

COVID-19 Contingency Workforce Planning – Trainee ACCPs

With escalating pressures within the critical care workforce, the FICM ACCP Sub-Committee has issued the following guidance on utilising trainee ACCPs.

Trainee ACCPs should not be considered to work in the role if:

- They are in the first 6 months of training.
- They have not completed any work-based learning in critical care.

Trainee ACCPs should revert back to their previous role over the course of the high workforce requirements and return to training following this period. Bearing in mind, consideration will need to be taken to ensure the full 2-year supernumerary training period has been completed before qualified status is achieved. This may require additional time beyond the initially planned completion date.

Trainee ACCPs can be considered in an ‘assistant’ capacity if all of the criteria below can be met:

- They are beyond their first 6 months of training.
- They have achieved baseline competencies in critical care.
- Supervision by a trained ACCP is available on every shift to support and supervise (bearing in mind that Consultants will not have the capacity).
- Have awareness that they can only undertake procedures that they are signed off for.
- The Consultant or Lead ACCP/Clinical Lead for ICM has deemed it appropriate that they work in this role.
- The Trainee ACCP is content to work in the role.

If working in the ‘assistant’ role, regular feedback and monitoring should be undertaken by a designated ACCP mentor.

Please be advised, that this is guidance only and further discussions surrounding suitability of the ‘assistant ACCP’ will depend on the specific requirements of each Trust/ Health Board and Unit.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR TRAINEE ACCPs DEPLOYED IN NIGHTINGALE HOSPITALS

As the various Nightingale ‘Field’ Hospitals become operational, the Faculty have been asked to provide some clarity on the potential for trainee ACCPs to be redeployed to them.

Given the likely differing nature of the various Nightingale Hospitals, the scope of the role intended during the redeployment to a field hospital is suitable for, and appropriate to, the clinical competence of ‘an Assistant ACCP’.

‘Assistant ACCPs’ must fulfil the criteria outlined above and have appropriate supervision within the Nightingale Hospital. This should be a Consultant and qualified ACCP. The redeployment must be agreed by the Trust/Health Board, ACCP Consultant lead and line management.

Any individual agreeing to redeployment away from their base area may have additional travel time and even accommodation considerations. There should be the assurance of provision and consideration of time away from clinical duties to ensure adequate rest.