This note summarises recent news and decisions of the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board. The PMETB Rapid Update is an ad-hoc publication, issued whenever there is important, time sensitive news we need to let our stakeholders know about. It is the sister publication to the quarterly PMETB Update. Its key audiences are colleagues in postgraduate deaneries, medical Royal Colleges and Faculties, local education providers, partners and others involved in the development and management of postgraduate medical education. To register to receive a copy by email please contact: emily.burgess@pmetb.org.uk

PMETB principle in relation to trainees and training during times of national emergency

Doctors will play a vital role in helping the country during a time of national emergency, such as an influenza pandemic.

PMETB supports trainees contributing appropriately to health services delivery in these exceptional circumstances, and appreciates that this may, for a limited period, take precedence over training. Notwithstanding, trainees must always work within their competence, and supported by appropriate supervision.

PMETB maintains that the approved curriculum and programme must be appropriately delivered and that should anything impede this then the length of training may be extended. PMETB expects postgraduate deans and their organisations to manage this issue locally on an individual trainee basis, in conjunction with the Colleges. PMETB does accept that some, or all, experience gained during a time of national emergency may constitute training. This will depend upon the specialty, the supervision arrangements, and the requirements of the curriculum and assessments.

The ARCP/RITA processes will help ensure that the relevance and appropriateness of the experiences can be considered in relation to training. It should also mean that trainees are clear about the implications of their training, including potential extension.


Contact us

General switchboard
Tel: +44 (0)20 7160 6100
Fax: +44 (0)20 7160 6102
E-mail: info@pmetb.org.uk

For CESR, CEGPR and certification queries
Tel: 0871 220 3070 (9am to 5pm UK time) or +44 (0)20 7160 6187 for overseas applicants
Please note: calls may be recorded for training and other purposes

Email enquiries
CESR enquiries - cesr@pmetb.org.uk
CEGPR enquiries - cegpr@pmetb.org.uk
CCT enquiries - cct@pmetb.org.uk
Curricula and assessment systems enquiries - curriculum.eval@pmetb.org.uk
Deanery visits and post and programme approvals enquiries - quality_assurance@pmetb.org.uk
Trainee survey queries - trainee.survey@pmetb.org.uk
Trainer survey queries - trainer.survey@pmetb.org.uk
About PMETB

PMETB is a statutory body, responsible for overseeing and promoting the development of postgraduate medical education and training for all specialties, including general practice, across the UK.

It assumed its statutory powers on 30 September 2005 taking over the responsibilities of the Specialist Training Authority of the Medical Royal Colleges (STA) and the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice (JCPTGP).

The vision that PMETB has set itself is to achieve excellence in postgraduate medical education, training, assessment and accreditation throughout the UK to improve the knowledge, skills and experience of doctors and the health and healthcare of patients and the public.

In response to the outcomes of Sir John Tooke’s MMC Inquiry, the Department of Health has announced that PMETB and the GMC should be merged from 2010. This will provide a single seamless regulatory structure for medical education from medical school through to postgraduate education and training and continuous learning until retirement.

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