



## Transitional arrangements to the 2021 GMC-approved curricula and assessment system, incorporating Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) derogation guidance for the Infection specialties during the COVID-19 outbreak 2022

### Introduction

Throughout the pandemic, the Medical Royal Colleges have worked collaboratively to support trainees and trainers and mitigate against the impact of the disruption on trainees' progression through training with the GMC and Statutory Education Bodies. In September 2021, the GMC confirmed that the approved derogations would remain in place throughout the period of disruption caused by the pandemic.

Therefore, to support ARCP panels and to aid flexibility, we have developed joint transitional arrangements and ARCP derogation guidance.

These transitional arrangements are for NTN holders in a GMC-approved UK training programme in any of the Infection specialties (leading to the award of the CCT or CESR(CP)) who are transferring to the relevant 2021 GMC-approved UK curriculum and assessment system. These transitional arrangements reference the [GMC policy statement: Transition of learners to a new curriculum](#).

These transitional arrangements apply to trainees who entered the relevant training programme prior to 1 August 2021 and are on previous versions of GMC- approved Infection curricula. The only exception to this applies to trainees whose provisional CCT date is on or before **31 August 2023**.

As a guide the GMC consider two years from the curriculum implementation date to be a reasonable transition period for all trainees (including less than full time trainees) to have moved to new curricula. Trainees in their final year of training with a CCT date on or before 31 August 2023, or for whom it would not be in the interests of patient safety or impractical to support to move to a new curriculum, will normally remain on the curriculum in place prior to the new approval.

### General Principles

- Trainees transferring to the relevant 2021 GMC-approved UK curricula and assessment system will not be able to revert to their previous curriculum.
- Trainees transferring to the relevant 2021 GMC-approved curriculum should proceed to the relevant ST year, e.g. a trainee who has completed ST4 in their existing curriculum should proceed to ST5 in their new curriculum.
- To ensure the maintenance of the educational quality, standards, and integrity in the transition from the existing GMC approved curricula.
- To ensure fairness and equity for all trainees.
- To ensure that curriculum capabilities and mapping are undertaken by the LETBs/Deaneries.
- To minimise disruption as trainees' progress to CCT/CESR(CP).



These transitional arrangements were endorsed by the three infection training committees<sup>1</sup> on 16 March 2022 and published on 28 April 2022.

### **General guidance for trainees and trainers in the infection specialties**

- Trainees must follow any adopted national practice and safety guidance with respect to the handling of samples and their own personal conduct inside and outside of work premises.
- If trainees are redeployed from their current specialty during the COVID-19 emergency measures and they have opportunity to undertake WBAs that cover the generic aspects of the training curriculum, then they should do so.
- Sick leave/special leave should be discussed with Educational Supervisors/TPDs as normal and taken into consideration by the ARCP panel.

### **Critical progression points for the infection specialties**

The critical progression points are as follows:

