

Overview of Urology Curriculum Updates February 2027

Urology is a dynamic profession. A proportion of the changes are a reflection of changing patient need to ensure safe quality care for all aspects of the population moving forward.

Gender reassignment surgery

The addition of a section on gender and gender reassignment surgery specific to the general urologist is particularly relevant to this. This is an increasing area of need within the population, and it is important that the general urologist can manage the emergency care and investigation of these patients when they present, hence the change to the curriculum to reflect this. There is a plan in place to incorporate this into the national online training programme and over the next 2 years the question bank for the FRCS (Urol) will be updated to reflect this as part of its rolling quality assurance process.

General principles in the management of Urological Malignancy

Adding in risk stratification when we are talking about treatment options for cancers is to allow urologists to have a nuanced discussion with their patients. This is important to avoid over treatment and to avoid subjecting elderly frail patients to treatments that they will not benefit from. The use of risk calculators aid in these decision making processes for both clinicians and patients. These are already widely used in clinical settings.

New Special Interest module in Paediatric Urology

The provision of general paediatric urology is under threat across the UK in the DGH setting as the population of consultants that provide this service currently retire or head towards retirement. The addition of a special interest module in paediatric urology is aimed to redress this balance in the DGH setting by encouraging trainees to take up this as their area of special interest.

Management of penile cancer

The management of penile cancer was originally in 2 sections and has now been placed in the oncology rather than andrology section of the curriculum. The change from a named procedure in the andrology section (Nesbitt's) to any penile straightening procedure is to reflect current practice within the UK and to allow future developments without further curriculum change as evidence changes in this area. This is reflected in trainee logbooks and we have had a number of trainees who wish to certify in this area asking for this specific change.

Endourology Special Interest Module

The addition of PCNL (percutaneous nephrolithotomy) again reflects population need. Stone surgeons need to be trained in all methods of dealing with complex stones. Previously in this special interest module ureteroscopy was the only requirement, this had led to the endourology special interest module being viewed as the easy option for CCT. The addition of PCNL will reverse this and ensure that those who are going to practice stone surgery have the breadth of training to deal with their entire population. Improving the standard of those applying for CCT in this area.

Corrections

A significant proportion of the changes are to reflect correction of minor typographical or grammatical errors in the original document. There are also a number of minor changes to ensure consistency in terms of levels across the document (Eg at one point a particular procedure in phase 3 is level 3 then in another it is level 2, this is just correcting mistakes in the original document).