Limitations on the interchangeability of Surgical Abortion (STOP) skills and Evacuation of Retained Products of conception (ERPC) skills.

In Feb 2014 the Curriculum committee meeting addressed a query about continuing competence for ERPC and decided that it is acceptable to use WPBAs of surgical abortion (STOP) in lieu of WPBAs of ERPCs but noted that of course a trainee must also provide evidence of continuing experience to support knowledge/skills in the broader aspects of management of miscarriage.

To clarify however we ask trainees and Educational Supervisors to note that this decision does NOT imply the reverse - i.e. ERPC cannot count for STOP. The reason is that the skill set required to perform a surgical abortion is broader than that required for an evacuation of the uterus (say after an incomplete miscarriage).

The areas of the curriculum that relate to these competencies are listed below;

**Module 3 Unplanned Pregnancy**
- Module 3 clinical competency part 3 - Manage immediate complications (see Appendix 2 for further details) including the need for surgical evacuation of the uterus
- Module 3 part 4 Surgical abortion procedures (up to 14 weeks) by manual or electric vacuum aspiration:
  - Logbook skill - Perform MVA under LA analgesia [to level 3 by end of intermediate training]
  - Logbook skill - Perform vacuum aspiration up to 14 weeks gestation under GA [to level 3 by end of intermediate training]

**Module 4 Gynaecology**
- clinical competency - Evacuation of uterus
- Logbook skill - Evacuation of uterus [to level 3 by end of basic training]

**Module 6 Pregnancy**
- Module 6 - Early Pregnancy Care
  - clinical competency - Surgical, medical and conservative management of miscarriage
  - Logbook skill - Surgical management of miscarriage [to level 3 by end of basic training]

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