

# **‘Introduction to Anaesthesia’ NOVICE Course**

## **Introduction**

The safe administration of any anaesthetic requires specialist skills and knowledge ranging from pharmacology and physiology, to the physics of complex machinery. Anaesthesia remains largely a postgraduate subject, so most CT1/ACCS trainees start their training with little or no prior experience of the speciality.

Traditionally, this problem has been overcome by new anaesthetists having a ‘grace’ period of approximately three months during which time they are always under direct supervision. During this period trainees should gain the skills, knowledge and attitudes required for safe anaesthesia but whilst this remains an unstructured programme there will always remain the possibility of serious omissions.

At the end of this time, supervision becomes indirect for lower risk cases as the trainee starts to go ‘solo’. The decision to allow the trainee to work under indirect supervision used to be at the discretion of the local consultants (e.g. college tutors, mentors, etc) with no formal guidelines. However this has now changed. The Royal College of Anaesthetists has issued a manual describing a ‘new assessment of competency’ which CT/ST1 trainees must pass before delivering anaesthesia without direct supervision.

We hope that this structured course will complement experiential learning within the hospital environment, help in preparation for ‘competency based assessment’ and provide a relaxed forum for the voicing of any questions or concerns relating to anaesthesia. We hope also to introduce some of the more complex issues of team-working and communication skills relevant to the professional practise of anaesthesia.

## **Course Aims**

To provide a formal organised introduction to anaesthesia for new trainees within the Barts and The London School of Anaesthesia as well as providing valuable preparation for the three month competency based assessment.

## **Course Objectives**

At the end of the course you will:

1. Have an understanding of the professional role of the anaesthetist
2. Have core knowledge of the administration of a safe simple general anaesthetic
3. Be competent at advanced life support
4. Have improved, appropriate professional attitude and communication skills
5. Be better prepared for the competency based assessment

## **Contents**

See the programme for content of the course.

Each session attended will be signed by the trainer. This is then presented to your College Tutor and to the assessors at your three month assessment of competency. This assures your base hospital that you are obtaining valuable teaching, as well as demonstrating to your assessors that you have covered all elements required for the certificate of competence.

## **Assessment and Evaluation**

Feedback questionnaires relating to the content and presentation of each session will be issued at the end of every week. We will also ask for your retrospective opinion of the course, four to six months after completion.