



AOA
AUSTRALIAN
ORTHOPAEDIC
ASSOCIATION

18 August 2020

2017 Cohort Trainees
Via email

Dear 2017 Cohort Trainees,

RE: Request for Flexibility

We acknowledge your concerns regarding the impact of COVID-19, and the potential delay in progression through the AOA 21 Training Program, due to a lack of access to the Fellowship Exam in 2020.

The Federal Training Committee (FTC) has discussed your concerns and acknowledged that your cohort were denied the opportunity they may otherwise have had in normal circumstances to sit the examination in 2020, as a result of COVID-19.

Bearing this in mind, the FTC resolved that trainees in the 2017 Cohort should have the *opportunity* to complete a minimum of 6 months training time in Transition to Practice (TTP). The details and practicalities of this flexible arrangement are outlined in the attached fact sheet.

This resolution effectively offers variation to the *AOA 21 Training Program Requirements* and *AOA 21 Progression Requirements* for trainees in the 2017 Cohort in certain circumstances.

We understand that the disruption and uncertainty the pandemic has generated on your training will have been the cause of significant stress for you, your families and your peers. We hope that this additional flexibility will facilitate your timely progression through training.

Should you have any questions or concerns with regard to these arrangements please don't hesitate to seek clarification from your Regional Manager, your Regional Training Committee Chair, AOA Head Office or either of the undersigned via training@aoa.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Kondogiannis
Chair, Education & Training
Australian Orthopaedic Association

Andrew Ellis
President

Cc: Regional Training Committee Chairs
Regional Managers
Directors of Training
AORA Committee



TRAINING TIME IN TRANSITION TO PRACTICE 2017 COHORT FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FACT SHEET

SUMMARY

In acknowledgment that the cohort were denied the opportunity they may have had in normal circumstances to sit the examination in 2020:

1. If a 2017 Cohort Trainee:

- Is supported by their Director of Training and Regional Training Committee Panel to present for the first sitting of the Fellowship Exam in 2021; AND
- Is assessed as eligible to present to the first sitting of the Fellowship Exam in 2021; AND
- Passes the first sitting of the Fellowship Exam in 2021; AND
- Completes all training program requirements of Core Orthopaedics by 4 weeks prior to the end of quarter 2 2021 (early July 2021); AND
- Is approved by a Stage Review Panel to progress to Transition to Practice in August 2021;

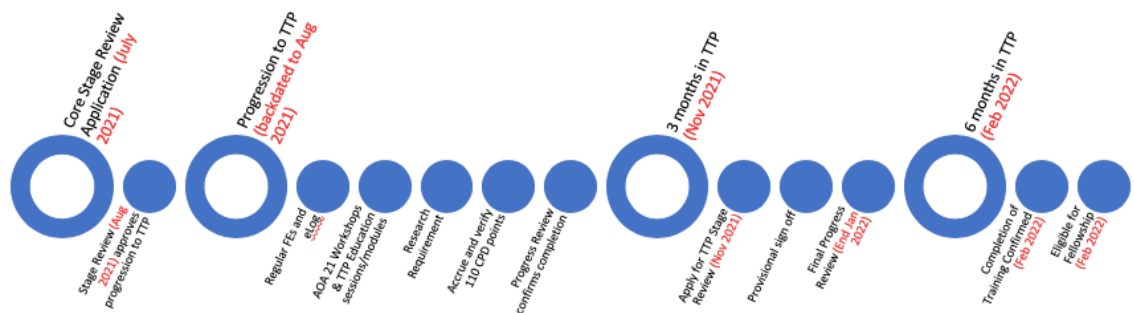
Then that trainee will have the opportunity to complete a minimum of 6 months training time in Transition to Practice.

2. In order to complete Transition to Practice in 6 months, a trainee must:

- Complete all Transition to Practice training program requirements (except minimum training time) within 3 months; AND
- Apply for (and subsequently present to) a Stage Review Panel in November 2021; AND
- Be awarded provisional approval for completion of Transition to Practice in February 2022; AND
- Be confirmed as training complete in February 2022.

This pathway is illustrated by the following timeline graphic:

Transition to Practice – 2017 Flexible Progression (Commencing TTP Aug 2021)



The items above are further outlined in detail below.

