

Information about the 2021 RCOA Curriculum for a CCT in Anaesthetics

(Updated May 2020 to reflect new implementation plan)

Why the change?

In 2017 the GMC set new standards for postgraduate curricula¹. These stated that the curriculum should:

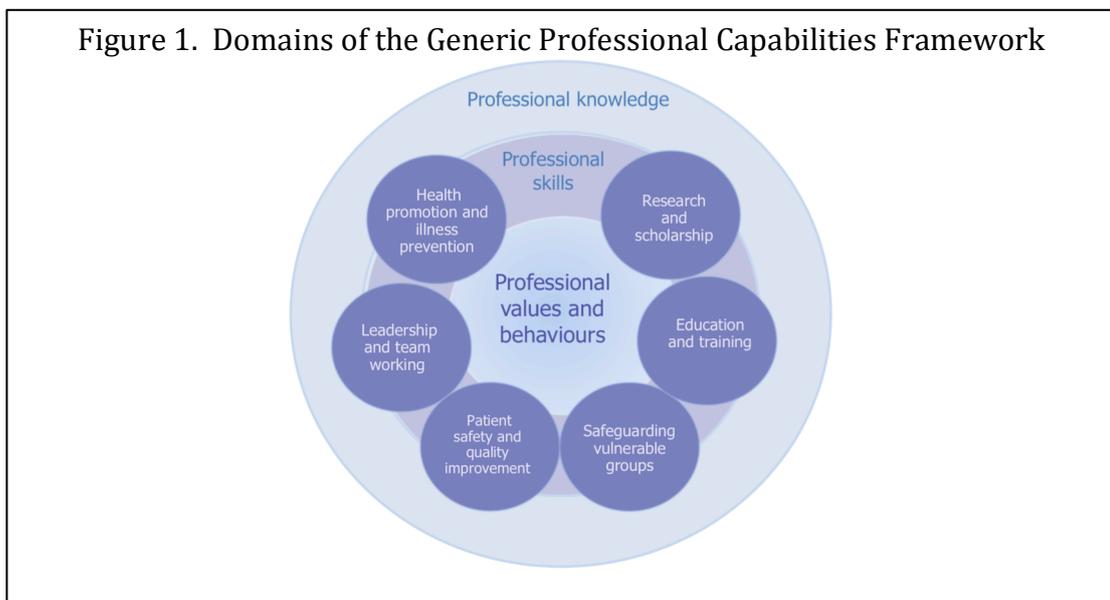
Be structured around specialty-specific learning outcomes

Describe expected levels of performance and the breadth of experience required to progress or complete training.

Identify the learning outcomes that must be demonstrated to move through critical progression points

What must be included in the new curriculum?

The GMC also produced a Generic Professional Capabilities framework² in 2017. This describes a series of generic behaviours, values, skills and knowledge that all doctors must demonstrate to provide safe, effective, care (see figure 1)

