

RCEM Curriculum Update 2025: Transition Summary

Advice for Intermediate and Higher Emergency Medicine Trainees

The updated curriculum will be implemented from Wednesday 6 August 2025 at which point the large majority of EM trainees will transition to the updated curriculum.

Trainees currently in-programme at the time of the launch

Those EM trainees who at ARCP in June/July 2025 have satisfactorily completed a year of training will simply transition to the updated curriculum. ***There will be no requirement to retrospectively meet new assessment standards for any prior, satisfactorily completed training years.*** Trainees can be confident that their progress to date will be recognised and respected, and that no one will be disadvantaged by having trained under the previous version of the curriculum.

EM Trainees who are part-way through a year of training (“out of sync”) may have had an ARCP or Educational Review in June/July 2025 with an outcome issued based on a pro-rata assessment of what they have achieved to date. This will be used to support their subsequent ARCP that will be required at the end of their training year to assess readiness to progress. Those who did not have any review of progress should meet with their Educational Supervisor in August to note progress to date on the previous version of the curriculum. ***In all instances, ARCP panels will take a fair and proportionate approach, recognising the context of the transition and ensuring that expectations align with the trainee’s time spent on the updated curriculum.***

Trainees who are out of program at the time of launch

Some EM trainees will not be in programme in August 2025, including those on parental leave, taking time out of programme, or working in another specialty as part of dual/subspecialty training. These trainees will also transition to the updated curriculum. On their return, they should meet with their Educational Supervisor to receive guidance on the updated curriculum, including assessment options and requirements. At their next ARCP, regard should be given to the proportion of the training year spent on the updated curriculum when applying the updated requirements. ***Trainees can be reassured that they will not be disadvantaged due to their time out of programme; a supportive and proportionate approach will be taken to ensure a smooth transition that reflects their individual training context.***

Trainees who will remain on the current version of the 2021 curriculum

The only group who will not move to the updated curriculum are EM trainees who, at the implementation date, have less than or equal to six months (whole time equivalent) training time remaining before they achieve CCT. These are ST6 trainees who will receive their CCT before February 2026 (if working full time) or August 2026 (if working less than full time).

These trainees should discuss their position with their Educational Supervisor to confirm that they are eligible to remain on the current curriculum. Approval is not required from RCEM.

If their final CCT is delayed beyond August 2026, such EM trainees will be required to migrate to the updated curriculum. As with those who are “out of sync”, regard should be given at ARCP to the proportion of the training year spent on the updated curriculum when applying the updated requirements.

Catch-up with new elements

The addition of three Key Capabilities pertaining to paediatric resuscitation in SLO5 will not require acquisition of new knowledge or skills as these elements are part of the clinical syllabus in the current curriculum. *Trainees are simply expected to specifically evidence these aspects in their ePortfolio from August 2025 onwards.*

The addition of adult sedation to the requirements table for SLO6 will not require the acquisition of a new skill as this is something already assessed in ACCS training, and which is performed routinely in the workplace during Intermediate and Higher training. *Trainees are simply expected to evidence this skill in their e-portfolio from August 2025 onwards.*

The addition of two Key Capabilities to SLO 12 at both Intermediate and Higher level pertaining to leadership and attitude/behaviour does not alter the overall expectations of trainees in these areas. *Trainees are simply expected to specifically evidence these aspects in their ePortfolio from August 2025 onwards.*

Retrospective recognition of experience

The changes to broaden the range of options for assessment of practical procedures within SLO6 allows some trainees to use relevant previous activities not previously eligible as evidence towards the updated requirements for particular procedures if they wish to do so.

The addition of further examples in the “Satisfactory/good” and “Excellence” sections of the requirements for SLO10 and SLO11 allows some trainees to use relevant previous activities not previously eligible as evidence towards the updated requirements for these SLOs if they wish to do so.

The addition of new Key Capabilities to SLO12 and of further examples in the “Satisfactory/good” and “Excellence” sections of the requirements for the SLO, allows some trainees to use relevant previous activities not previously eligible as evidence towards the updated requirements for this SLO if they wish to do so.