



**INSTITUTE
OF MEDICINE**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

HIGHER SPECIALIST TRAINING IN

NEPHROLOGY AND GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE



This curriculum of training in Nephrology was developed in 2012 and undergoes an annual review by Dr Denise Sadlier, National Specialty Director, Dr Ann O’Shaughnessy, Head of Education, and by the Nephrology Training Committee. The curriculum is approved by the Institute of Medicine.

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Introduction

Nephrology is a predominantly clinical specialty dealing with diseases of the kidneys as they affect people of all ages. Besides the pathophysiological processes involved and the physical impact of each condition, psycho-social effects must also be understood. The potential benefits and risks of specific treatments must be learned and experience gained in the multi-disciplinary approach to management of patients with kidney disease. The physician may later wish to develop subspecialty expertise in areas such as transplantation, obstetric medicine, vasculitis, etc. so it is important that an interest in such topics can be facilitated during training.

Besides these specialty specific elements, trainees in Nephrology must also acquire certain core competencies which are essential for good medical practice. These comprise the generic components of the curriculum.

Aims

Upon satisfactory completion of specialist training in Nephrology, the doctor will be **competent** to undertake comprehensive medical practice in that specialty in a **professional** manner, unsupervised and independently and/or within a team, in keeping with the needs of the healthcare system.

Competencies at a level consistent with practice in the specialty of Nephrology will include the following:

- Patient care that is appropriate, effective and compassionate dealing with health problems and health promotion.
- Medical knowledge in the basic biomedical, behavioural and clinical sciences, medical ethics and medical jurisprudence and application of such knowledge in patient care.
- Interpersonal and communication skills that ensure effective information exchange with individual patients and their families and teamwork with other health professionals, the scientific community and the public.
- Appraisal and utilisation of new scientific knowledge to update and continuously improve clinical practice.
- The ability to function as a supervisor, trainer and teacher in relation to colleagues, medical students and other health professionals.
- Capability to be a scholar, contributing to development and research in the field of Nephrology.
- Professionalism.
- Knowledge of public health and health policy issues: awareness and responsiveness in the larger context of the health care system, including e.g. the organisation of health care, partnership with health care providers and managers, the practice of cost-effective health care, health economics and resource allocations.
- Ability to understand health care and identify and carry out system-based improvement of care.

Professionalism

Being a good doctor is more than technical competence. It involves values – putting patients first, safeguarding their interests, being honest, communicating with care and personal attention, and being committed to lifelong learning and continuous improvement. Developing and maintaining values are important; however, it is only through putting values into action that doctors demonstrate the continuing trustworthiness with the public legitimately expect. According to the Medical Council, Good Professional Practice involves the following aspects:

- Effective communication
- Respect for autonomy and shared decision-making
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Honesty, openness and transparency (especially around mistakes, near-misses and errors)
- Raising concerns about patient safety
- Maintaining competence and assuring quality of medical practice

Entry Requirements

Applicants for Higher Specialist Training (HST) in Nephrology must have a certificate of completion of Basic Specialist Training (BST) in General Internal Medicine (GIM) and obtained the MRCPi.

Those who do not hold a BST certificate and MRCPi must provide evidence of equivalency.

Entry on the training programme is at year 1. Deferrals are not allowed on entry to Higher Specialist Training.

Duration & Organisation of Training

The duration of HST in Nephrology and GIM is 5 years, at least one year of which must involve high-intensity Nephrology exposure, including dedicated acute Nephrology on-take and acute renal transplantation exposure, and be free of any GIM commitment. One year of the 5 **may** be gained from a period of full-time research.

While no particular order or sequence of training will be imposed, and programmes offered should be flexible i.e. capable of being adjusted to meet trainees' needs. Trainees must spend the first two years of training in clinical posts in Ireland before undertaking any period of research or Out of Programme Clinical Experience (OCPE). The earlier years of training will usually be directed towards acquiring a broad general experience of Nephrology and GIM under appropriate supervision. An increase in the content of hands-on experience follows naturally, and, as confidence is gained and abilities are acquired, the trainee will be encouraged to assume a greater degree of responsibility and independence.

If an intended career path requires a trainee to develop further an interest in a sub-specialty within Nephrology (e.g. stroke, falls etc.), this should be accommodated as far as possible within the training period, re-adjusting timetables and postings accordingly.

Trainees on HST programme in Nephrology are given a rotation of posts at the start of the programme. Each rotation will provide the trainee with experience in different hospitals so as to acquire the broad range of training required. A degree of flexibility to meet the individuals training needs is possible especially towards the end of the training programme following discussion with the NSDs.

