

Dilatation and Evacuation (D&E) Simulation Course

Alignment with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G) 2024 Core Curriculum

Purpose of this document

This document outlines how the BSACP Dilatation and Evacuation (D&E) Simulation Course aligns with the RCOG Core Curriculum 2024 for Obstetrics and Gynaecology training.

It is intended to support:

- Resident Doctors
- Educational Supervisors
- Training Programme Directors
- Heads of School

The mapping demonstrates how participation in the course may contribute to supporting evidence towards Capabilities in Practice (CiPs) and procedural competencies within the RCOG curriculum.

This document may also be used by Resident Doctors when applying for study leave or educational funding.

Important information for Resident Doctors and Supervisors

This course is designed to support the development of knowledge, procedural understanding and clinical decision-making relevant to abortion care, pregnancy loss, and surgical uterine evacuation.

Participation in the course can contribute supporting evidence within a Resident Doctor's ePortfolio, including:

- reflective practice
- case-based discussion
- supervisor discussion

However, attendance at this course alone does not constitute independent procedural sign-off.

The RCOG curriculum states that procedural competence must be assessed using the OSATS tool and documented within the trainee's ePortfolio (RCOG Core Curriculum 2024, p.43).

The curriculum also states:

“Trainees should ideally receive training in procedural skills in a simulated setting before performing these procedures clinically” (RCOG Core Curriculum 2024, p.43)

This course, therefore, provides simulation-based learning that may support preparation for supervised clinical training.

Simulation-based learning within the RCOG curriculum

The RCOG curriculum explicitly encourages the use of simulation for procedural training.

The curriculum states:

“Procedural competency training, using simulation aimed at achieving technical competence for O&G procedures, should be provided as early as possible in ST1. Thirty hours of simulation console training is suggested as a guide instead of a mandatory requirement. Scenario-based immersive simulation training should be undertaken at all stages of training, with human factors incorporated into the scenarios”

(RCOG Core Curriculum 2024, p.49)

The BSACP D&E Simulation Course incorporates both procedural simulation and scenario-based simulation, aligning with these training recommendations.

Overview of course content relevant to the curriculum

The course includes:

- clinical indications and evidence for D&E
- cervical preparation and procedural planning
- surgical instrumentation and technique
- simulation-based procedural training
- complication recognition and management
- integrated clinical simulation scenarios
- human factors and teamworking
- professional and communication aspects of abortion care

RCOG CiPs supported by the course

The curriculum specifically highlights surgical management of miscarriage or surgical termination of pregnancy <16 weeks and surgical evacuation of the uterus >16 weeks as O&G procedures that trainees must be proficient in by the end of training (RCOG Core Curriculum 2024, pp.42-44).

Moreover, participation in this course may support evidence for several Capabilities in Practice (CiPs) within the RCOG Core Curriculum.

CiP 1

The doctor is able to apply medical knowledge, clinical skills and professional values for provide high-quality and safe patient-centred care

The course also supports CiP 1 through discussion of:

- patient-centred counselling
- informed consent
- respectful and non-judgmental communication in abortion care
- safe procedural planning

These elements reinforce the importance of respectful and patient-centred practice within abortion and full spectrum pregnancy care.

CiP 5

The doctor understands and applies basic human factors principles and practice at individual, team, organisational and system levels

The course includes scenario-based simulation sessions that require participants to work collaboratively, communicate effectively and escalate concerns appropriately during simulated clinical situations.

These exercises allow Resident Doctors to practise:

- structured communication
- escalation and calling for senior support
- multidisciplinary working during procedural complications

These elements support the development of teamwork and human factors skills described within CiP 5.

CiP 9

The doctor is competent in recognising, assessing and managing emergencies in gynaecology and early pregnancy

This capability relates to the recognition and management of acute complications within gynaecology and early pregnancy care.

The course supports development within this capability through:

- structured teaching on recognition and management of complications of uterine evacuation procedures

- discussion of haemorrhage, cervical trauma and uterine perforation
- interactive workshops exploring clinical decision-making and escalation
- simulation scenarios designed to practise teamworking, situational awareness and safe management of complications

These activities support Resident Doctors in developing the clinical judgement and escalation behaviours required when managing acute complications related to gynaecological procedures or early pregnancy care.

CiP 10

The doctor is competent in recognising, assessing and managing emergencies in obstetrics

This capability includes managing maternal collapse and people who are acutely unwell in pregnancy, including recognising and managing sepsis, as well as performing procedures that are necessary in an emergency situation.

The BSACP D&E course contributes to development within this capability through:

- teaching on the clinical indications and evidence base for D&E
- teaching on cervical preparation, anaesthetic considerations and procedural planning
- simulation-based practice of the surgical uterine evacuation technique and instrumentation

These activities support Resident Doctors in developing the clinical judgement and escalation behaviours required when managing acute complications related to obstetrical care.

CiP 11

The doctor is competent in recognising, assessing and managing non-emergency gynaecology and early pregnancy care

This capability includes the assessment and management of a range of gynaecological and early pregnancy presentations, including the management of unplanned pregnancy and abortion care.

The BSACP D&E course contributes to development within this capability through:

- teaching on the clinical indications and evidence base for D&E, including comparison with medical management
- discussion of patient selection, counselling and consent
- teaching on cervical preparation, anaesthetic considerations and procedural planning
- simulation-based practice of the surgical uterine evacuation technique and instrumentation

Through these activities, Resident Doctors develop knowledge and procedural understanding relevant to the assessment, counselling and management of patients requiring surgical uterine evacuation, which forms part of the broader spectrum of non-emergency gynaecological and early pregnancy care.

How Resident Doctors may use this course within their portfolio

Resident Doctors attending the course may wish to include:

- a reflective practice entry
- case-based discussion related to abortion care or pregnancy loss
- documentation of simulation-based learning
- discussion with an Educational Supervisor

These forms of evidence are recognised within the RCOG curriculum as examples that may inform capability assessment (RCOG Core Curriculum 2024, p. 18).

Study leave and educational funding

This course supports training needs within the RCOG Obstetrics and Gynaecology curriculum.

Resident Doctors applying for study leave or educational funding may request a letter of support from BSACP outlining the relevance of the course to postgraduate training.

Contact us at admin@bsacp.org.uk

Disclaimer

This document is intended as a guide to demonstrate how the BSACP D&E Simulation Course aligns with elements of the RCOG Core Curriculum 2024.

Final decisions regarding:

- competency progression
- procedural sign-off
- achievement of Capabilities in Practice

remain the responsibility of the Resident Doctor's Educational Supervisor, Training Programme Director, and Head of School, in accordance with RCOG training guidance and local programme requirements.