

Summary Statement

RE: Neurosurgery Syllabus

The updated Neurosurgery Syllabus includes key revisions to ensure the curriculum remains aligned with modern neurosurgical practice. These changes have been carefully reviewed by the Specialty Advisory Committee with input from trainers, trainees, and key stakeholders. In that light, particular thanks go to Rosa Sun and the British Neurosurgical Trainees' Association for their input. Below, we summarise the key changes, rationale, and the proposed transition plan.

Key Changes

- **Critical Conditions:** Removal of **endotracheal intubation** as a technical skill for neurosurgeons. This is no longer considered a requirement for the modern neurosurgeon.
- **Core Neurosciences:** Addition of **tuberculosis** under neuropathology, given its unique CNS and spinal implications.
- **CSF Pathologies:** Introduction of **intracranial hypotension** as a relevant knowledge area and **infusion testing** as a modern technique for assessing shunt patency.
- **Neuro-oncology:** Added **DTI tractography** and **fluorescence-guided surgery**, reflecting advancements in surgical planning and tumour management.
- **Spinal Trauma:** Highlighted the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to spinal cord injury management.
- **Pain Management:** Updated **cordotomy** to reflect its evolution into a percutaneous rather than open procedure.

Minor Changes

- Corrected terminology (e.g., “neurogenic shock” replacing “spinal shock”).
- Spelling corrections, including “tapping” and “papilloedema”.

Implications for Trainees

These changes are not expected to cause significant disruption. Prior engagement with trainees, through Rosa Sun and the BNTA, ensures they are aware and prepared. The changes primarily refine and enhance existing elements without altering the overall structure of training.

Transition Plan

We propose that all trainees move to the revised curriculum from **February 2026**. Given the minimal impact of the changes, no phased transition is necessary.

We hope these revisions meet with your approval and would be happy to provide further information if required.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Macarthur', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr Donald Macarthur

Consultant Neurosurgeon & Head of Service for Paediatric Neurosurgery, Nottingham University Hospital. Honorary Associate Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Nottingham Chair, SAC in Neurosurgery, Joint Committee on Surgical Training

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A Williams', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr Adam Williams

Consultant Neurosurgeon & Head of Department of Neurosurgery, North Bristol NHS Trust. SAC in Neurosurgery and Neurosurgical Representative on ISCP Management meeting