Generic knowledge, skills and attitudes support competencies which are common to good medical practice in all the medical and related specialties. It is intended that all Specialist Registrars (SpRs) should fulfil those competencies during Higher Specialist Training. No time-scale of acquisition is offered, but failure to make progress towards meeting these important objectives **at an early stage** would cause concern about an SpRs suitability and ability to become independently capable as a specialist.

Essential Training: Trainees must attend study days as advised by the National Speciality Director.

All SpRs are expected to take the ASN (American Society of Nephrology) examination in their second year of training and once again before completing the SpR Program. This is organised by your speciality coordinator.

Minimum Procedures: Experience should be gained in the practical skills needed for the practice of Nephrology, in particular temporary vascular access for dialysis.

Training Programme

The training programme offered will provide opportunities to fulfil all of the requirements of the curriculum of training for Nephrology and in approved training hospitals. Each post within the programme will have a named trainer/educational supervisor and programmes will be under the direction of the National Specialty Director for Nephrology or, in the case of GIM, the National Specialty Director for GIM or the Regional Specialty Advisor. Programmes will be as flexible as possible consistent with curricular requirements, for example to allow the trainee to develop a sub-specialty interest.

The experience gained through rotation around different departments is recognised as an essential part of HST. An SpR may **not** remain in the same unit for longer than 2 years of clinical training; or with the same trainer for more than 1 year.

Where an essential element of the curriculum is missing from a programme, access to it should be arranged, by day release for example, or if necessary, by secondment.

Dual Specialty Training

GIM training is expected to be completed in the first 3 years of the programme. One of these years is a GIM specific year. During the other 2 years trainees must complete their GIM training as per the minimum requirements alongside Nephrology training.

Each post must include general medicine on-call commitment for acute unscheduled/emergency care with attendance at relevant post-take rounds.

Acute Medicine:

There must be evidence of direct supervision of the activity of the more junior members of the “on-take” team and a minimum of 10 (480 per year) new acute medical assessments and admissions during the 24-hour period are expected. In addition, the trainee will be expected to have ongoing care/responsibility for a proportion of the patients for the duration of the clinical inpatient journey as well as follow up post discharge. In this capacity you should develop skills in non-technical aspects of care including discharge planning and end of life care.

Inpatient Responsibilities:

The trainee will have front line supervisory responsibilities for general medical inpatients only in their GIM specific year but will also supervise Nephrology inpatients in the other 2 years. This will require supervising the activities (e.g. being available for advice) of the more junior members (SHO/Intern) of the clinical team at all times. In addition to personal ward rounds, a minimum of two ward rounds with the consultant each week is expected for educational experience. Ongoing responsibility for shared care of the team’s inpatients whilst in the ITU/HDU/CCU is also essential. If this is not possible in a particular hospital/training institution, then a period of secondment to the appropriate unit will be required.

Outpatient Responsibilities:

The trainee is expected to have personal responsibilities for the assessment and review of general medicine and Nephrology outpatients with a minimum of at least one consultant led clinic per week. The trainee should assess new patients; access to consultant opinion/supervision during the clinic is essential. In the event of clinics being predominantly subspecialty orientated, a trainee must attend other clinics to ensure comprehensive GIM training. During low intensity GIM years, trainees will also be expected to manage haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis and transplant patients.

General Education in Training:

The trainee is expected to spend four hours per week, in formal general professional education for certification of training. In the types of experience noted below, time must be fairly distributed between GIM and the other specialty in dual training programmes. Review of all these activities will form part of the training record for each trainee.

All trainees are required to undergo training in management. This will take the form of day-to-day involvement in the administration of the team/firm and must include attendance at a management course during the training period.

Trainees are expected to be actively involved in audit throughout their training and should have experience of running the unit's audit programme and presenting results of projects at audit meetings. They should also regularly attend other activities, journal clubs, X-ray conferences, pathology meetings etc.

Trainees should be expected to show evidence of the development of effective communication skills. This can be assessed from taking part in formal case presentations or in giving lectures/seminars to other staff or research/audit presentations at unit meetings.

All trainees must have a current ACLS certificate throughout their HST.

Procedures:

During training the trainee should acquire those practical skills that are needed in the management of medical emergencies, particularly those occurring out of normal working hours. Some exposure to these skills may have occurred during the period of BST but experience must be consolidated, and competencies reviewed during HST. The procedures, with which the trainee must be familiar and show competencies in, either as essential to acquire, or as additional procedural skills i.e. desirable to acquire.

