit protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
14	Demonstrates good behaviour, communication skills and attitudes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

This assessment was completed satisfactorily : Yes / No

If not, you must give details overleaf

Signed Name.....(Lead trainer) Date.....

Signed Name.....(Trainee) Date.....

3. Assessment of competence to administer a spinal / CSE for elective or emergency Caesarean section

Name of trainee

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Date of assessment

Place of assessment

Direct observation of procedural skills

The checklist below may be used, and may be particularly helpful if the overall assessment is not satisfactory.

A tick indicates satisfactory performance in the stated competence

✓	Date
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- | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Assesses the patient, obtains informed consent and ensures appropriate pre-medication is given | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 2 | Chooses the anaesthetic technique appropriately | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 3 | Checks equipment, prepares required drugs | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 4 | Establishes IV access and commences pre-load as per unit standards | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 5 | Establishes monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 6 | Positions patient | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 7 | Performs spinal or CSE anaesthesia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 8 | Manages the patient appropriately during onset of anaesthesia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 9 | Manages the patient appropriately during surgery | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 10 | Gives other intra-operative therapy as required and/or per protocols | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 11 | Maintains a good anaesthetic record | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 12 | Prescribes post-operative analgesia and other therapy as per unit protocols | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 13 | Demonstrates good behaviour, communication skills and attitudes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |

This assessment was completed satisfactorily : Yes / No

If not, you must give details overleaf

Signed	Name.....(Lead trainer)	Date.....
Signed	Name.....(Trainee)	Date.....

4. Assessment of competence to administer general anaesthesia for elective or emergency Caesarean section
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Name of trainee

Date of assessment

Place of assessment

Direct observation of procedural skills

The checklist below may be used, and may be particularly helpful if the overall assessment is not satisfactory.

A tick indicates satisfactory performance in the stated competence

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date
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- | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Chooses the anaesthetic technique appropriately | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 2 | Assesses the patient (including airway) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 3 | Obtains informed consent and gives pre-induction drugs | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 4 | Checks and prepares equipment and drugs | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 5 | Establishes iv access and monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 6 | Positions patient | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 7 | Preoxygenates the patient | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 8 | Performs rapid sequence induction of anaesthesia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 9 | Manages the airway satisfactorily | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 10 | Demonstrates vigilance and maintains anaesthesia appropriately | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 11 | Gives other therapy as required and/or per protocol | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 12 | Manages emergence from anaesthesia adequately | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 13 | Ensures safe transfer from operating table to bed / trolley and to recovery | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 14 | Maintains a good anaesthetic record | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 15 | Prescribes post-operative analgesia and other therapy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 16 | Demonstrates good behaviour, communication skills and attitudes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |

This assessment was completed satisfactorily : Yes / No

If not, you must give details below

Signed	Name.....(Lead trainer)	Date.....
Signed	Name.....(Trainee)	Date.....