

Developing a virtual library of clinical assessments and a virtual surgeries framework

Overall aim

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the emerging of gaps in SLT students' clinical knowledge, including knowledge and skills in carrying out formal assessments.

Therefore the aim of this project is to:

- address these gaps by designing a remote teaching tool for formal clinical assessment. This will build knowledge, confidence and skills amongst students and NQPs who have missed out on teaching and placement opportunities.
- Address gaps in clinical knowledge due to COVID-19 and/or where clinical placements have not covered a specific clinical area.
- Support practicing clinicians with career development and clinical knowledge acquisition.
- Create a safe space to raise people's confidence in applying their theoretical learning to clinical practice.

The Virtual Ax tool will be designed with students and NQPs in mind, as a model for putting theory into practice. However, it will also support clinicians at any career stage with career development and clinical knowledge acquisition.

Key objectives

Virtual surgeries framework

To provide a framework for developing high quality practice-based learning activities, intended to develop clinical and professional skills, and the application of theory to practice. This will be achieved through the development of an online learning platform. The format will be explored further but could take the form of virtual surgeries as detailed below:

- Virtual surgeries will comprise of pre-recorded case studies/simulations and live virtual surgery sessions
- A bank of pre-recorded case studies/simulations would be created. This bank of videos can be added to over time and will be linked into existing RCSLT learning resources for further study. Provisional title for contributors: Virtual Surgeries Content Contributor
- Virtual Surgeries Leader/Coach would select a case study/simulation for participants to view (this can be a video they have contributed or someone else has contributed). They then host a live virtual surgery to debrief participants and facilitate guided discussion, highlighting clinical and professional skills required to provide person-centred care in this situation

- Virtual surgeries may be open (advertised by RCSLT) or closed (commissioned by health board/NHS trust/universities). They should be kept small to facilitate discussion
- To include example content – adult and paediatric versions
- Identification of further development opportunities for this project, and gaps in the framework requiring further work

Virtual library of clinical assessments

Development of a framework for a virtual library of clinical assessments. This will be an online resource library of films of clinical assessments being explained, carried out and interpreted. The key aims include:

- Example content will be included for two specific assessments – the CAT (Comprehensive Aphasia Test, for adults) and the RAPT (Renfrew Action Picture Test, for paediatrics).
- Identification of further development opportunities for this project, and gaps in the framework requiring further work.

What is the intended outcome of the project, ie what difference will it make?

Virtual surgeries framework

To provide a toolkit for the subsequent development of a virtual learning platform. Once the Framework is successfully completed the virtual learning platform would be populated over time with content aimed at raising people's confidence in applying their theoretical learning to clinical practice. This will contribute to the development of a future workforce of competent speech and language therapists as detailed in RCSLT Practice-based Learning Guidance.

This resource will address gaps in students/practitioners' knowledge and skills in clinical areas they have not experienced. This could be due to a lack of varied placement opportunities at the time of study, the impact on clinical placement opportunities of the COVID-19 pandemic and/or a desire/need to broaden the scope of members' practice. The framework is also intended to future proof against any similar circumstances.

Virtual library of clinical assessments

To provide a toolkit for the subsequent development of the full online library of clinical assessments. Once the Framework is successfully completed, the virtual library of assessments can be populated and become a comprehensive online teaching and learning tool.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequent lost hours of learning and placement opportunity, has added the importance for a virtual learning tool that can

assist students and NQPs to catch up on lost learning, and insure against similar problems in the future.

These resources will also be a useful addition to the lifelong learning of practising SLTs, at any stage of their career journey.