Essential & Additional Experience:

The trainee will be expected to have had experience of/be familiar with the management of a wide range of cases presenting to hospitals as part of an unselected acute medical emergency "take". Whilst trainees will not need to be expert in all of these areas they will be expected to be able to plan and interpret the results of immediate investigations, initiate emergency therapy and triage cases to the appropriate specialist care. These emergency situations have been considered under each specialty section and are indicative of what should be covered but are not prescriptive. It should form the basis of regular discussions between the trainee and trainers as training progresses. The various clinical situations listed for experience have been divided into those, which are considered "essential" and others, which are "additional".

Assessment Process

The methods used to assess progress through training must be valid and reliable. The curriculum has been re-written, describing the levels of competence which can be recognised. The assessment grade will be awarded on the basis of direct observation in the workplace by consultant supervisors. Time should be set aside for appraisal following the assessment e.g. of clinical presentations, case management, observation of procedures. As progress is being made, the lower levels of competence will be replaced progressively by those that are higher. Where the grade for an item is judged to be deficient for the stage of training, the assessment should be supported by a detailed note which can later be referred to at the annual evaluation meeting.

The assessment of training may utilise the Clinical Evaluation Exercise (Mini-CEX), Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS) and Case Based Discussions (CBD) methods adapted for the purpose. . They are offered as a means of providing the trainee with attested evidence of achievement in certain areas of the curriculum e.g. competence in procedural skills, or in generic components. Assessment will also be supported by the trainee's portfolio of achievements and performance at relevant meetings, presentations, audit, in tests of knowledge, attendance at courses and educational events.

Teaching, Research & Audit

All trainees are required to participate in teaching. They should also receive basic training in research methods, including statistics, so as to be capable of critically evaluating published work. Some trainees may wish to spend two or three years in research leading to an MSc, MD, or PhD, by stepping aside from the programme for a time. For those intending to pursue an academic path, an

extended period of research may be necessary in order to explore a topic fully or to take up an opportunity of developing the basis of a future career. Such extended research may continue after the CSCST is gained. However, those who wish to engage in clinical medical practice must be aware of the need to maintain their clinical skills during any prolonged period concentrated on a research topic, if the need to re-skill is to be avoided.

Trainees are required to engage in audit during training and to provide evidence of having completed the process.

ePortfolio

The trainee is required to keep their ePortfolio up to date and maintained throughout HST. The ePortfolio will be countersigned as appropriate by the trainers to confirm the satisfactory fulfilment of the required training experience and the acquisition of the competencies set out in the curriculum. This will remain the property of the trainee and must be produced at the annual evaluation meeting. The trainee also has a duty to maximise opportunities to learn, supplementing the training offered with additional self-directed learning in order to fulfil all the educational goals of the curriculum. Trainees must co-operate with other stakeholders in the training process. It is in a SpR's own interest to maintain contact with the Medical Training Department and Dean of Postgraduate Specialist Training, and to respond promptly to all correspondence relating to training. "Failure to co-operate" will be regarded as, in effect, withdrawal from the HST's supervision of training. At the annual evaluation, the ePortfolio will be examined. The results of any assessments and reports by educational supervisors, together with other material capable of confirming the trainee's achievements, will be reviewed.

Generic Components

This chapter covers the generic components which are relevant to HST trainees of all specialties but with varying degrees of relevance and appropriateness, depending on the specialty.

As such, this chapter needs to be viewed as an appropriate guide of the level of knowledge and skills required from all HST trainees with differing application levels in practice.

Good Professional Practice

Objective: Trainees must appreciate that medical professionalism is a core element of being a good doctor and that good medical practice is based on a relationship of trust between the profession and society, in which doctors are expected to meet the highest standards of professional practice and behaviour.

Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice: Relating to Patients, Communication and Interpersonal Skills, Professionalism, Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care.

