

ACCS Newsletter, November 2015

Dear Colleagues,

This is the first of what will be regular news bulletins from the Intercollegiate Committee for ACCS Training, the committee responsible for the ACCS training curriculum, the workplace based assessment system and the mechanism for delivery of the ACCS programme.

New National ACCS Website

The new ACCS website will be launched in early January 2016. It has been completely redesigned and reworked – we hope that it will become the ‘go to’ place for ACCS related information. It is being both supported and hosted as a micro-site on the Royal College of Anaesthetists website, with full links to other ACCS related websites.

Please check it out when it is launched, and let us know what you think. We will include a discussion around this at the ACCS Trainer and Trainee Day on Monday 25th April 2016, so please come to the event, or send comments in advance to accs@rcoa.ac.uk

The IC ACCS T would like to thank the RCoA and its website team for its support in providing this essential update to one of our most important resources.

Curriculum Update 2016

The ACCS Curriculum is currently being updated for 2016. If you have any concerns or changes you wish to suggest, please let us know, so these can be considered when we are formatting the updates for submission to the GMC early next year. As the timeframe we have to work with is tight, any ‘submissions’ you may have should be sent by January 31st 2016, so that they can be considered at the next meeting of the IC ACCS T in February 2016.

Comments should be returned (by 31.01.16) to: accs@rcoa.ac.uk

Core ACCS Training Structure: A Reminder

The ACCS training programme consists of 2 years ‘core’ ACCS for all specialties, with an additional ‘specialty specific’ year, and was developed to provide core competencies for specialty training in AM, Anaesthesia, EM and ICM.

The curriculum states:

The first 2 years of ACCS training forms part of the core training programmes for Emergency Medicine and those medical specialties with an emphasis on the acute management and anaesthetics.

The components of training (which can be done in any order) are:

- *1 year of Emergency Medicine + GIM (acute) (6 months of each)*
- *1 year of Anaesthetics + Intensive Care Medicine (minimum of 3 months, maximum 9 months in each)*

The IC ACCS T is aware of programmes that have not followed these stipulations. In some schemes the ‘medical year’ has been split to include 4 months of AM, with 8 months of EM.

It is extremely important that the curriculum is followed appropriately. Many trainees (and their trainers) are now finding themselves having to organise additional medical training time to meet the needs of ongoing specialty training programmes (particularly those including ICM).

The IC ACCS T strongly recommends that 'core' ACCS training should be:

- 1 year of Emergency Medicine + AIM (6 months each)
- 1 year of Anaesthetics + Intensive Care Medicine (6 months in each). *The committee strongly advises that this year should include a minimum of 6 months Anaesthesia*

This will ensure that all trainees meet the requirements for specialty training in all specialty training programmes which follow ACCS, without arranging additional training time.

Note: Although this currently remains a recommendation from the IC ACCS T, it is likely that future versions of the ACCS curriculum will include such as a standard for training.

If you have any concerns regarding your training programme, please contact: accs@rcoa.ac.uk

Changing ACCS 'Specialties'

Trainees often ask about the possibility of changing ACCS 'specialties' (eg from ACCS AM to ACCS EM). The IC ACCS T is currently exploring options with the GMC, HEE and COPMED. Further guidance will be sent as soon as it becomes available.

ACCS Trainer and Trainee Day 2016

In view of the success of the combined event held in March 2015, the format will be kept for next year's meeting. This free event will take place on Monday 25th April 2016 at the Royal College of Anaesthetists. In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions for items to be included in this programme, please contact: accs@rcoa.ac.uk

Further information and a programme for the day will be published nearer the time.

Deanery/LETB ACCS Contacts

Please could you distribute this newsletter to all ACCS trainers in your Deanery/LETB. It would be helpful if all trainers involved in the local ACCS programme who have not already done so sign up to the ACCS register: http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/system/files/TRG-ACCS-Reg-2014_1.pdf to improve communications with the IC ACCS T.

With best wishes,



Jonathan Goodall, Chair ICACCST, November 2015