



UPDATE 1 – HETI’S RESPONSE TO SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS RE THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

HETI has been receiving a number of enquiries from sites in light of the unfolding Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. In order to ensure consistency of information HETI has collated the relevant information in this update.

HETI understands that your current focus will be on the managing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on training and staff in your hospitals.

This information is current as at 12th March 2020, updated information will be provided regularly.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Teaching sessions should continue where possible. Group teaching should be delivered through technology with recorded sessions to be utilised where possible. It is accepted that certain sessions e.g. Grand Rounds may need to be cancelled.

HETI is looking at how we can support the use of technology to enable training.

Education about PPE/donning and doffing for the JMOs if they are working in fever/respiratory clinics is essential.

General Clinical Training (GCTC) and Network Training Committees (NTC) play a critical role in monitoring the impact on JMOs at this time. These meetings should not be cancelled but should be held by teleconference or videoconference.

SUPERVISION

Supervision needs to continue as normal. If supervisory staff are absent or occupied with pandemic activities then hospitals need to ensure there are alternative supervisory arrangements in place.

IMPACT ON JMOs

JMO wellbeing should continue to be a focus as many will be feeling vulnerable especially those in their first year.

HETI acknowledges that the lack of groups getting together could impact on the JMOs feelings of belonging. HETI supports local consideration of alternate arrangements to ensure JMOs feel supported.

STAFF REDEPLOYMENT AND IMPACT ON TERM DESCRIPTIONS AND ROSTERS

If hospitals make temporary changes to PGY1 and 2 term allocations to manage COVID-19 pandemic requirements prior approval from HETI is not required. HETI will rely on the GCTC and the DPET to monitor supervision, workload, wellbeing and access to training.

HETI acknowledges that rosters may need to be changed at short notice, however supervision needs to be maintained. Roster changes do not need prior approval from HETI.



STAFF REDEPLOYMENT AND IMPACT ON GENERAL REGISTRATION OF INTERNS

Informal advice from MBA/AHPRA indicates that there will be some flexibility where an intern, due to redeployment related to the COVID-19 pandemic, does not meet the mandatory requirements for general registration. HETI is awaiting formal advice which we understand will be available shortly.

REPORTING TO HETI ON SURVEY OUTCOMES

HETI appreciates some flexibility may be needed in meeting deadlines.

The expectation is that addressing conditions and the timeline for conditions continues to be met. If there are specific conditions that the hospital believes are unachievable in the current climate discussion needs to occur with the Prevocational Accreditation Council Chair (Associate Professor Ian Rewell).

Extensions will be considered on request for submissions of annual reports.

PREVOCATIONAL ACCREDITATION SURVEYS

Immediate surveys have been postponed.

Upcoming accreditation surveys will be considered on a case by case basis in consultation with the relevant survey team lead and hospital.

FORUMS AND MEETING

Alternative arrangements have been made for the following events:

- DPET Forum
- JMO Forum
- Prevocational Training Council meetings
- Prevocational Accreditation Council meetings
- AHPRA, Medical Board and HETI meeting
- Medical Deans and DPETs meeting

Separate information has been provided to the relevant participants.

The HETI team is available to answer any further questions or to discuss these issues further.

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