KNOWLEDGE

Effective Communication

- How to listen to patients and colleagues
- The principles of open disclosure
- Knowledge and understanding of valid consent
- Teamwork
- Continuity of care

Ethics

- Respect for autonomy and shared decision making
- How to enable patients to make their own decisions about their health care
- How to place the patient at the centre of care
- How to protect and properly use sensitive and private patient information in accordance with data protection legislation and how to maintain confidentiality
- The judicious sharing of information with other healthcare professionals where necessary for care following Medical Council Guidelines
- Maintaining competence and assuring quality of medical practice
- How to work within ethical and legal guideline when providing clinical care, carrying research and dealing with end of life issues

Honesty, openness and transparency (mistakes and near misses)

- Preventing and managing near misses and adverse events.
- When and how to report a near miss or adverse event
- Incident reporting; root cause and system analysis
- Understanding and learning from errors
- Understanding and managing clinical risk
- Managing complaints
- Following open disclosure practices
- Knowledge of national policy and National Guidelines on Open Disclosure

Raising concerns about patient safety

- Safe working practice, role of procedures and protocols in optimal practice
- The importance of standardising practice through the use of checklists, and being vigilant
- Safe healthcare systems and provision of a safe working environment
- Awareness of the multiple factors involved in failures
- Knowledge and understanding of Reason's Swiss cheese model
- Understanding how and why systems break down and why errors are made
- Health care errors and system failures
- Human and economic costs in system failures
- The important of informing a person of authority of systems or service structures that may lead to unsafe practices which may put patients, yourself or other colleagues at risk
- Awareness of the Irish Medical Councils policy on raising concerns about safety in the environment in which you work

SKILLS

- Effective communication with patients, families and colleagues
- Co-operation and collaboration with colleagues to achieve safe and effective quality patient care
- Being an effective team player
- Ethical and legal decision making skills
- Minimising errors during invasive procedures by developing and adhering to best-practice guidelines for safe surgery
- Minimising medication errors by practicing safe prescribing principles
- Ability to learn from errors and near misses to prevent future errors
- Managing errors and near-misses
- Using relevant information from complaints, incident reports, litigation and quality improvement reports in order to control risks
- Managing complaints
- Using the Open Disclosure Process Algorithm

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- Consultant feedback at annual assessment
- Workplace based assessment e.g. Mini-CEX, DOPS, CBD
- Educational supervisor's reports on observed performance (in the workplace): prioritisation of patient safety in practice
- RCPI HST Leadership in Clinical Practice
- RCPI Ethics programmes
- Medical Council Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics
- Reflective learning around ethical dilemmas encountered in clinical practice
- Quality improvement methodology course - recommended

Infection Control

Objective: To be able to appropriately manage infections and risk factors for infection at an institutional level, including the prevention of cross-infections and hospital acquired infection

Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice: Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care; Management (including Self-Management).

KNOWLEDGE

Within a consultation

- The principles of infection control as defined by the HIQA
- How to minimise the risk of cross-infection during a patient encounter by adhering to best practice guidelines available, including the 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene guidelines
- The principles of preventing infection in high risk groups e.g. managing antibiotic use to prevent *Clostridium difficile*
- Knowledge and understanding of the local antibiotic prescribing policy
- Awareness of infections of concern, e.g. MRSA, *Clostridium difficile*
- Best practice in isolation precautions
- When and how to notify relevant authorities in the case of notifiable infectious disease
- Understanding the increased risk of infection to patients in surgery or during an invasive procedure and adhering to guidelines for minimising infection in such cases
- The guidelines for needle-stick injury prevention and management

During an outbreak

- Guidelines for minimising infection in the wider community in cases of communicable diseases and how to seek expert opinion or guidance from infection control specialists where necessary
- Hospital policy/seeking guidance from occupational health professional regarding the need to stay off work/restrict duties when experiencing infections the onward transmission of which might impact on the health of others

SKILLS

- Practicing aseptic techniques and hand hygiene
- Following local and national guidelines for infection control and management
- Prescribing antibiotics according to antibiotic guidelines
- Encouraging staff, patients and relatives to observe infection control principles
- Communicating effectively with patients regarding treatment and measures recommended to prevent re-infection or spread
- Collaborating with infection control colleagues to manage more complex or uncommon types of infection including those requiring isolation e.g. transplant cases, immunocompromised host
- In the case of infectious diseases requiring disclosure:
 - Working knowledge of those infections requiring notification
 - Undertaking notification promptly
 - Collaborating with external agencies regarding reporting, investigating and management of notifiable diseases
 - Enlisting / requiring patients' involvement in solving their health problems, providing information and education
 - Utilising and valuing contributions of health education and disease prevention and infection control to health in a community

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- Consultant feedback at annual assessment
- Workplace based assessment e.g. Mini-CEX, DOPS, CBD
- Educational supervisor's reports on observed performance (in the workplace): practicing aseptic techniques as appropriate to the case and setting, investigating and managing infection, prescribing antibiotics according to guidelines
- Completion of infection control induction in the workplace
- Personal Protective Equipment Training Course (In hospital)

Self-Care and Maintaining Well-Being

Objectives:

1. To ensure that trainees understand how their personal histories and current personal lives, as well as their values, attitudes, and biases affect their care of patients so that they can use their emotional responses in patient care to their patients' benefit
2. To ensure that trainees care for themselves physically and emotionally, and seek opportunities for enhancing their self-awareness and personal growth

Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice: Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care, Relating to Patients, Communication and Interpersonal Skills, Collaboration and Teamwork, Management (including self-management).

