



Policy on Advanced Specialised Training

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the ACRRM requirements for Advanced Specialised Training (AST). It aims to:

- outline the purpose of AST;
- specify the disciplines in which AST may be undertaken;
- identify organisations responsible for curricula and accreditation of posts; and
- describe the process for implementation of new AST curricula.

Advanced Specialised Training (AST) involves 12 months training in one of ten disciplines specified by ACRRM. AST provides an opportunity for a registrar to extend skills and knowledge beyond the *ACRRM Primary Curriculum* learning outcomes in one specialised discipline that is relevant to general practice in a rural and remote context. The aim is to ensure that a doctor who attains Fellowship of ACRRM is able to contribute specialised medical services, and work with rural medical colleagues, to ensure that communities are afforded access to a full range of medical services.

2. Related Documentation

This policy should be read with reference to the following related documents:

- Fellowship: Vocational Training Handbook
- AST curricula
- Recognition of prior learning policy and guide

3. Policy

3.1 Approved disciplines

AST may be undertaken in one of the following disciplines:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- Adult Internal Medicine
- Anaesthetics
- Emergency Medicine
- Mental Health
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Paediatrics
- Population Health
- Remote Medicine
- Surgery

3.2 Location

AST must be undertaken in a post which will provide the appropriate experience in the desired discipline. The post must afford the registrar the opportunity to meet AST curriculum requirements. For AST disciplines where no curriculum exists, the post must enable the registrar to acquire clinical skills and knowledge that are a clear extension beyond the learning outcomes for that discipline in the *ACRRM Primary Curriculum*. AST may be undertaken in a metropolitan, rural or remote environment, as appropriate for the discipline chosen.

All AST posts must be accredited by ACRRM or by the relevant JCC for the AST discipline.

- JCC are responsible for accrediting posts in anaesthetics.
- RANZCOG are responsible for accrediting posts in DRANZCOG Advanced.
- ACCRM is responsible for accrediting posts in the other disciplines.

A list of accredited posts is provided on the RRMEO website (www.rrmeo.com).

3.3 Duration

AST will usually be undertaken over a continuous 12-month period of full-time training. However, it may also be undertaken on an equivalent part-time basis, and may be undertaken concurrently or in an integrated fashion with Primary Rural Remote Training (PRRT). The curricula for some disciplines (e.g. obstetrics, surgery, anaesthetics) stipulate a continuous 12-month period of immersion in the discipline, whereas curricula for other disciplines may allow for completion over two or more intervals, with AST periods interspersed with other aspects of training.

A registrar must obtain prior approval from ACRRM to undertake AST in any configuration other than 12 months of full-time continuous training.

3.4 Curricula

ACRRM utilises the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) curricula and training arrangements for anaesthetics. <http://www.racgp.org.au/jcca>

ACRRM recognizes the Advanced Diploma of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (DRANZCOG Advanced) for the purposes of an AST.

<http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/gpdiploma/whatis.shtml>

ACRRM is developing curricula for the other disciplines. All curricula will be completed by July 2011. See the ACRRM website www.acrrm.org.au for finalised curricula.

Registrars may undertake AST in disciplines that do not yet have finalised curricula. However, the registrar (together with the training provider) must prepare and submit an individual training plan for pre-approval by ACRRM. This plan must outline the learning outcomes that will be gained during the AST and demonstrate that these are a clear extension of the ACRRM Primary Curriculum outcomes for the relevant discipline.

3.5 Implementation

3.5.1 JCC disciplines

Registrars pursuing a AST in JCC anaesthetics or DRANZCOG Advanced apply directly to the training organisation. ACRRM approval is not required.

3.5.2 ACRRM disciplines with finalised ACRRM curricula

In disciplines where the curricula are finalised the curricula must guide the AST training and assessment.

Registrars are required to work with training provider to identify a suitable post. If the post is not accredited,

an application must be submitted to ACRRM for approval. AST that require completion of a project must have the project approved prospectively by ACRRM.

Following finalisation of an AST curriculum in a given discipline, no further individual training plans will be considered or approved for that AST discipline. However, registrars who have commenced training guided by individual training plans approved by ACRRM will be able to complete their AST under these training plans.

3.5.3 ACRRM disciplines without finalised curricula

Registrars wishing to undertake a post in a discipline where the curriculum has not yet been finalised are required to gain prior approval from ACRRM. Registrars will need to work with their training providers to develop a proposal that outlines the following features of the post:

- an individual training plan including a set of learning outcomes that demonstrates a clear extension beyond the content of the ACRRM Primary Curriculum for the chosen AST discipline;
- adequate details of the proposed training post;
- adequate details and documents verifying the registration and qualifications of the proposed supervisor; and
- a clear plan of how the discipline will be assessed, and by whom.

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