



Guidance for the Management of Stage D Training

Following the introduction of the 2010 histopathology curriculum Stage D training provides the opportunity for the trainee to start to develop areas of specialist interest and also attain confidence with independent reporting. After passing the FRCPath Part 2 exam a trainee spends a minimum period of 12 months in Stage D until he/she gains all the competencies for sign off of training (CCT sign off). The curriculum currently recommends the trainee to complete:

- Histopathology: 1500 surgical histology cases and 300 non-cervical cytology cases.
- Cytopathology: CHCCT, 1000 cervical cytology cases, 1000 non-cervical cytology cases, FNA expertise and attendance at clinics and specimen adequacy assessment.

There is no detailed current guidance that relates to the needs of the trainee who wishes to develop a special interest in research or molecular pathology. The existing curriculum guidance is not readily applicable for the pursuit of some areas of specialist practice where cases require intensive work up. Trainees can now present absolute numbers of cases (>1500 cases, of which some are independently reported) or an equivalent number of accrued RCPATH work load units. The absolute number is to be agreed locally by the Training Programme Director (TPD) and trainee.

There should be a balance of complex and straightforward cases, to include cancer resections to be completed for each six months' period of training. Training will be undertaken from a combination of the following areas: histopathology, cytopathology, post mortems and molecular pathology.

Competencies required to exit stage D (which must show development beyond stage C) are summarised below:

- Demonstrate a level of knowledge and skill consistent with practise as a general or specialist consultant in histopathology in the National Health Service to include MDT presentation.
- Demonstrate the ability to report independently.
- Explore specialist interest if applicable or maintain in-depth general reporting.
- Develop experience of teaching histopathology trainees and other professional groups.

In addition to the absolute numbers of cases to be reported as described above the trainee will need to demonstrate attainment of competencies by completion of appropriate work based assessments to be uploaded into LEPT. At least one WPBA will relate to a molecular pathology investigation. The portfolio will also include a quality improvement project.

A training plan and the targets to be met must be documented and prospectively agreed by the trainee with the local ES and TPD and vetted by the Histopathology College Specialty Training Committee (CSTC) to ensure there is a consistent approach to training across individual.

