4. Acting Up As Consultant (AUC)
4.1. **Introduction**

Since the publication of the ‘Gold Guide’ in 2008, the GMC qualified their statement on acting up to:

"If the period of acting up as a consultant is intended to count towards the trainee's CCT, and it is deemed to be a normal part of the CCT-approved specialty training programme, then approval will not need to be sought as in effect this is an already approved element of the training programme. It is up to the College and Deanery to make the decision on whether this is a usual part of training within the programme."

4.2. **Principle**

Time spent acting up into consultant duties may be recognised towards a training programme leading to the award of a CCT/CESR (CP) in the specialty and sub-specialty recognition, if appropriate, as follows:

- **The Specialty Training Programme Curriculum specifies a period of ‘acting up’ to Consultant.** In this case GMC approval is not required as it is included within the training programme.

- **The Specialty Training Programme Curriculum does not specify a period of ‘acting up’ to Consultant.** The Trainee will need to apply for time Out of Programme for Training (OOPT) and should follow the OOPT guidance (see section 3.4.1). The TPD will need to agree that the post will allow the trainee to meet the training programme curricula and provide appropriate supervision.

Under no circumstances can a trainee take up a Locum Consultant post in the UK. In order to work as a Locum Consultant doctors must be entered to the GMC Specialist Register. Entry to the specialist register does not occur until CCT / CESR / CESR (CP).

It is common practice that up to three months of acting up is to be considered a possible training setting in all curricula as long as the trainee has prospective approval.

The trainee must retain their NTN and have appropriate supervision in place. If the acting up period covers the last three months of training, the processing of the CCT application will be deferred until the relevant training paperwork has been completed with regards to the acting up post i.e. supervision reports.