KNOWLEDGE

- Self-awareness including preferences and biases
- Personal psychological strengths and limitations
- Understand how personality characteristics, such as need for approval, judgemental tendencies, needs for perfection and control etc., affect relationships with patients and others
- Knowledge of core beliefs, ideals, and personal philosophies of life, and how these relate to own goals in medicine
- Know how family-of-origin, race, class, religion and gender issues have shaped own attitudes and abilities to discuss these issues with patients
- Understand the difference between feelings of sympathy and feelings of empathy
- Know the factors between a doctor and patient that enhance or interfere with abilities to experience and convey empathy
- Understanding of own attitudes toward uncertainty and risk taking and own need for reassurance
- How own relationships with certain patients can reflect attitudes toward paternalism, autonomy, benevolence, non-maleficence and justice
- Recognise own feelings in straightforward and complex patient-doctor interactions
- Recognising the symptoms of stress and burn out

SKILLS

- Exhibiting empathy and showing consideration for all patients, their impairments and attitudes irrespective of cultural and other differences
- Ability to create boundaries with patients that allow for therapeutic alliance
- Challenge authority appropriately from a firm sense of own values and integrity and respond appropriately to situations that involve abuse, unethical behaviour and coercion
- Recognise own limits and seek appropriate support and consultation
- Work collaboratively and effectively with colleagues and other members of health care teams
- Manage effectively commitments to work and personal lives, taking the time to nurture important relationship and oneself
- Ability to recognise when falling behind and adjusting accordingly
- Demonstrating the ability to cope with changing circumstances, variable demand, being prepared to re-prioritise and ask for help
- Utilising a non-judgemental approach to patient's problem
- Recognise the warning signs of emotional ill-health in self and others and be able to ask for appropriate help
- Commitment to lifelong process of developing and fostering self-awareness, personal growth and well being
- Be open to receiving feedback from others as to how attitudes and behaviours are affecting their care of patients and their interactions with others
- Holding realistic expectations of own and of others' performance, time-conscious, punctual
- Valuing the breadth and depth of experience that can be accessed by associating with professional colleagues

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- On-going supervision
- RCPI Ethics programmes
- Wellness Matters Course
- RCPI HST Leadership in Clinical Practice course

Communication in Clinical and Professional Setting

Objective: To demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, their relatives, carers and with professional colleagues in different situations.

Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice: Relating to Patients; Communication and Interpersonal Skills.

KNOWLEDGE

Within a consultation

- How to effectively listen and attend to patients
- How to structure an interview to obtain/convey information; identify concerns, expectations and priorities; promote understanding, reach conclusions; use appropriate language.
- How to empower the patient and encourage self-management

Difficult circumstances

- Understanding of potential areas for difficulty and awkward situations
- How to negotiate cultural, language barriers, dealing with sensory or psychological and/or intellectual impairments and how to deal with challenging or aggressive behaviour
- Knowing how and when to break bad news
- How to communicate essential information where difficulties exist, how to appropriately utilise the assistance of interpreters, chaperones, and relatives.
- How to deal with anger and frustration in self and others
- Selecting appropriate environment; seeking assistance, making and taking time

Dealing with professional colleagues and others

- How to communicate with doctors and other members of the healthcare team
- How to provide a concise, written, verbal, or electronic, problem-orientated statement of facts and opinions
- The legal context of status of records and reports, of data protection confidentiality
- Freedom of Information (FOI) issues
- Understanding of the importance of legible, accessible, records to continuity of care
- Knowing when urgent contact becomes necessary and the appropriate place for verbal, telephone, electronic, or written communication
- Recognition of roles and skills of other health professionals
- Awareness of own abilities/limitations and when to seek help or give assistance, advice to others; when to delegate responsibility and when to refer

