

Guidance on endoscopy training experience acquired outside the UK

(Including Republic of Ireland)

It is recognised that UK trainees, actively seeking certification for endoscopic procedures as part of their UK training programme, may visit centres outside the UK and continue to perform endoscopic procedures.

This guidance takes into account that other countries have started to adopt and use 'JAG accredited' systems of training and are able to produce high quality data metrics. At the current time there is variation across adopting countries as to how data sets are recorded. In the UK there is benchmarked quality assurance of all training centres, but currently there is no resource or mechanism to provide this for non-UK units. The JAG QA (quality assurance) Training Working Group supported the following position;

1. JETS certification can only be applied for when working in a UK hospital.
2. Any procedures performed in a JAG accredited unit in the Republic of Ireland can be added to baseline procedures against the specific site where the procedures were done, these procedures will then count towards the lifetime procedure count.* For other non-UK sites, procedures can be added to the baseline and candidates can apply for overseas exception. If approved, these procedures will be added to their lifetime procedure count.

*For sites in the Republic of Ireland, if accreditation is subsequently lost, the procedures undertaken by trainee endoscopists whilst the site was accredited will still be counted towards lifetime procedure count.

If certification is applied for when working within the UK, then any procedures carried out in the UK and added as 'baseline/past placement' will be counted towards the total lifetime number of endoscopies performed. The key performance indicators (KPIs) from procedures completed outside the UK will not be counted in the certification process.

3. DOPS / DOPyS observations (part of the process of quality assurance of training) relating to endoscopies performed in non-UK centres cannot be counted towards UK certification – such observations must be conducted in UK endoscopy centres.
4. Any candidate applying for UK certification who wishes to have their overseas procedures counted towards their baseline total will be expected to have performed a minimum of 25 procedures within the UK in the previous 3 months of training (ie trainees cannot complete certification whilst visiting a non-UK training centre).

This guidance applies specifically to endoscopy trainees seeking JAG certification. Any endoscopist is entitled to complete all their training in a non-UK country and apply for the corresponding national certification (where this exists).

JAG certification is only available to individuals who have undertaken their endoscopy training in the UK since certification was introduced (it was rolled out from 2010-2012). Endoscopists who trained before JAG certification was available or trained in another country should NOT be at a disadvantage when applying for a post including endoscopy with either private or NHS endoscopy providers.

Criteria for any post including endoscopy could include either JAG certification OR the presentation of appropriate endoscopy performance data. It is not appropriate to specify JAG certification as an essential criterion for a consultant or other similar post. It is the responsibility of individual endoscopy unit leads to review a trainees' training and assess fitness for independent practice. JAG's purpose is to quality assure training delivered to UK trainees via the JETS process of certification. It is not JAG's responsibility to review already trained endoscopists from the UK or elsewhere.

All independent endoscopists should engage with local clinical governance processes and endoscopy audit and have records of their performance data; they can demonstrate their competence by presentation of this data.

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