



IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE EDUCATION CONTRACT

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2018

Dear Trainee

Following on from extensive feedback from trainees over the last 12 months we wish to inform you of some key developments and changes in relation to the implementation and monitoring of Education Contracts across Wales.

What is it the Education Contract?

It's an agreement between you, the Local Education Provider (LEP) (Health Board or Trust) and the Wales Deanery aimed at improving the quality of training you experience by guaranteeing time in the working week for you to participate in key training opportunities.

We understand from trainee feedback and evidence in the GMC National Trainee Survey that many of you have considerable concerns about meeting your training curricula requirements and that you feel that training is all too often put aside to meet service need as the pressures and demands increase across all areas.

The Education Contract aims to redress this balance somewhat by detailing a commitment from the LEP to ensure you have access to the required number of clinics, theatre sessions, teaching sessions, ward rounds and other educational opportunities needed to meet your training needs.

How were the criteria on the Contract decided?

The criteria for each Contract were derived from GMC Standards for Medical Education and Training (generic component), and GMC approved college curricula (specialty component). The Contracts themselves were subject to an extensive consultation process obtaining feedback from Health Board representatives, the BMA and trainees across Wales. Copies of all of the contracts can be obtained from <https://www.walesdeanery.org/wales-deanery-education-contract>

How will I sign this Contract?

In September you will be sent an email from the Education Contract team within the Deanery asking you to register with the ECERT (Education Contract Exception Reporting Tool) system and e-sign the Education Contract for your specialty/grade.

Why do I need to sign the Contract?

The Health Boards and Deanery are already signatories on each Contract and have signed up to delivering the requirements and expectations as laid out in this document. As the third party of this agreement we feel it is important for you to understand what you can expect from your training provider along with the minimum number of training opportunities and activities that should be available to you. By signing up to the Contract this confirms that you are aware of the requirements and understand what opportunities should be available to you during your working week.

I signed the contract last year do I need to sign it again?

You may move to a different contract from August as a result of a change in grade or subspecialty and so we require everyone to sign up to the Contract on an annual basis.

Will I need to use ECAS to log activities?

No. Following extensive trainee feedback over the last 12 months we have taken the decision to cease using the ECAS system. This is being replaced by a new system centred on exception reporting - ECERT (Education Contract Exception Reporting Tool) which will require much less input from you - it has been designed to be as quick and simple to use as possible.

How will I use ECERT?

Firstly you will use it to sign up to your Education Contract.

Unlike ECAS, ECERT does not require you to log in on a regular basis and register the activities you attended. Instead, the system assumes that you have had access to the educational requirements as detailed on your Education Contract unless you log in and tell it (and, therefore, the Deanery) otherwise. With ECERT you can log in and submit an exception report for any concerns you may have where your training is not being delivered to the standards as detailed in the Contract. These exception reports can be for:

- specific criteria as detailed on your Contract i.e. unable to attend outpatients this week as I was called away to complete ward work or
- generic i.e. unable to meet with my ES this month as he/she has been unavailable therefore induction meeting not completed.

If you wish you can also use ECERT more regularly as a diary system to record additional information regarding your education and training activities or log additional activities you have attended above the Contract requirements. This information can then be uploaded into your e-portfolio as evidence for your ARCP.

What should I do if my placement is not meeting the requirements as detailed in the Education Contract?

One of the key changes we want to highlight through this process is understanding what opportunities should be available to you and the need for real-time feedback. Therefore if your placement is not providing you with access to sufficient clinics, theatre lists, etc it is important that you raise your concerns as soon as possible so that they may be addressed during your placement. If you have concerns we recommend you consider the following:

- Discuss your concerns with your ES and agree an action plan to address this
- If this does not address your concerns you could:
 - Escalate this to your TPD or Local Faculty Lead
 - log an exception report on ECERT. Where concerns are logged on ECERT the Deanery will monitor these and may contact you for further information before acting upon the concerns raised.
- You can continue to raise concerns either on the GMC National Trainee Survey, End of Placement Evaluation Forms (EPEF) or at your ARCP but please remember that these are all retrospective mechanisms and do not help you address any concerns you have during your placement.

What happens now?

You can view details of the Education Contract for your specialty on <https://www.walesdeanery.org/wales-deanery-education-contract>.

The ECERT system will go live on 3rd September 2018. You will be issued with a login and further information on how to use the system prior to this.

If you have any queries please feel free to contact the team via EducationContract@cardiff.ac.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H Baker". The signature is enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Dr Helen Baker
Associate Director – Secondary Care