



**ROYAL COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE**  
7-9 Bream's Buildings, London, EC4A 1DT  
**REQUIREMENTS FOR "ACTING UP" DURING TRAINING**



**Updated for COVID-19 (27 July 2020)**

Subject to the agreement of the trainee and the trainers at his or her current training site, an StR in his or her final year may "Act Up" – that is to say undertake the duties of a consultant for a period of up to three months. This would normally be within the same Deanery or LETB.

**The Training Standards Committee advise that trainees should normally complete the FRCM examinations prior to acting up as a consultant (AUC). In these exceptional circumstances a trainee may wish to complete their FRCM examination whilst AUC and may be permitted to do so on an outcome 10.2 code C8 within their own training region, so long as there are no other concerns. To proceed, there must be Head of School agreement, including a written statement that the trainee has the required capabilities for acting up and fulfils all the other conditions below.**

The College requires that:

The "Acting Up" post should be to cover a substantive post, not a locum post.

The trainee must continue to hold his or her training number, so the permission of the postgraduate dean and EM School should be obtained before commencing the period of acting up. It is not normally appropriate to request approval from the Royal College of Emergency Medicine although advice can be sought from the training department. The LETB/Deanery, in addition to considering the training needs of the individual "Acting Up", should take account of any changes in the training environment for other trainees in the unit where the "Acting Up" trainee currently works.

Doctors in training who are post CCT will not be eligible to 'Act Up' but will be expected to take up the post as Locum Consultant. Upon taking a Locum Consultant post he or she will be asked to resign their National Training Number (NTN).

During the period of "Acting Up" there will be a named Educational Supervisor who will agree the type and degree of supervision that is required for the trainee. The Educational Supervisor must submit a report to the Deanery/LETB at the conclusion of the period of "Acting Up".

If the period is at the end of the final year of training the Royal College of Emergency Medicine would not confirm the recommendation for the award of the CCT without this report being received and considered within the ARCP process.

In addition, arrangements must be in place for the trainee to contact a named specialist (which is not necessarily the Educational Supervisor) in Emergency Medicine from the Trust for advice at any time.

It would be unusual for a trainee to act up as a single handed consultant or when there is no other consultant present on the departmental rota. In these circumstances, if there is no other EM specialist in the hospital where they are working (for example if they are covering for a sick colleague) a consultant colleague in another specialty should be available from the same hospital, in addition to the EM specialist available by phone from another site.

The GMC have said that they do not need to give prior approval to Acting Consultant posts provided the management part of the curriculum will be covered during the post. It is advisable to seek their approval if it is considered that this part of the curriculum will not be covered.

In addition, the GMC requires:

- as the doctor in training remains a trainee throughout the AUC, appropriate supervision will be necessary as will the requirement for assessment
- the post must be within an already GMC approved Local Education Provider
- when in post the term 'acting up' and not 'locum' must be applied