

16 March 2020

Dear IST Trainees,

I'd like to update you following a teleconference we had this evening, about the plans for your training package, ie the Scottish IST pilot simulation strategy, during this phase of the COVID19 pandemic.

MONTHLY TRAINING DAYS

1. There will be no face-to-face monthly training events until further notice.
2. We did discuss providing webinar-based training days but will not do so for the time being. We may revisit that in time. It's not just about reducing risk of infecting the workforce, but also about keeping faculty and trainees' time and energy free for frontline service and cross-covering, especially if colleagues are off sick or in isolation. However we will be asking training day faculty if they have ppt and other resources we can post on Turas for you.
3. The 70% attendance target will not be strictly required at ARCP.
4. In addition to the specialty-based days, there were a number of other highlights coming up soon, eg the ICONS (informed consent) day, the 2nd stoma training day, and the Managing Surgical Crisis day. We know current CT/ST2s are disappointed not to be accessing these before leaving the programme. Therefore we have secured permission to hold the unspent budget for you so that you can come back and attend some of these even after moving to your next post. We are exploring running ICONS, MSC and stoma training during 2020/21, for CT/ST2s and past CT/ST2s, with repeats on consecutive days so we can double our capacity.

COURSES

Boot Camps and BASICS are complete for this year, as are some of the MIS courses. The remaining laparoscopic/arthroscopic courses and CCrISP courses are off. As above we can hold some budget over if not spent this year, even beyond end of programme, and we will look to reschedule, within the limits of Skills Centre and faculty capacity.

ILPs

1. The final assessment and kit eoSim return days are cancelled. You will no longer be required to do a face-to-face assessment, and your basic certificate will be based on the scores from your uploaded videos, which we shall continue to score. You still just need an average OSATS score of 7 across all the tasks.
2. I have noted the names of 4 trainees who wish to compete at advanced level and will communicate with them directly. We shall see if EOSurgical can organise a webcast play-off at the end of that.
3. The arrangements for return of kit will be made in due course, with a facility in each city for you to drop off kit and have it checked and signed back in.

VA SIMULATION

Thanks for all the positive responses on this. We aim to introduce it for next year's CT/ST2s.

SKILLS CLUBS

It will be for local discretion whether to continue your skills clubs. We have the sutures now and some instruments (you can still write to me) but not the boxes of other kit.

EVALUATION

We have a meeting tomorrow with Adarsh Shah the research fellow and his supervisors tomorrow to explore options. If it comes to structured interviews by phone or WhatsApp, please please help if you can, so we can capture evaluation before the first cohort finishes IST. You will appreciate the importance of evaluating the Scottish pilot properly, since we've done things a bit differently to the rest of IST.

It's not the job of this e-mail to talk about your ARCPs, what happens if you couldn't sit an exam, etc etc. There is a high level group in NES working out policy and drawing up FAQ answers now and your TPDs will be liaising with them this week. But remember the reassurance has already been issued that no trainee should be disadvantaged in their career by this virus.

Having met almost all of you, I know you are already a skilled, committed and versatile part workforce and we are sure you will contribute with character and prowess to the national response to the COVID19 pandemic.

If you have any concerns about the above, please do get in touch with me or with Lynn hardie or Karen Wiley at the office (csmen@nes.scot.nhs.uk) or of course your TPDs Mr Yalamarathi and Mr Vella.

Lynn/Karen, would you please put this whole trail of 3 e-mails into a pdf and post it on the webpage along with the original simulation strategy. Thanks.

Ken Walker IST Simulation Lead,
on behalf of the Scottish IST working group.

Prof KENNETH WALKER

Consultant Colorectal Surgeon, Inverness
Associate Postgrad Dean (IST Simulation Lead), NES
Associate Director of Medical Education, NHS Highland

13 March 2020

Dear all,

Just a quick e-mail about COVID19 and IST. We have cancelled next Friday's ICONS course. We shall be meeting hopefully on Monday to try to make contingencies for other events and elements of your training, eg can some parts be done by webex, can the ILPs be all assessed on video uploads, etc etc. We are aware that exams and ARCPs are also concerns, hence we are not deciding further details until after we meet with your TPDs and others on Mon.

Have a good weekend though.

Ken

KENNETH WALKER

Cons Colorectal Surgeon, Inverness

Assoc Director Medical Education, NHS Highland

Assoc Postgrad Dean, NHS Education for Scotland

28 February 2020

Dear 1st & 2nd year Scottish IST Core Surgical Trainees,

Trust you are well. Here is a “6 month update” about the Simulation Strategy. There are important points for your attention, including the arrangements for the end of the ILPs programme and return of eoSims, and an exciting new Managing Surgical Crisis course option, so please make a coffee and read this thoroughly.

