

## Introduction

The 2021 RCoA curriculum requires all Anaesthetists in training (AiTs) to achieve initial assessment of competence (IAC) ideally between 3-6 months. This is the first milestone for novices, that has historically taken 3 months to achieve,<sup>1</sup> after which AiTs begin to work on the on-call rota.<sup>2</sup> Novices need to demonstrate competence in Entrustable Professional Activities 1 & 2 (EPAs).<sup>2</sup>

## Methods

**Part A:** Quantitative survey (SurveyMonkey™) sent to all EMSA trainees who completed IAC (Aug 2021 - Aug 2023), assessing barriers to complete IAC in 3-6 months.

**Part B:** Mixed method survey of AiTs in EMSA Southern Hub assessing differences in training opportunities, procedural skills, teaching & workplace culture between tertiary vs DGHs & ACCS vs Core Anaesthetic trainees.



## Conclusions

**More than half** of novices surveyed required 4-6 months to complete IAC. Barriers to achieving IAC did not discriminate based on types of hospital or training pathways. AiTs in **tertiary centres** reported a **less 'novice friendly' case-mix** and took longer to achieve IAC. Support and supervision from seniors were appropriate, with no reported workforce pressures to do on-calls. ACCS-EM trainees felt less supported than core trainees.

## Key recommendations

- Implement an **OOH shadowing period** into novice training schedules.
- A **novice guidebook** outlining SLE examples for EPA key capabilities - we aim to develop moving forward.
- Allocate **more appropriate theatre sessions** based on individual trainee needs.
- Create a departmental **ACCS-EM trainer lead** to facilitate awareness of EM novices, to improve training culture.

## Key Aims

We investigated regional novice AiT experience under the 2021 RCoA curriculum by assessing:

- 1) If there were expectations to achieve IAC within a specific timescale.
- 2) For any barriers to achieving IAC.
- 3) Novice AiT experiences in tertiary vs district general hospitals (DGHs).
- 4) Core vs Acute Care Common Stem (ACCS) training IAC experiences.

## Results

Received 16 responses (**Part A** *n* = 11, **Part B** *n* = 5).

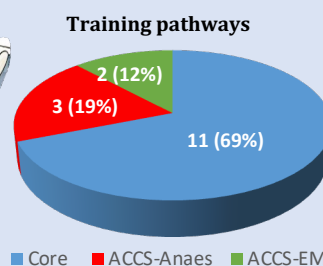


Figure 1 – Core vs ACCS trainees

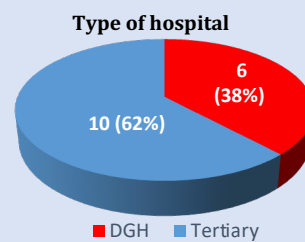


Figure 2 – Distribution of novices

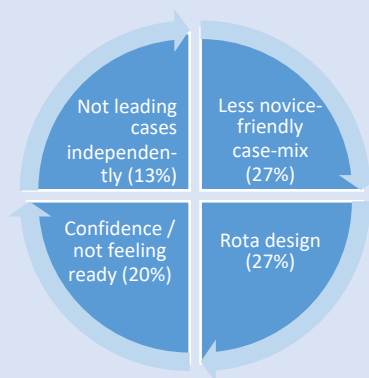


Figure 3 – Key barriers to achieving IAC within a certain timescale

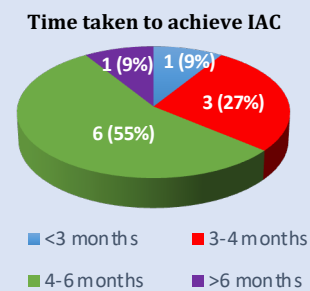


Figure 4 – Time taken to achieve IAC

- **All novices** felt that levels of supervision were good.
- **82%** said no departmental pressure to complete IAC within a certain timescale.
- **55%** did out-of-hours (OOH) shadowing with a senior, of which **>80%** found it useful.
- **82%** would benefit from a guide with example SLEs for each EPA key capability.
- Some EM trainees reported feeling less supported, with mixed training experiences. Some trainers were keen to train and others 'less willing to engage'.

## References

- 1) Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA). Guide to Anaesthetics Training: The Handbook, 2023.
- 2) Lipton, J. Rose, BO. Initial Assessment of Competence (IAC) Entrustable Professional Activities 1 and 2 workbook. Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA), 2022.