Maintaining continuity of care

- Understanding the relevance of continuity of care to outcome, within and between phases of healthcare management
- The importance of completion of tasks and documentation, e.g. before handover to another team, department, specialty, including identifying outstanding issues and uncertainties
- Knowledge of the required attitudes, skills and behaviours which facilitate continuity of care including, being available and contactable, alerting others to avoid potential confusion or misunderstanding through communications failure

Giving explanations

- The importance of possessing the facts, and of recognising uncertainty and conflicting evidence on which decisions have to be based
- How to secure and retain attention avoiding distraction
- Understanding how adults receive information best, the relative value of the spoken, written, visual means of communication, use of reinforcement to assist retention
- Knowledge of the risks of information overload
- Tailoring the communication of information to the level of understanding of the recipient
- Strategies to achieve the level of understanding necessary to gain co-operation and partnership; compliance, informed choice, acceptance of opinion, advice, recommendation

Responding to complaints

- Value of hearing and dealing with complaints promptly; the appropriate level, the procedures (departmental and institutional); sources of advice, and assistance available
- The importance of obtaining and recording accurate and full information, seeking confirmation from multiple sources
- Knowledge of how to establish facts, identify issues and respond quickly and appropriately to a complaint received

SKILLS

- Ability to appropriately elicit facts, using a mix of open and closed-ended questions
- Using “active listening” techniques such as nodding and eye contact
- Giving information clearly, avoiding jargon, confirming understanding, ability to encourage co-operation, compliance; obtaining informed consent
- Showing consideration and respect for other’s culture, opinions, patient’s right to be informed and make choices
- Respecting another’s right to opinions and to accept or reject advice
- Valuing perspectives of others contributing to management decisions
- Conflict resolution
- Dealing with complaints
- Communicating decisions in a clear and thoughtful manner
- Presentation skills
- Maintaining (legible) records
- being available, contactable, time-conscious
- Setting realistic objectives, identifying and prioritising outstanding problems
- Using language, literature (e.g. leaflets) diagrams, educational aids and resources appropriately
- Establish facts, identify issues and respond quickly and appropriately to a complaint received
- Accepting responsibility, involving others, and consulting appropriately
- Obtaining informed consent
- Discussing informed consent
- Giving and receiving feedback

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- Mastering Communication course (Year 1)
- Consultant feedback at annual assessment
 - Workplace based assessment e.g. Mini-CEX, DOPS, CBD
 - Educational supervisor’s reports on observed performance (in the workplace): communication with others e.g. at handover. ward rounds, multidisciplinary team members
- Presentations
- RCPI Ethics programmes
- RCPI HST Leadership in Clinical Practice Course

Leadership

Objective: To have the knowledge, skills and attitudes to act in a leadership role and work with colleagues to plan, deliver and develop services for improved patient care and service delivery.

Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice: Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care; Communication and Interpersonal Skill; Collaboration and Teamwork; Management (including Self-Management); Scholarship.

KNOWLEDGE

Personal qualities of leaders

- Knowledge of what leadership is in the context of the healthcare system appropriate to training level
- The importance of good communication in teams and the role of human interactions on effectiveness and patient safety

Working with others

- Awareness of own personal style and other styles and their impact on team performance
- The importance of good communication in teams and the role of human interactions on effectiveness and patient safety

Managing services

- The structure and function of Irish health care system
- Awareness of the challenges of managing in healthcare
 - Role of governance
 - Clinical directors
- Knowledge of planning and design of services
- Knowledge and understanding of the financing of the health service
 - Knowledge of how to prepare a budget
 - Defining value
 - Managing resources
- Knowledge and understanding of the importance of human factors in service delivery
 - How to manage staff training, development and education
- Managing performance
 - How to perform staff appraisal and deal effectively with poor staff performance
 - How to rewards and incentivise staff for quality and efficiency

Setting direction

- The external and internal drivers setting the context for change
- Knowledge of systems and resource management that guide service development
- How to make decisions using evidence-based medicine and performance measures
- How to evaluate the impact of change on health outcomes through ongoing service evaluation

SKILLS

- Effective communication with patients, families and colleagues
- Co-operation and collaboration with others; patients, service users, carers colleagues within and across systems
- Being an effective team player
- Ability to manage resources and people
- Managing performance and performance indicators

Demonstrating personal qualities

- Efficiently and effectively managing one-self and one's time especially when faced with challenging situations
- Continues personal and professional development through scholarship and further training and education where appropriate
- Acting with integrity and honesty with all people at all times
- Developing networks to expand knowledge and sphere of influence
- Building and maintaining key relationships
- Adapting style to work with different people and different situations
- Contributing to the planning and design of services

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- Mastering Communication course (Year 1)
- RCPI HST Leadership in Clinical Practice (Year 3 – 5)
- Consultant feedback at annual assessment
- Workplace based assessment e.g. Mini-CEX, DOPS, CBD
- Educational supervisor's reports on observed performance (in the workplace): on management and leadership skills
- Involvement in hospital committees where possible e.g. Division of Medicine, Drugs and Therapeutics, Infection Control etc.