MONTHLY TRAINING DAYS (all trainees)

Thank-you to those who have already checked your **attendance record** on Turas (see previous e-mail). Please tell Karen or Lynn at csmen@nes.scot.nhs.uk if it is not accurate.

All the available monthly training days are up on the Turas system EXCEPT:

- a. The **Remote and Rural Surgery** day in Glasgow is soon to be posted up. It’s going to be on Wed 29th April in Paisley and promises to be inspiring.
- b. We are trying to get 2 runs of the acclaimed **Managing Surgical Crisis** course in mid to late June, supplied free as part of the monthly training day programme, for CT2/ST2 trainees only. You might remember me or Ian Thomas mentioning it during your NoTSS introductory session in Boot Camp. It trains you (in simulation) about recognising and responding to a surgical startle or crisis in the OT, and it is very good. We’ll e-mail everyone the dates and venue and post it on Turas when we can. We’ll put it on again next year for next year’s CT2/ST2s.

Don’t forget that West trainees are welcome to go to East programme days, and vice versa. Please as far as possible can you avoid doing too many topics twice, so as to allow everyone the maximum range of topics. In particular, there is a waiting list for the ICONS day, so if you have booked on it for a 2nd time, please would you cancel and let Karen or Lynn know so the place can go to someone who hasn’t yet done it? (csmen@nes.scot.nhs.uk)

Keep the feedback coming on questback. It’s actually the same link for every course.

INCENTIVISED LAPAROSCOPY PRACTICE (ILPs) (CT1/ST1)

Been good to see the videos coming in, and that you’ve been practising. Well, most of you! **We are now announcing the plans for final assessment and return of kit before the end of the year.**

We will have days when you can attend, perform one or two of the tasks for us (sneakily, we won’t tell you which ones until the day) and return the kit. If you achieve an average of 7 or more across the video OSATS scores and the final assessment, and return the kit with only reasonable wear and tear, then you will get the basic level certificate for your ISCP portfolio. It’s very achievable if you have done some practice.

Remember no-one will have a non-standard ARCP outcome on the basis of failing this alone, but it can be taken into account alongside your other evidence of engagement, competence and progression.

If in addition to the ILPs basic level, you would like to compete at the advanced or elite level for gold, silver and bronze awards, please e-mail me within the next 2 weeks.

kennethwalker@nhs.net

Also at the “ILPs Ax day” will be an opportunity for a portfolio chat with your TPD to make sure you are properly prepared for ARCP, and we would like to give the IST

evaluation research fellow, Adarsh Shah, a chance to do his structured interview or focus groups with you.

The 3 options are:-

Paisley RAH Wed 29th April (morning is R&R Surgery teaching 9-1 – book separately – and afternoon from 2 – 5 for this ILPs Ax + TPD meeting + focus groups)

Aberdeen Suttie Centre Fri 29th May (ILPs Ax & focus groups 0930 to 1230, rooms 115/116)

We may follow this with trainee presentations in the early afternoon– Mr Yalamarathi will arrange and we'll post details on the Turas booking system

Edinburgh RCSEd Skills Centre Fri 5th June (ILPs Ax & focus groups 10am to 1230)

NB This coincides with the 2nd day of the College's Triennial Meeting (flier attached). If you would like to attend that and work your ILPs Ax and focus group around the sessions, let me know kennethwalker@nhs.net.

We may do some trainee presentations too – Mr Yalamarathi will arrange.

Please book up for one of these days on Turas as you would for a training day. They will be posted there in the next day or 2. You may cross the country if necessary, but better to go to Paisley if you are West and Abdn or Edinb if you are East. If anybody really can't make one of these, please e-mail me. kennethwalker@nhs.net

Some **CT2/ST2** trainees asked to borrow our remaining old eoSims from the previous project, but we have now issued them instead to the skills clubs, so I'm afraid they are not available for loan to individuals.

TPD clinic before ARCP

It is good to run through your portfolio with your TPD before the ARCPs. CT1/ST1 trainees can do this at the time of eoSim return, as above, and we can do the evaluation focus groups then too.

CT2/ST2 trainees will also be welcome on those days for that purpose.

