Introducing the new curriculum

The RCOG is bringing in a new O&G curriculum in 2019 - the first significant update since its introduction in 2007.

After three years of development the RCOG is launching a new curriculum in 2019 which will equip the O&G profession with the skills, knowledge and attributes needed for the future. The O&G curriculum has not fundamentally changed since its introduction in 2007, although minor changes have been made over the years. While the detail of the clinical content remains unchanged, it will be presented in a different way with a much stronger focus on non-technical skills, patient safety and the patient experience.

The need for change

A series of national policy initiatives, including the GMC’s introduction of generic professional capabilities expected of all doctors, led all medical royal colleges to review their curricula. At the same time, RCOG’s own reports, Tomorrow’s Specialist and High Quality Women’s Healthcare, led us to conclude that a review of the current curriculum was needed to develop the kind of doctors that women and their families wanted – specialists with a broad skillset. A 2015 working party accordingly developed...

“A NEW EPORTFOLIO

A new Training ePortfolio has been developed to support the delivery of the new curriculum. This will have improved functionality and has been developed with the input of trainees and trainers, with trainee needs in mind. Trainees will be able to access the new ePortfolio following completion of their Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP). All trainees and Educational Supervisors will be moved on to the new ePortfolio system by October 2019. The move will be gradual and for most trainees this will be after their ARCP.

A network of ePortfolio champions has also been established. RCOG Training ePortfolio Champions act as a local (regional) point of contact for O&G trainees for advice and support in relation to the use of the Training ePortfolio.

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a definition of the characteristics and skillset needed to be an O&G consultant. A new, more adaptable, curriculum has therefore been developed, to equip specialists with the professional skills, knowledge and attributes they need for their future work in a busy and rapidly changing healthcare system. It will be more flexible and able to be modified to fit future working practice.

The new curriculum will be organised into four professional identities: Healthcare Professional, Researcher, Scholar and Education, Clinical Expert and Champion for Women’s Health. Each professional identity has a number of Capabilities in Practice (CiPs) competencies that will demonstrate that the doctor has the key skills needed to pass the Professional Identity.

In partnership with patients
The College is confident that this updated curriculum will support the learning and development of trainee O&G doctors to become top class specialists. Consultants who not only have the medical knowledge and technical skills they need to provide great care, but also very importantly the communication skills and ability to develop productive partnerships with their patients, ensuring they are at the centre of their care, and informed and empowered to make decisions about their health.

“"A new, more adaptable curriculum has been developed to equip specialists with the skills they need for the future”

Guidance and support resources
Those involved in the development of the new curriculum have been working hard to ensure resources are in place to support doctors during the transition to the new curriculum. Feedback from the consultation process and input from trainees and Educational Supervisors involved in the curriculum redevelopment have enabled the development of a suite of resources, available on the RCOG website and the new ePortfolio:

• information relating to the global judgement process – the principles behind it, how judgement can be reached and the role that evidence will play in this
• guides for the Core Curriculum CiPs – outlining what the CiP is about, the evidence that is relevant for it and when the CIP can be signed off (including relevant examples and case studies)
• the ARCP process
• transferring to the new Training ePortfolio
• guidance for Educational Supervisors on the Educational Supervisors Report, educational supervision meetings, professional development plans, etc.