Quality Improvement

Objective: To demonstrate the ability to identify areas for improvement and implement basic quality improvement skills and knowledge to improve patient safety and quality in the healthcare system.

Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice: Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care; Communication and Interpersonal Skills; Collaboration and Teamwork; Management; Relating to Patients; Professionalism

KNOWLEDGE

Personal qualities of leaders

- The importance of prioritising the patient and patient safety in all clinical activities and interactions

Managing services

- Knowledge of systems design and the role of microsystems
- Understanding of human factors and culture on patient safety and quality

Improving services

- How to ensure patient safety by adopting and incorporating a patient safety culture
- How to critically evaluate where services can be improved by measuring performance, and acting to improve quality standards where possible
- How to encourage a culture of improvement and innovation

Setting direction

- How to create a 'burning platform' and motivate other healthcare professionals to work together within quality improvement
- Knowledge of the wider healthcare system direction and how that may impact local organisations

SKILLS

- Improvement approach to all problems or issues
- Engaging colleagues, patients and the wider system to identify issues and implement improvements
- Use of quality improvement methodologies, tools and techniques within every day practice
- Ensuring patient safety by adopting and incorporating a patient safety culture
- Critically evaluating where services can be improved by measuring performance, and acting to raise standards where possible
- Encouraging a culture of improvement and innovation

Demonstrating personal qualities

- Encouraging contributions and involvement from others including patients, carers, members of the multidisciplinary team and the wider community
- Considering process and system design, contributing to the planning and design of services

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- RCPI HST Leadership in Clinical Practice
- Consultant feedback at annual assessment
- Involvement in hospital committees where possible e.g. Division of Medicine, Drugs and Therapeutics, Infection Control etc.

Scholarship

Objective: To develop skills in personal/professional development, teaching, educational supervision and research

Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice: Scholarship

KNOWLEDGE

Teaching, educational supervision and assessment

- Principles of adult learning, teaching and learning methods available and strategies
- Educational principles directing assessment methods including, formative vs. summative methods
- The value of regular appraisal / assessment in informing training process
- How to set effective educational objectives and map benefits to learner
- Design and delivery of an effective teaching event, both small and large group
- Use of appropriate technology / materials

Research, methodology and critical evaluation

- Designing and resourcing a research project
- Research methodology, valid statistical analysis, writing and publishing papers
- Ethical considerations and obtaining ethical approval
- Reviewing literature, framing questions, designing a project capable of providing an answer
- How to write results and conclusions, writing and/or presenting a paper
- How to present data in a clear, honest and critical fashion

Audit

- Basis for developing evidence-based medicine, kinds of evidence, evaluation; methodologies of clinical trials
- Sources from which useful data for audit can be obtained, the methods of collection, handling data, the audit cycle
- Means of determining best practice, preparing protocols, guidelines, evaluating their performance
- The importance of re-audit

SKILLS

- Bed-side undergraduate and post graduate teaching
- Developing and delivering lectures
- Carrying out research in an ethical and professional manner
- Performing an audit
- Presentation and writing skills – remaining impartial and objective
- Adequate preparation, timekeeping
- Using technology / materials

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- An Introduction to Health Research (online)
- Performing audit course (online)
- Effective Teaching and Supervising Skills course (online) - recommended
- Educational Assessment Skills course - recommended
- Health Research Methods for Clinicians - recommended

Management

Objective: To understand the organisation, regulation and structures of the health services, nationally and locally, and to be competent in the use and management of information on health and health services, to develop personal effectiveness and the skills applicable to the management of staff and activities within a healthcare team.

Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice: Management.