Evaluation focus groups

We are keen to give the new IST evaluation research fellow Adarsh Shah good opportunity to gather proper qualitative evaluation data from you in focus groups, for thematic analysis to inform the evaluation. Future decisions will be based on this research. For CT1/ST1 trainees this is easily done at the time of eoSim return. My real concern is that we are running out of opportunity to do this with the current CT2/ST2 trainees. If we can get the Managing Surgical Crisis course going in June, let's do it alongside that. Otherwise we could set up something extra.

COURSES

BOOT CAMP (CT1/ST1)

Glad you had a good boot camp season, thanks for the comments.

CCrISP

CT1/ST1 trainees (and any ST2/CT2 trainees who didn't get it done yet): There seem to be enough places this year, but if you have any difficulty getting a suitable place with any of the 3 Colleges, let me know please, because we can negotiate for yet more places to be created. But it takes time, so say now.

BASICS (for CT2/ST2 trainees) in the Glasgow CASC

Glad this has been so well received. The 2 runs of this general surgery cadaveric course that we commissioned have now been completed. I hear one was followed by a Boot Camp reunion weekend!

If there are people who couldn't get on, let me know and I will see if we can get you places on another run of the course before your year is out.

NB Correct me if I'm wrong, but we think we didn't get any requests for the urology-weighted cadaveric course that we offered.

MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY COURSES (CT2/ST2 trainees)

As you know there are 3 options in CT2/ST2.

1. Some of you attended one of the two 1-day **laparoscopic** surgery courses in the RCPSG. There is another one on 7th April; still places left. (Book at <https://rcpsg.ac.uk/events/basiclapskills>, pay the £85 or £120 fee and claim back from us through your TPD on Turas.)
2. Some are booked for the 2-day core **laparoscopic** skills course in the Dundee Institute of Healthcare Simulation 26th/27th March. There are still some places (book at <https://dihs.dundee.ac.uk/courses/general-surgery/core-skills-laparoscopic-surgery-course/mon-10282019-0845>, pay the reduced fee of £450 and claim back from us through your TPD).
3. Sadly the option of the **arthroscopic** 2-day course at the Dundee institute has been cancelled by them and at the time of writing they have not been able to reinstate it. We have offered IST trainers as faculty but they are still unable. We are sorry about this. It is a bit late to commission a new course in another centre for this year, so if trainees who intended to go on that option wish to subscribe instead to a similar offering elsewhere in the UK, just e-mail me the details and if it's similar content and probable quality, we can reimburse it for you up to a maximum of £650.

SKILLS CLUBS

We are delighted that 5 skills clubs are currently running, and we are having a push on facilitating these. The current ones are:-

Western Gen Hosp Edinburgh (alistairgeraghty@nhs.net)

St John's Livingston (kate.hulse@nhs.net)

Monklands Hospital Airdrie (siljewelsh@gmail.com)

QEUH Glasgow (vblackhall@googlemail.com)

Fife (majid.rashid@nhs.net)

At a recent group meeting we decided:-

To provide a startup brochure and include instructions on how to order sutures and other consumables from us by e-mail (leaflet available from me)

To redistribute some available instruments (e-mail me)
To create a batch of neoprene bowel and vessels (A Geraghty)
To start work on boxes of kit to issue for next year's skills clubs
To prompt succession planning
To loan old eoSims to skills clubs
To keep the trainee leaders' group going for mutual support
To recognise the emerging leaders in some way, and to publish together
Any more skills clubs ready to emerge?

NEXT YEAR

We've submitted our bid to Scottish Govt for next year's funding and would be surprised if they don't fund the sim strategy for a 3rd year.

Some planned improvements:-

1. Since there is a home practice programme in CT1/ST1, we are considering next year including one for CT2/ST2. It would be about vascular anastomosis (which should appeal to all subspecialties) and using posted-to-home kits including 3D printed hydrogel blood vessels. **Have a look at <https://vasimulation.co.uk/> and tell us if you think this is a good idea for next year's CT2/ST2 trainees.**
2. We listened to some feedback recently and for boot camp next year are looking again into a potential accommodation option in student residences or a training hotel, that could then be provided within the funded cost of the course and save trainees paying for accommodation. But that's for next year's lot.
3. We anticipate that next year the monthly training days will be arranged and posted much farther ahead of time, in the West just like in the East.

As always, keep in touch with any queries or ideas, keep practising, keep booking ahead.

It was gratifying to hear from the BASICS faculty that this year's CT2/ST2 trainees seemed operatively more competent than previous year groups on average. Well done.

All the best,
Ken Walker, Simulation Lead
Mark Vella, TPD West
Satheesh Yalamarthy, TPD East
Simon Gibson, deputy TPD West

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