

CoPSS

Confederation of Postgraduate Schools of Surgery

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**Jon Lund, Joint Committee on Surgical Training (JCST) Chair
Cc: Maria Bussey, Head of Curriculum and Assessment**

Dear Jon,

Re: Transition to the new curriculum

Thank you for updating us on plans for the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme (ISCP) as the transition to the new (2021) curriculum completes this August. The Heads of School have worked hard with their Training Programme Directors and Education Programme Managers to transition completely by August 2023.

As you know, the GMC approved the timeline for all trainees to have transitioned by 2 August 2023 and, because of this, the ISCP system will automatically transition all trainees as they set up new placements from August onwards. There should be no facility to start a new learning agreement on the old (pre-2021) curriculum from this date.

There may be some previously unforeseen circumstances where a trainee would be significantly disadvantaged by this change despite the very long run-up and transition period, for example a period of illness or unexpected training extension. A trainee in this situation may apply to their Dean for special exemption to remain on the pre-2021 curriculum, but we anticipate that this is likely to be an exceptionally rare event especially given that the curriculum implementation was previously delayed by one year.

In all cases, if this exemption is granted outside of a window of extension of a placement available on the ISCP, the trainee will need to provide evidence of this and liaise with the JCST about how their progress should be documented.

We would envisage all trainees on the pre-2021 curriculum having completed the required components by the end of January 2024, even with exceptional circumstances.

Best wishes,

Esther



Miss E McLarty

Chair of the Confederation of Postgraduate Schools of Surgery
Head of Peninsula School of Surgery