



BRIEFING PAPER:

HOSPITAL SITE VISITS AND TELECONFERENCES WITH TRAINEES AND SUPERVISORS

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is a process in which the quality of an education program or institution is judged by an external organisation using a set of agreed upon standards. This is undertaken for both quality improvement and quality assurance, and is also a requirement by law.

This is a major undertaking by RACS to confirm that Surgical Education and Training (SET) is fit for purpose and that SET is at or above international medical education standards

History and Background

Refer to the slide presentation from the Censor-in-Chief (included on google drive) and on the RACS website.

Purpose of the site visits

The primary purpose of the hospital visits and teleconferences is to gather the comments and opinions of supervisors and trainees to enable the AMC accreditation team (the team) to form a consensus view on the strengths and weaknesses of the SET program. The team will also meet with senior hospital management, surgical teams and other medical staff.

The team will be assessing how well the educational objectives for the nine specialty training programs are being achieved in the training environment. The team will also assess the specialty training boards' processes for monitoring the standard of training. The team is not accrediting the hospitals or supervisors and does not report on sites or particular people met.

Issues and themes for discussion

During the visit the team will talk about:

- The strengths and weaknesses of SET
- The challenges facing the profession and the practice of surgery
- How well does the College or Specialty Training Board communicates important information about its processes
- How well do the policies and regulations work in practice
- The skills, knowledge and professional attitudes of the graduates of SET
- The strengths and weaknesses of the RACS CPD program

The AMC have indicated some key themes that they will explore:

- Part-time training
- The delivery and effectiveness of work based assessments
- Is there adequate opportunity to contribute to monitoring and evaluation of SET
- Is there opportunity for supervisors and trainees to feedback to the Boards to improve SET
- How are complaints about training and the quality of supervision addresses
- Do trainees have opportunity to feedback on supervisor effectiveness
- Are supervisors given quarantined time for their role; what encouragement is given to fellows to become supervisors

Format of the meetings

The meetings are designed to enable the team to form a consensus view on strengths and weaknesses of the program. Generally the team will work in groups of two with one member taking the lead. The meeting will be informal, using a question and answer format to generate discussion.

The AMC uses a collegial approach to support open exchange of information; the meeting will not be confrontational or adversarial.

The team is looking for critical self-analysis and understanding of the issues and challenges.

Further information

Trainees and supervisors can be directed to the 2017 AMC Accreditation [webpage](#) on the RACS website www.surgeons.org which contains the slide presentation and the AMC submission.

(A hardcopy of the submission will be mailed to the hospital contact).