

College Tutors event: Autumn 2026

Summary & Resources

Wednesday, 7 October 2026, (2 -4 pm)

Outpatient Experience Standards for General Paediatrics

- Dr Fiona Hignett and Dr Hannah Jacob, General Paediatricians, members of TQB

There is a significant mismatch between trainee experience and consultant practice. While most general paediatric consultants spend 70-80% of their time in outpatient work, trainees often receive very limited outpatient exposure.

New developments:

- Introduction of national outpatient experience standards for general paediatric trainees.
- Guidance outlines expected outpatient exposure throughout training, with increasing autonomy from ST1 to ST7.
- Recommended minimum outpatient clinic numbers are provided per six-month placement.
- New resources include:
 - Outpatient standards guidance.
 - Top tips for trainees and trainers (to be published soon the guidance webpage)
 - A webinar toolkit (expected January launch) covering:
 - Referral management
 - Advice and guidance
 - Clinic preparation
 - Administration and clinic letters
 - Outpatient workflow and practical skills.

Discussion points:

- Workforce pressures remain the biggest challenge to releasing trainees for clinics.
- Suggestions included prioritising clinics in rota planning and treating them as protected training activities.
- Longitudinal clinic experiences with the same consultant were viewed positively but balanced exposure to different consultant styles was also valued.

- Consultant supervision time and job-planned support were highlighted as essential requirements for successful implementation

Any questions or ideas, please email Fiona - fiona.hignett@nhs.net or Hannah - hannahjacob@nhs.net

Relevant resource links:

- [Developing general paediatric outpatient skills: standards for resident doctors and ES](#)
- [Holding_risk_0226.pdf](#)

National and subspecialty recruitment update

- James Clark, Head of Medical workforce and Recruitment, RCPCH

ST1 and ST3 Recruitment

- Recruitment remains highly competitive, with around 2,500 ST1 applications expected again.
- No major changes to recruitment processes this year.
- Recruitment opens:
 - ST1: 22 October
 - ST3: approximately one month later.

Recruitment Prioritisation Policy

- Existing prioritisation criteria remain in place.
- Some applicant groups remain ineligible under current arrangements.

Subspecialty Recruitment Changes

Key changes include:

- Removal of shortlisting.
- Introduction of a revised Confirmation of Eligibility process.
- Educational supervisors will verify evidence against minimum requirements.
- Eligible applicants should proceed directly to interview.

- New two-station interview format:
 - Two 20-minute stations.
 - Portfolio-based discussion introduced.
- Greater emphasis on earlier career planning discussions between trainees and supervisors.

ARCP Requirements

- Applicants with ARCP Outcome 2 or 3 at the point of application will be ineligible for subspecialty recruitment.
- Clarification on this will be circulated nationally.

Recruitment Expansion

Additional training posts are anticipated following workforce expansion initiatives, but final details and allocation plans remain under discussion.

Relevant resource links:

- [Apply to paediatrics | RCPCH](#)
- [Applying for paediatric specialty training at ST1 - guidance | RCPCH](#)
- [Paediatric sub-specialty training - application guidance | RCPCH](#)
- [Educational supervisors | RCPCH](#)

Update on SPIN and SPIN handbook

- Dr Tushar Vince – Officer for Training and Quality/outgoing Clinical SPIN Lead

Key Principles

- SPIN is designed to enhance general paediatric practice rather than provide "mini-grid" training.
- Focus is on building expertise that can be delivered locally in district general hospitals.
- SPIN should support hub-and-spoke models and improve local patient care access.

Revised Structure

- Standard SPIN duration:
 - 12 months whole-time equivalent. Approximately 6 months in a SPIN-specific specialist site and 6 months applying those skills in a DGH setting.

Important Clarifications

- SPIN qualifications should not be listed as a mandatory requirement for consultant appointments as this could disadvantage non-training route applicants.
- Job descriptions should instead specify the capabilities required.

Application, Supervision and Sign-off

- Appointment to a SPIN placement is done locally by the deanery and TPD.
- Once a confirmation is received from the deanery, the applicant needs to fill in a **SPIN Placement Notification form** on the ePortfolio. This is then sent to TPD to sign off.
- RCPCH then assigns the relevant role and curriculum to the applying doctor.
- Doctor doing SPIN needs to fill in a **SPIN Completion form** on ePortfolio to send to Supervisor and then the CSAC to inform of completion.
- Educational supervisors do not need to be subspecialists.
- Curricula should be written clearly enough for trained supervisors to assess progress.
- Final sign-off remains with the relevant CSAC (College Specialty Advisory Committee).

Current Challenges

- Concerns were raised regarding the Paediatric Cardiology SPIN curriculum, which may be too extensive for completion in the revised timeframe. Review work is underway and curriculum revision may be required.

Relevant resource links:

- [Special Interest \(SPIN\) modules - about and how to apply | RCPCH](#)
- [SPIN Handbook \(PDF\)](#)

Introduction of new RCPCH Officers

- Vasanta Nanduri introduced herself as the new Vice President for Training and Assessment, succeeding Cathryn Chadwick.
- Tushar Vince introduced herself as the new Officer for Training and Quality, succeeding Christine Pierce.

Current priorities include:

- Reviewing ARCP processes and trainee experiences.
- Improving understanding of regional variation.
- Reviewing subspecialty training programme structures and durations.
- Seeking greater consistency across training pathways.

Other Announcements

Appreciation was expressed to Lizzie Starkey, who was delivering her final College Tutor session in her current role of Assistant Officer for Trainer Development after five years supporting College Tutors.

Dates for College Tutor Sessions for 2027 (subject to change) –

(registration emails will be sent out approximately 6-8 weeks before the event)

- Thursday, 18 March 2027 - 14:00-16:00
- Wednesday, 07 July 2027 - 14:00-16:00
- Thursday, 14 October 2027 - 14:00-16:00

College Tutor Resource page: [College Tutors - resources | RCPCH](#)

Key Actions for College Tutors

- Review and promote the new outpatient standards and resources within local departments.
- Support trainees in accessing outpatient opportunities and protected clinic time.

- Familiarise yourself with new subspecialty recruitment requirements.
- Encourage early career planning discussions with trainees.
- Understand the revised SPIN framework and signpost interested trainees appropriately.
- Ensure outgoing College Tutors notify RCPCH and successors register promptly.