START assessment

START (Specialty Trainee Assessment of Readiness for Tenure) has become a mandatory part of the routine assessment for all trainees who enter level 3 (ST6) after 1st August 2011, and took place for the first time in November 2012.

The aim is to assess trainees at the standard expected of a new consultant in paediatrics. It will be a formative assessment, designed to point trainees to direct their learning towards particular competences during their final year.

You are advised to undertake this assessment as soon as you and your supervisor are of the opinion you are ready. This can be during ST6 or 7. It is not advisable to leave it until ST8 as if areas of remediation are identified, you need to have adequate time left on the training programme to address.

Further information regarding START can be found on the RCPCH website.