- Medical Microbiology or Medical Virology only:
  - Trainees in ST5 who are not in possession of the FRCPATH Part 1 should be awarded an outcome 10.2 where the delay has been caused by COVID-19 disruption, or an outcome 3 where it has not (e.g. related to repeated examination failure) and progress to the relevant point in the appropriate 2021 curriculum.
  - Trainees in ST6 who are not in possession of FRCPATH Part 2 should be awarded an outcome 10.2 where the delay has been caused by COVID-19 disruption, or an outcome 3 where it has not (e.g. related to repeated examination failure). Trainees with a CCT date on or before 31 August 2023 can remain on their existing curriculum and are not required to move to the 2021 curriculum. Trainees with a CCT date after 31 August 2023 should progress to the relevant point in the 2021 curriculum.
- Dual trainees in Medical Microbiology or Medical Virology and Infectious Diseases:
  - Trainees in ST6 who are not in possession of the FRCPATH Part 1 should be awarded an outcome 10.2 where the delay has been caused by COVID-19 disruption, or an outcome 3 where it has not (e.g. related to repeated examination failure) and progress to the relevant point in the appropriate 2021 curriculum.
  - Trainees completing ST7 who are not in possession of FRCPATH Part 2 should be awarded an outcome 10.2 where the delay has been caused by COVID-19 disruption, or an outcome 3 where it has not (e.g. related to repeated examination failure). Trainees with a CCT date on or before 31 August 2023 can remain on their existing curriculum and are not required to move to the 2021 curriculum. Trainees with a CCT date after 31 August 2023 should progress to the relevant point in the 2021 curriculum.
- Infectious Diseases or Tropical Medicine only:
  - Infectious Diseases trainees in ST6 and Tropical Medicine trainees in ST7 who are not in possession of the CICE should be awarded an outcome 10.2 where the delay has been caused by COVID-19 disruption, or an outcome 3 where it has not (e.g. related to repeated examination failure). Trainees with a CCT date on or before 31 August 2023 can remain on their existing curriculum and are not required to move to the 2021 curriculum. Trainees with a CCT date after 31 August 2023 should progress to the relevant point in the 2021 curriculum.
- Dual trainees in Infectious Diseases or Tropical Medicine and General Internal Medicine:
  - Infectious Diseases and General Internal Medicine trainees in ST7 and Tropical Medicine and General Internal Medicine trainees in ST8 who are not in possession of the CICE should be awarded an outcome 10.2 where the delay has been caused by COVID-19 disruption, or an outcome 3 where it has not (e.g. related to repeated examination failure) and progress to the relevant point in the appropriate 2021 curriculum. Trainees with a CCT date on or before 31 August 2023 can remain on their existing curriculum and are not required to move to the 2021 curriculum. Trainees with

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<sup>1</sup> Joint Combined Infection Training Specialty Advisory Committee, Microbiology/Virology College Specialty Training committee and the Infectious Diseases/Tropical Medicine Specialist Advisory Committee

a CCT date after 31 August 2023 should progress to the relevant point in the 2021 curriculum.

- Any infection trainee who has sufficient evidence to present to the ARCP panel of the curriculum defined competences and who are in possession of the FRCPATH Part 1 or CICE or the FRCPATH Part 2 may be awarded an outcome 1 and progress to the relevant point in the appropriate 2021 curriculum/curricula. The only exception to this is trainees who are due to complete training by 31 August 2023. Such trainees are not required to transition to the 2021 curriculum and should remain on their current curriculum.
- Any infection trainee who has sufficient evidence to present to the ARCP panel of the curriculum defined competencies may be awarded an outcome 6 and apply for CCT if they are within 6 months of their projected CCT date. Trainees are not able to gain an outcome 6 (completion of training) without having completed all required examinations and curriculum competencies. Trainees awarded an outcome 6 can remain on their existing curriculum and are not required to move to the 2021 curriculum.

### **The recommended minimum data set for each year of training**

For the 2022 ARCPs, it is expected that the Educational Supervisors Structured Report (ESSR) will be a key part of the evidence. It may include indicative assessment of the trainee, mindful of the impact of COVID-19.

The portfolio of evidence provided by the trainee for the period under review can include:

- any workplace-based assessments completed. The number of workplace-based assessments required for each year or stage of training is indicative<sup>2</sup>. These can include any undertaken during redeployment which demonstrate evidence of generic or other relevant skills;
- any indicative cases undertaken;
- an MSF (although trainees who have not completed a required MSF but are otherwise satisfactory must undertake their MSF in the following year);
- suitable and appropriate alternative evidence (see 'Learning Experiences' listed in the curriculum for guidance);
- any College exams completed prior to COVID-19.

Where there is overall evidence that a trainee is generally achieving progress and competences at the expected rate but has not been able to provide the indicative number of workplace-based assessments, suitable and appropriate alternative evidence can be taken into consideration.

Where there is overall evidence that satisfactory progress is not being made and an indicative number of workplace-based assessments has not been provided, trainees will generally be required to complete additional workplace-based assessments in the following year, as determined by the ARCP Panel.

The ARCP Panel are encouraged to be very clear with all trainees about any additional training, competencies, assessments or other requirements that must be achieved in the following year and document these accordingly.

There is clear guidance in each curricula and/or in additional guidance about the requirements for each stage or year of training. ARCP Panels are encouraged to refer to these, and existing ARCP guidance, and make an overall judgement about progression for each trainee, taking into account impact of COVID-19.

