

Lancaster University Anaesthesia Associate Programme

Many thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Draft AA Scope of Practice.

As a Higher Education Institution (HEI), our responsibility is to deliver the [Royal College of Anaesthetists Anaesthesia Associates Curriculum](#) and prepare students for the [General Medical Council's Anaesthesia Associates Registration Assessment](#) (AARA). We are satisfied that the Draft AA Scope of Practice is broadly compatible with these.

One clarification that we would welcome relates to how the Draft AA Scope of Practice applies to student training. Of particular significance is the restriction of regional techniques to the infra-inguinal fascia iliaca block (II-FIB), a technique which is almost exclusively used in the management of patients with hip fracture.

If the restriction to II-FIBs applies to students in training, this will restrict their placements to hospitals which manage hip fractures, and focus student experience onto orthopaedic trauma lists. We would ask the RCoA to consider the implications of this for both the training of student AAs and other learners.

Of note, HEIs and NHS organisations do need to ensure that students have some practical training in regional anaesthesia because the [RCoA AA Curriculum](#) Practical Procedures Grid (Annex C, page 60) states that student AAs must be 'capable of performing' a 'simple peripheral nerve block'.

Whilst HEIs do not have a role in the implementation of qualified anaesthesia associates in the clinical workplace, we do hope that our graduates will go on to make a meaningful contribution to patient care and have fulfilling careers in the health service. With that in mind, we are reassured that the RCoA has made implementation a key element of its consultation.