

# Certification in Obstetrical and Gynaecological Ultrasound (COGU) Multi-Source Feedback (MSF) General Information



The Royal Australian  
and New Zealand  
College of Obstetricians  
and Gynaecologists  
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## Purpose

Obstetrical and Gynaecological Ultrasound (COGU) trainees work as part of a multi-disciplinary team and Multi-Source Feedback (MSF) is an effective method of assessing their professional competence within the scope of their daily professional practice. Multiple MSF assessors (or raters) are drawn from the trainee's multi-disciplinary teams and asked to rate the trainees performance against defined criteria. As multiple assessors are used, the scores are collated and provided to the trainee's Training Supervisor as a diagnostic tool to confirm strengths and identify areas requiring improvement by the trainee. All assessors remain anonymous to the trainee.

## How are assessors selected?

The Training Supervisor will be asked to send to Subspecialties Services between 10 and 15 staff members, who work regularly or semi-regularly with their trainee, to be asked to complete an MSF. The list of potential MSF assessors should be drawn from a variety of work environments where regular interaction with the trainee occurs but must include at least three Consultants, three Senior Registrars, three Senior Nurses (ward and theatre), and three Allied Health members while the remaining three are at the discretion of the Training Supervisor. Subspecialties Services will send an email to the Training Supervisor advising them that it is time to nominate the assessors to participate in the MSF.

## What happens to the completed MSF?

Once an assessor has completed the online MSF and hits the SEND button, the criterion ratings from all assessors is collated by Subspecialties Services and a single report is generated and forwarded to the Training Supervisor. The report will show the scores obtained by the trainee against each criterion and an amalgamation of any free text comments that may identify areas for further development.

## Criterion to be assessed

The selected COGU criterion to be assessed via the MSF includes:

- Verbal communication with colleagues
- Interactions with colleagues
- Valuing the contributions of others in the team
- Written communication
- Patient management in maternal fetal medicine
- Continuing education and quality assurance
- Research aptitude
- Availability and reliability
- Judgment of ethical issues
- Communication with patient's family and carers
- Respect for patients
- Willingness and effectiveness to teach
- Commitment to learning
- Patient management in maternal fetal medicine

## Timing of MSF Assessment

An MSF will be undertaken on all First-year trainees at the end of their first semester and be used as part of the comprehensive feedback given to trainees at their six-monthly assessment. A further MSF can be undertaken should the Training Supervisor have concerns about their trainee.

## Provision of feedback to the trainee

A key component of the MSF process is the provision of timely feedback to trainees following receipt of the report by the Training Supervisor. Time should be made for a confidential meeting between the Training Supervisor and trainee (this could form part of the six-monthly assessment process) and sufficient time must be allocated for discussion; trainees should be given time to read and digest the contents of the report prior to the discussion. Both the strengths and weaknesses of the report will be discussed and, if required, a learning development plan (LDP) will be jointly devised to support the trainee's development