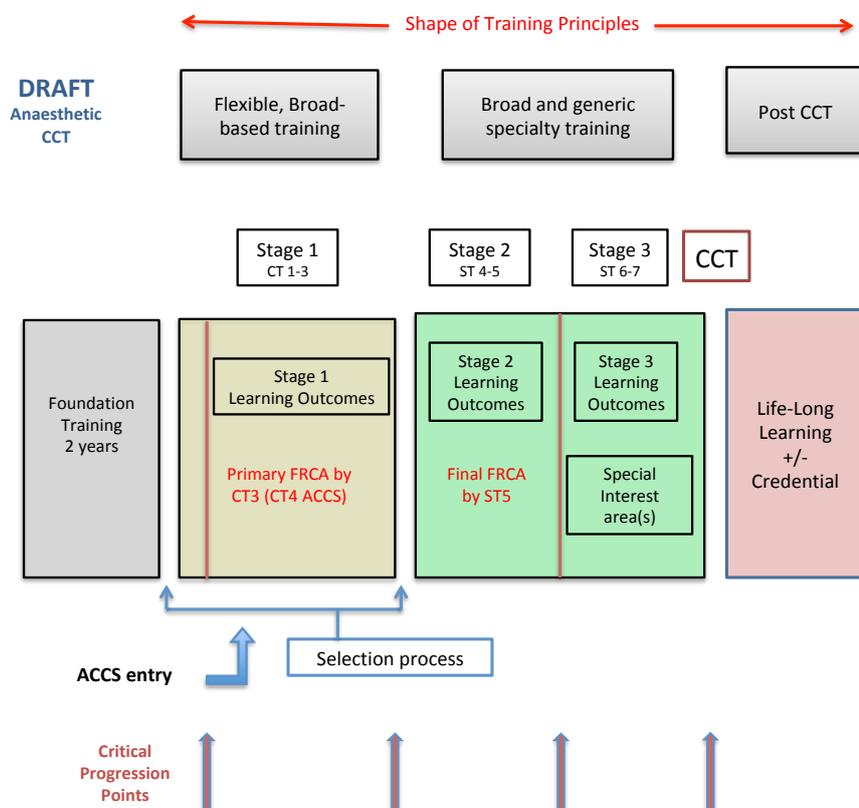


So what will the new curriculum look like?

- Compared to the current >200 page curriculum, expect the new one to be much more streamlined
- It will be based around 15-20 broad learning outcomes
- These outcomes will define the activities that a clinician will be able to perform at each of the critical progression points

- The new curriculum will be all about a trainee’s ability to manage specific cases, as opposed to the current system which can sometimes feel like a tick-box exercise
- The curriculum remains an indicative 7 years, but the progression points are changing and is expected to look something like this:

- Stage 1
 - Equivalent of current Core training programme
 - 3 years
 - Must complete the Primary FRCA to complete stage 1
- Stage 2
 - Applications & interview process at stage 2
 - 2 years
 - Must complete the FRCA Final to complete stage 2
- Stage 3
 - No recruitment but entry into Stage 3 requires a successful ARCP and completion of the FRCA Final in Stage 2



When will the new curriculum be delivered?

As you can imagine, writing a new curriculum for a CCT in anaesthetics is no easy task! It is currently being developed by the Curriculum Review Group at the RCOA with involvement from trainees and consultation with the specialty societies.

The new curriculum will start to be introduced in August 2021 and will be gradually phased in by the end of 2023.

The RCoA will move CT1s and CT2s (and ACCS equivalents) to the new curriculum in August 2021.

Trainees currently in CT1 or ACCS CT2 will complete a 2 year Core Training programme.

ST3 recruitment will continue to run in August 2021 and a final round in February 2022

In August 2022 the RCOA will introduce CT3 posts with no further ST3 recruitment from that time.

ST4 recruitment commences in 2023.

Will these changes affect obstetric training?

Yes, but it sounds like the changes will be very positive. For example, the initial assessment of obstetric competence is likely to consist of a few core learning outcomes to assess that you are clinically competent to work under indirect supervision on the delivery suite rather than the current tick-box of 12 assessments.

Advanced training in obstetric anaesthesia will still exist, but again the core learning outcomes will hopefully be a better way to deem that a senior trainee can practice independently as a consultant obstetric anaesthetist.

Where can I find out more?

There is further information on the RCOA website:

<https://rcoa.ac.uk/training-careers/training-anaesthesia/2021-anaesthetics-curriculum>

They also have a dedicated email address: 2020cct@rcoa.ac.uk

Keep an eye on your emails for RCOA Bulletins

With special thanks to Dr Nigel Penfold,
Chair of the RCoA Anaesthetic Curriculum Review Group.

References

1. General Medical Council. Excellence by design. 2017. http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/postgraduate/excellence_by_design.asp (accessed 04/07/2019).
2. General Medical Council. Generic professional capabilities framework. 2017. www.gmc-uk.org/Generic_professional_capabilities_framework__0517.pdf_70417127.pdf (accessed 04/07/2019).