SECTION 1: PROGRESSION TO TRANSITION TO PRACTICE

Item 1.a. If a 2017 Cohort Trainee Is supported by their Director of Training and Regional Training Committee Panel to present for the first sitting of the Fellowship Exam in 2021

The AOA 21 [Training Program Requirements](#) stipulate that to be eligible to apply to sit the RACS Fellowship Examination (FEX), the Trainee must demonstrate the support of their Director of Training and Regional Training Committee (RTC) Panel.

Each Regional Training Committee will make arrangements to hold readiness to sit interviews with trainees from that region who want to present at the next sitting of the Fellowship Exam.

Readiness to sit interviews will be undertaken with a Regional Training Committee Panel in advance of Fellowship Examination applications opening. At this interview, it is expected that trainees will present their portfolio to demonstrate that they are well prepared and competent at an appropriate level to present for the Fellowship Examination. Trainees should come prepared to speak to their completed Orthopaedic Modules and participate in relevant case-based discussions to assure the Regional Training Committee Panel that the trainee has achieved an exam level of competence in that topic area.

Trainees who want to attend a readiness to sit interview should enquire with their Regional Manager regarding local scheduling.

1.b. If a 2017 Cohort Trainee is assessed as eligible to present to the first sitting of the Fellowship Exam in 2021

The previous variation to eligibility to sit the Fellowship Examination (FEX) for the 2017 Cohort will be maintained, allowing for completion of any five orthopaedic modules.

Eligibility to sit the Fellowship Examination for the 2017 Cohort will be as follows:

To be eligible to apply to sit the RACS Fellowship Examination, the Trainee must demonstrate:

- Successful completion of the RACS EMST course
- *Completion of any five orthopaedic modules*
- An overall rating of 'Progressing Well' on the two most recent Performance Appraisal forms
- That they will have completed a minimum of 18 months training time in Core Orthopaedics at the time of sitting the exam
- The support of their Director of Training and Regional Training Committee Panel
- Payment of fees owed to AOA and RACS.

1.c. If a 2017 Cohort Trainee passes the first sitting of the Fellowship Exam in 2021

2017 Cohort Trainees who do not pass the first sitting of the Fellowship Exam in 2021 will not have the opportunity to complete a minimum of 6 months training time in Transition to Practice.

1.d. If a 2017 Cohort Trainee completes all training program requirements of Core Orthopaedics by 4 weeks prior to the end of quarter 2 2021 (early July 2021)

All Core Training Program Requirements as outlined in Section 2 of the [AOA 21 Training Program Requirements](#) Policy will need to be completed prior to applying for a Core Stage Review, including **all** Orthopaedic Modules.

Trainees will need to proactively seek an early/out of cycle Progress Review meeting with their Director of Training in order to be assessed as having completed the minimum requirements for the Core Orthopaedic Stage of Training on the Progress Review Form.

Trainees will then need to apply by the specified deadline (to be advised once rotation dates for 2021 are finalised but likely to be early July 2021) to present for a Core Orthopaedics Stage Review.

1.e. If a 2017 Cohort Trainee is approved by a Stage Review Panel to progress to Transition to Practice in August 2021

Trainees who are assessed as eligible to present for a Core Orthopaedics Stage Review will be required to attend a meeting with their Regional Stage Review Panel (SRP) to present their portfolio in August 2021.

At this meeting, trainees will present their portfolio to demonstrate their competence across the breadth of the curriculum. Trainees should come prepared to speak to their completed Orthopaedic Modules and participate in relevant case-based discussion. The Stage Review Panel will assess the Trainee's presentation of their portfolio and associated documentation to ascertain if there is evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the trainee has met the expectations of performance for Core Orthopaedics.

If competence is demonstrated the Stage Review Panel will confirm progression to Transition to Practice. The Transition to Practice commencement date will be from the beginning of Term 2 2021.

SECTION 2: COMPLETION OF TRANSITION TO PRACTICE

2.a. In order to complete Transition to Practice in 6 months, a trainee must complete all Transition to Practice training program requirements (except minimum training time) within 3 months

All Transition to Practice Training Program Requirements (with the exception of minimum training time) as outlined in Section 3 of the [AOA 21 Training Program Requirements](#) Policy will need to be completed in the first 3-month training period in Transition to Practice.