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<sup>2</sup> Please see the relevant curriculum for information about indicative numbers ([Infectious Diseases](#), [Medical Microbiology](#), [Medical Virology](#), [Tropical Medicine](#)).

## **Conducting the ARCP**

ARCPs can take place virtually, via secure videoconferencing, on appropriate platforms as determined by each deanery or LETB. The privacy of the individuals involved must be maintained, regardless of the physical location of all participants.

The ARCP outcome should be recorded in the trainee's e-portfolio which has had the additional ARCP outcomes added.

## **Criteria for non-progression**

The criteria for non-progression is as follows:

- Trainees who are on course to receive an outcome 3, 4 or 5 outwith COVID-19 derogations.
- Trainees who have not passed the CICE/FRCPath Part 1 or FRCPath Part 2 (where relevant).

## **Circumstances where a complete ARCP panel would be advised**

The circumstances where a complete ARCP panel would be advised are where trainees are making unsatisfactory progress and where an outcome 2, 3, 4, 5 outwith COVID-19 derogations or 10.2 is likely.

## **Amendments to the person specification needed to facilitate career progression of trainees who have been unable to acquire capabilities in their core programme due to the impact of COVID-19**

Please refer to the [JRCPTB website](#).

## **Advice regarding capabilities which may be gained in an acting up position within a defined education/development plan**

Trainees who have spent additional time waiting to complete their FRCPath Part 2 examination may, if they are on track to complete their training satisfactorily, spend reduced time in training after passing the FRCPath Part 2, and/or may accumulate evidence of competences during an acting up position within a defined education/development plan. Trainees are encouraged to follow the course of action that is right for their individual circumstances and with the support of their Educational Supervisor/Training Programme Director.

## **References**

[Contingency planning for ARCPs – COVID 19 outbreak](#)

[Derogation to GG8: 4.91 in response to COVID pandemic and impact on trainee progression assessments \(ARCP\)](#)

[Gold Guide 8<sup>th</sup> edition](#)

[Curricula and ARCP guidance](#)



Curricular component	Comment	Recommended ARCP outcome	Recommended action
COVID-19 has caused disruption to training including redeployment	Limitation of exposure to samples, clinics and experience, MDT, courses, QIPs and research opportunities.	ARCP 10.1 ARCP 10.2 (for trainees in their final year of training only)	Move to relevant point in appropriate 2021 curriculum/curricula.
FRCPATH Part 1/CICE examination not passed	Completion necessary for progress. Balance between satisfactory progress and pressurising by extra requirements in next year of training.	ARCP10.2 (if due to COVID-19) <b>or</b> ARCP 3 (if not due to COVID-19)	Move to relevant point in appropriate 2021 curriculum/curricula.
FRCPATH Part 2 examination not passed	Completion necessary for progress. Balance between satisfactory progress and pressurising by extra requirements in next year of training.	ARCP10.2 (if due to COVID-19) <b>or</b> ARCP 3 (if not due to COVID-19)	Remain on current curriculum if CCT date on or before 31 August 2023 or move to relevant point in appropriate 2021 curriculum/curricula.  or  Move to relevant point in 2021 medical microbiology/ medical virology/infectious diseases curriculum/curricula if CCT date after 31 August 2023.
No disruption to training	Trainee on course to complete requirements for year of training, including acquisition of relevant examination.	ARCP 1 or 2	Remain on current curriculum if CCT date on or before 31 August 2023 or move to relevant point in appropriate 2021 curriculum/curricula.  or



			Move to relevant point in 2021 medical microbiology/ medical virology/infectious diseases curriculum/curricula if CCT date after 31 August 2023.
No disruption to training	Concerns raised about trainee (including probity and patient safety as well as general progress)	ARCP 2, 3 ARCP 4 (with a preceding outcome 3)	Remain on current curriculum if CCT date on or before 31 August 2023 or move to relevant point in appropriate 2021 curriculum/curricula.  or  Move to relevant point in 2021 medical microbiology/ medical virology/infectious diseases curriculum/curricula if CCT date after 31 August 2023.
Completion of training	Trainee on course to complete training, including acquisition of relevant examination(s).	ARCP 6	CCT date will be on or before 31 August 2023. Complete training on current curriculum. Do not transition to new curriculum.