This has been circulated to all trainees, Head of Schools, Training Programme Directors and College Tutors

Dear Colleague

RE: TERMINOLOGY TO BE USED WHEN RECORDING SURGERY/LASER PROCEDURES

At present we have 4 descriptors for surgery performed by trainees. These are:

A    assisted at
PS   performed under supervision
P    performed
SJ   supervised (a) junior

It is clear from reviewing trainees’ logbooks that the terms ‘PS’ and ‘P’ and ‘A’ and ‘PS’ are being used differently by trainees. We have examples at one end of the scale where out of, say, 450 cataract procedures 20 are documented as having been performed under supervision (the rest as ‘P’), and, at the other end, 20 documented as having been performed as ‘P’ (the rest under supervision). Whilst this may represent what has actually happened it may also represent a different interpretation of the definition. Some trainees seem to be recording ‘part cases’ as ‘PS’ whereas others are, correctly, recording them as ‘A’ with a description in the surgery comments box of the part(s) of the operation that they performed. In terms of Quality Managing the training process it is a situation that cannot be defended and it is increasingly apparent that our training regulator, the GMC, will be taking a greater interest in how the College does QM this process.

The Training Committee has debated the possible permutations of these definitions and has decided it does not wish to increase the complexity of them. However with immediate effect the following definitions are to be used.
A assisted at or performed part of the operation only (the surgery comments box should be used to record which part(s) of the operation the trainee has performed)

PS trainee has completed the entire operation under direct supervision. Direct Supervision means that the supervisor has been present in the operating theatre, scrubbed or unscrubbed

P trainee has performed the entire operation under indirect supervision. Indirect supervision means that the supervisor has not been in the operating theatre. They may be outside the doors, in the coffee room, in their office etc but not in the operating theatre. For trainees who do not hold a CCT there should be a supervisor present on the hospital site who can be contacted and go to the operating theatre if a problem arises that is outside the trainees' competence to deal with.

SJ trainee has supervised a more junior trainee

These definitions will be uploaded onto the Eyelogbook for reference.

Would College Tutors please cascade this information to all those in their unit(s) involved with surgical training. Thank you.

Kind Regards

Mr Michael Hayward FRCS FRCOphth
Vice President
Chairman – Training Committee