It is important to note that while the AOA 21 Workshops can be undertaken at any time during training, only activities undertaken during Transition to Practice will contribute toward the required 110 CPD points.

Trainees will need to proactively seek an early/out of cycle Progress Review meeting with their Director of Training in order to be assessed as having completed the minimum requirements for the Transition to Practice Stage of Training on the Progress Review Form.

2.b. In order to complete Transition to Practice in 6 months, a trainee must apply for (and subsequently present to) a Stage Review Panel in November 2021

All Transition to Practice Training Program Requirements (with the exception of minimum training time) must be completed prior to applying for a Transition to Practice Stage Review.

Transition to Practice trainees need to apply for the Transition to Practice Stage Review a minimum of 3 months before their expected completion of training meaning the Transition to Practice Stage Review must take place in November 2021 to facilitate the possibility of completion of training in February 2022.

Trainees who are assessed as eligible to present for a Transition to Practice Stage Review will be required to attend a meeting with their Regional Stage Review Panel (SRP) to present their portfolio in November 2021.

At this meeting, trainees will present their portfolio to demonstrate their competence across the breadth of the curriculum. Trainees should come prepared to speak to their completed Training Program Requirements and participate in relevant case-based discussions. The Stage Review Panel will assess the Trainee's presentation of their portfolio and associated documentation to ascertain if there is evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the trainee has met the expectations of performance for Transition to Practice.

If competence is demonstrated the Stage Review Panel will award provisional approval for completion of Transition to Practice following completion of minimum training time.

2.c. In order to complete Transition to Practice in 6 months, a trainee must be awarded provisional approval for completion of Transition to Practice in February 2022

Assessment by a Stage Review Panel that a trainee has completed Transition to Practice has been designed to facilitate completion of training at the end of a 3-month training period feeding seamlessly into application for Fellowship and commencement of consultant practice.

This is managed via a Stage Review when one 3-month training period remains provided all training program requirements (other than minimum training time) have been completed. If competence is demonstrated the Stage Review Panel will award provisional approval for completion of Transition to Practice following completion of minimum training time. This provisional approval will be confirmed at the end of the final 3-month training period/completion of training time.

Trainees can only complete Training at the end of a 6-month training period/rotation – in either February or August. 2017 Trainees not awarded provisional approval for completion of Transition to Practice in February 2022 will need to represent at the next Stage Review and will not be able to complete training before August 2022.

2.d. In order to complete Transition to Practice in 6 months, a trainee must be confirmed as training complete in February 2022.

Provided no training issues arise between awarding of provisional approval for completion of Transition to Practice by the Stage Review Panel in November 2021 and completion of training time in February 2022; - 2017 Trainees, who have met the criteria outlined above, will be considered to have completed the AOA 21 Training Program once they have met the minimum 6-months training time in Transition to Practice.

VARIATIONS TO POLICY

The FTC has approved the following variations to policy for 2017 Trainees, who have met the criteria outlined above, due to exceptional circumstances associated with the impact of COVID-19 on access to the Fellowship Exam.

AOA 21 Training Program Requirements

Clause 3.1 is varied from:

During Transition to Practice, the Trainee must complete a minimum of 12 months training time in an approved training post

To:

During Transition to Practice, the Trainee must complete a minimum of 6 months training time in an approved training post

AOA 21: Stage Progression Requirements

Clause 11.1 is varied from:

Trainees may apply for the Transition to Practice Stage Review following a minimum of 9 months of Transition to Practice training time

To:

Trainees may apply for the Transition to Practice Stage Review following a minimum of 3 months of Transition to Practice training time

Clause 13.1 is varied from:

Trainees are considered to have completed the AOA 21 Training Program when they have completed a minimum of 12 months of training time in Transition to Practice

To:

Trainees are considered to have completed the AOA 21 Training Program when they have completed a minimum of 6 months of training time in Transition to Practice

QUESTIONS

Should you have any questions or concerns with regard to these arrangements please don't hesitate to seek clarification from your Regional Manager, your Regional Training Committee Chair, or AOA Head Office via training@aoa.org.au.