



# Supervision Level Workshops for Educational Supervisors

*Dr Thomas Trouton (ST5 Anaesthetics, UHCW)*

*Dr Rashida Lokhandwala (ST5 Anaesthetics, UHCW)*

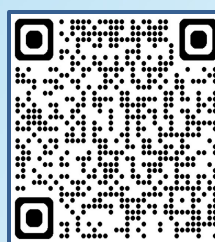
*Dr Martin Minich (Consultant Anaesthetist, UHCW, TPD Warwickshire School of Anaesthesia)*

Training in anaesthetics in the UK is overseen by the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCOA) and mapped against the 2021 Curriculum. As part of this new curriculum, changes were made to the use of supervised learning events (SLEs) to include allocating supervision levels based on the reflective discussion had between the trainer and the anaesthetist in training. It has been noted by the RCOA that this concept has taken longer than expected to embed in the assessment of anaesthetists in training <sup>1</sup>. At a local level, it had been noted by feedback through resident doctor representatives that allocation of supervision levels is not always reflective of the discussions between the trainer and anaesthetist in training.

Virtual workshops were held across 5 sessions on Microsoft teams, to help guide trainers in completing assessments on the 2021 Curriculum. These sessions were hosted by the training programme director for Stage 2 and 3 in Warwickshire. Invites were extended to all sessional, clinical and educational supervisors in the region. The sessions consisted of small group discussions around key aspects of the 2021 Curriculum. Participants were invited to complete pre- and post-workshop questionnaires looking at 6 hypothetical scenarios where they were asked to allocate a supervision level. Feedback was gathered about the level of trainers' comfort when assigning supervision levels, as well as about the usefulness of the workshop overall.

1	Direct supervisor involvement, physically present in theatre throughout
2A	Supervisor in theatre suite, available to guide aspects of activity through monitoring at regular intervals
2B	Supervisor within hospital for queries, able to provide prompt direction/assistance
3	Supervisor on call from home for queries able to provide directions via phone or non-immediate attendance
4	Should be able to manage independently with no supervisor involvement (although should inform consultant supervisor as appropriate to local protocols)

*Summary of RCOA supervision level descriptions <sup>2</sup>*

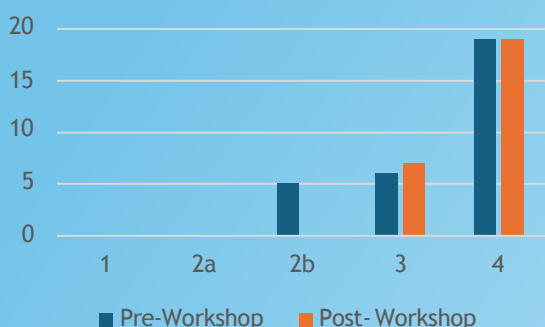


*QR code linking to slides used for the workshops*

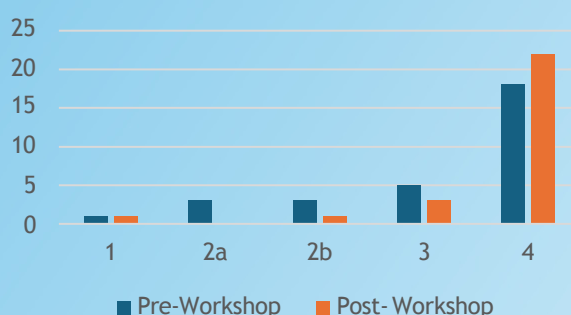


30 trainers attended the workshops in total. The majority (70%) of attendants had not previously received any formal training on completing SLEs. The average score (out of 5) in response to the question “How comfortable do you feel assigning supervision levels to SLEs?” improved from 3.28 pre-workshop to 4.54 post-workshop. The overall spread of allocation of supervision levels to SLEs in the 6 scenarios presented became more consistent post- workshop.

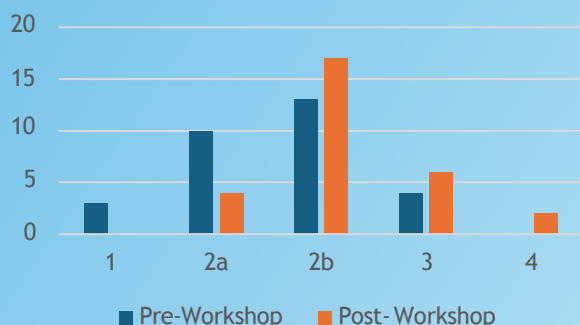
Scenario 1



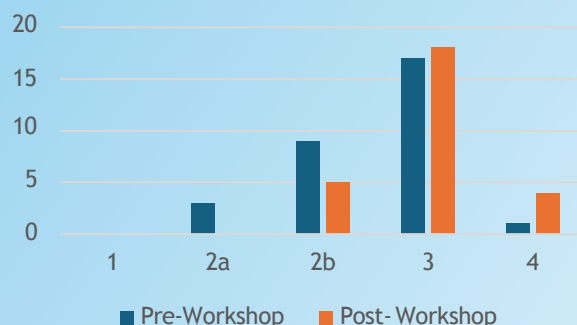
Scenario 2



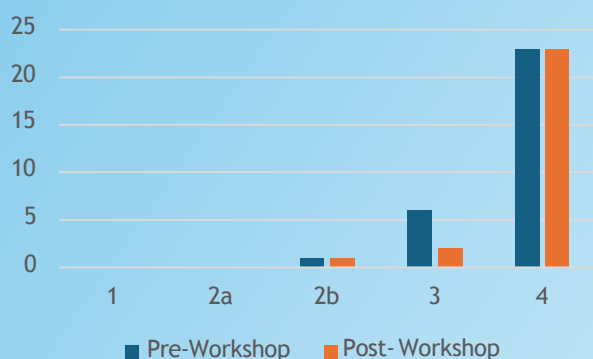
Scenario 3



Scenario 4



Scenario 5



Scenario 6



*Graphs highlighting the differences in supervision level allocation for hypothetical scenarios pre- and post-workshop*

Feedback received about the workshops was overwhelming positive, with free text feedback praising the open nature of the discussions had. Suggestions for improvement focussed on expanding the sessions to as many trainers as possible, as well as including discussions about SLEs for Emergency Medicine and Acute Medicine trainees undertaking placements in Anaesthetics.



### *Examples of some of the free text comments received in feedback following the workshops*

Trainers understanding of some aspects of the 2021 Curriculum is variable. These workshops focused on features of the new curriculum, including SLEs and the allocation of supervision levels. We demonstrated an increased comfort level in this task following the workshop. These sessions potentially self-selected trainers interested in engaging with this activity. The next steps will be to repeat these workshops for other interested trainers and engage consultants involved in training on a more sessional basis (ie. not educational supervisors). There is the potential to roll these sessions out further across the region.

### **References:**

1. Royal College of Anaesthetists (2024) *Training Update*.

[https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2024-09/Guidance%20on%20supervision%20levels\\_Sep2024.pdf](https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2024-09/Guidance%20on%20supervision%20levels_Sep2024.pdf)

2. <https://rcoa.ac.uk/documents/2021-curriculum-assessment-guidance/levels-supervision>