Radiology Curricula Updates

1 Introduction
The College has made revisions to the 2010 training curricula for Clinical Radiology and Interventional Radiology which have now been approved by the GMC. The main changes of substance are the introduction of a requirement for trainees to participate in a research activity and the addition of interventional neuroradiology.

The changes and transition arrangements are described below.

2 Clinical Radiology
2.1 Summary
Addition of a new requirement for research activity
Clarification and correction of information about progression through training, e.g enrolment with RCR, flexible training, alternative entry to training.
Removed excessive detail about examinations.

2.2 Rationale
The main driver for change at this time is to include a requirement for research activity in order to ensure that all trainees had appropriate exposure to and understanding of research and to help embed a culture of research in the specialty.

The opportunity has also been taken to standardise some sections of this curriculum with the Interventional Radiology sub-specialty curriculum and to remove an unnecessary and outdated appendix.

2.3 Detail
Added new sections:
1.3 Enrolment with RCR
1.4 Duration of Training
1.5 Flexible Training, including latest GMC guidance
1.6 Research, including a new requirement for a research project.

These sections were already in the Interventional Radiology sub-specialty curriculum, are felt to be useful and apply equally to Clinical Radiology. The section on flexible training has been updated to reflect recent GMC guidance.

Added a new section, 1.6 Research, including a new requirement for a research project (actual or theoretical).

The ARCP Decision Aid now includes a new requirement for a research project in line with section 1.6

Clarification and correction of information in Appendix C about LTFT training, entry into training, acting-up etc.

Removed Appendix D (Examination policies) as this was too much detail to be in the curriculum and at risk of being outdated. Up to date exams information is on the RCR website.
3 Interventional Radiology

3.1 Summary
Incorporation of interventional neuroradiology.
Other changes for consistency with the latest amendments to the Clinical Radiology curriculum:
- Addition of a new requirement for research activity
- Some clarification and correction of information about progression through training, e.g. flexible training.
- Removed excessive detail about examinations.

3.2 Rationale
The main driver for change at this time is to incorporate Interventional Neuroradiology (INR) within the scope of the IR sub-specialty. INR is well recognised as a distinct area of special interest within radiology but currently is not accommodated in our training curricula.

In parallel with the proposed change to Clinical Radiology we have included a requirement for research activity in order to ensure that all trainees had appropriate exposure to and understanding of research and to help embed a culture of research in the specialty.

The opportunity has also been taken to standardise some sections of this curriculum with the Clinical Radiology curriculum and to remove an unnecessary and outdated appendix.

3.3 Detail
Specific references to Interventional Neuroradiology included in Introduction, section 3.2 Training Pathway, section 4 How to Use the Curriculum.

New syllabus section O added to include competencies for interventional neuroradiology.

The section 1.5 on flexible training has been updated to reflect recent GMC guidance.

Removed what was section 3.2 Development as it duplicated what is now appendix G.

Updated section 7.4 Research to include a new requirement for a research project (actual or theoretical).

The ARCP Decision Aid now includes a new requirement for a research project in line with section 7.4

Clarification and correction of information in Appendix C about LTFT training, entry into training, acting-up etc.

Removed Appendix D (Examination policies) as this was too much detail to be in curriculum and at risk of being outdated. Up to date exams information is on the RCR website.

Appendices F and G (was H) updated

4 Consultation
The research requirement was requested from the RCR’s Clinical Radiology Academic Committee, agreed by the Specialty Training Board (STB) and implemented by the Specialty Training Advisory Committee (STAC). All of these bodies include patient representatives from our Patient Liaison Group and trainee representatives from the Junior Radiologists Forum (JRF). The change has been discussed at JRF meetings and the JRF supports the change.

The British Society of Neuroradiologists approached the RCR with a proposed curriculum for interventional neuroradiology (INR). This was discussed by the Specialty Training Board (STB) and the Specialty Training Advisory Committee (STAC). It was agreed with BSNR that it would be appropriate to include INR as a pathway within the Interventional Radiology sub-specialty. The
writing of the new INR syllabus section has been jointly undertaken by the BSNR Education Committee and STAC.

We have consulted with the British Society of Interventional Radiologists. The BSIR is sympathetic to improving definition and training within Interventional Neuroradiology. In response to BSIR concerns that the addition of INR might reduce the availability of funding for existing IR posts we have made some clarifications and additions to the document.

The changes were discussed at a meeting of UK heads of schools of radiology, training programme directors and RCR regional education advisors.

5 Transition Arrangements

The updated curriculum is considered as a revision to the 2010 curriculum rather than a new version. The College has previously recommended that all trainees should transfer to the 2010 curriculum and assessment system by August 2012.

The new research requirement does not apply to trainees who enter ST5 (or ST6 for IR) in 2012. It does apply to all other trainees from August 2012.