KNOWLEDGE

Health service structure, management and organisation

- The administrative structure of the Irish Health Service, services provided in Ireland and their funding and how to engage with these for best results
- Department of Health, HSE and hospital management structures and systems
- The national regulatory bodies, health agencies and patient representative groups
- Understanding the need for business plans, annual hospital budgets, the relationship between the hospital and PCCC

The provision and use of information in order to regulate and improve service provision

- Methods of collecting, analysing and presenting information relevant to the health of a population and the apportionment of healthcare resources
- The common ways in which data is presented, knowing of the sources which can provide information relevant to national or to local services and publications available

Maintaining medical knowledge with a view to delivering effective clinical care

- Understanding the contribution that current, accurate knowledge can make to establishing clinical effectiveness, best practice and treatment protocols
- Knowledge of sources providing updates, literature reviews and digests

Delegation skills, empowerment and conflict management

- How to assess and develop personal effectiveness, improve negotiating, influencing and leadership skills
- How to manage time efficiently, deal with pressure and stress
- How to motivate others and operate within a multidisciplinary team

SKILLS

- Chairing, organising and participating in effective meetings
- Managing risks
- Managing time
- Delegating tasks effectively
- Managing conflicts
- Exploring, directing and pursuing a project, negotiating through the relevant departments at an appropriate level
- Ability to achieve results through an understanding of the organisation and its operation
- Ability to seek / locate information in order to define an issue needing attention e.g. to provide data relevant to a proposal for change, establishing a priority, obtaining resources
- Ability to make use of information, use IT, undertake searches and obtain aggregated data, to critically evaluate proposals for change e.g. innovative treatments, new technologies
- Ability to adjust to change, apply management, negotiating skills to manage change
- Appropriately using management techniques and seeking to improve these skills and personal effectiveness

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- Mastering Communication course
- Performing audit course (online)
- RCPI HST Leadership in Clinical Practice
- Annual audit
- Consultant feedback on management and leadership skills
- Involvement in hospital committees

Standards of Care

Objective: To be able to consistently and effectively assess and treat patients' problems

Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice: Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care; Relating to Patients; Communication and Interpersonal Skills; Collaboration and Teamwork: Management (including Self-Management); Clinical Skills.

KNOWLEDGE

Diagnosing Patients

- How to carry out appropriate history taking
- How to appropriately examine a patient
- How to make a differential diagnosis

Investigation, indications, risks, cost-effectiveness

- The pathophysiological basis of the investigation
- Understand the clinical significance of reference ranges, positive and negative predictive value and potential risks of inappropriate tests
- The procedures for commonly used investigations, common or/and serious risks
- Understanding of the sensitivity and specificity of results, artefacts, PPV and NPV
- Understanding significance, interpreting and explaining results of investigations
- Logical approach in choosing, sequencing and prioritising investigations

Treatment and management of disease

- Natural history of diseases
- Quality of life concepts
- How to accurately assess patient's needs, prescribe, arrange treatment, recognise and deal with reactions / side effects
- How to set realistic therapeutic goals, to utilise rehabilitation services, and use palliative care approach appropriately
- Recognising that illness (especially chronic and/or incapacity) has an impact on relationships and family, having financial as well as social effects e.g. driving

Disease prevention and health education

- Screening for disease: methods, advantages and limitations
- Health promotion and support agencies; means of providing sources of information for patients
- Risk factors, preventive measures, and change strategies applicable to smoking, alcohol, drug abuse, and lifestyle
- Disease notification; methods of collection and sources of data

Notes, records, correspondence

- Functions of medical records, their value as an accurate up-to-date commentary and source of data
- An understanding of the need and appropriate use of problem-orientated discharge notes, letters, more detailed case reports, concise out-patient reports and focused reviews
- Appreciating the importance of up-to-date, easily available, accurate information, and the need for communicating promptly e.g. with primary care

Prioritising, resourcing and decision taking

- How to prioritise demands, respond to patients' needs and sequence urgent tasks
- Establishing (clinical) priorities e.g. for investigations, intervention; how to set realistic goals; understanding the need to allocate sufficient time, knowing when to seek help
- Understanding the need to complete tasks, reach a conclusion, make a decision, and take action within allocated time
- Knowing how and when to conclude

Handover

- Know what are the essential requirements to run an effective handover meeting
 - Sufficient and accurate patients information
 - Adequate time
 - Clear roles and leadership
 - Adequate IT
- Know how to prioritise patient safety
 - Identify most clinically unstable patients
 - Use ISBAR (Identify, Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendations)
 - Proper identification of tasks and follow-ups required
 - Contingency plans in place
- Know how to focus the team on actions
 - Tasks are prioritised
 - Plans for further care are put in place
 - Unstable patients are reviewed

Relevance of professional bodies

- Understanding the relevance to practice of standards of care set down by recognised professional bodies – the Medical Council, Medical Colleges and their Faculties, and the additional support available from professional organisations e.g. IMO, Medical Defence Organisations and from the various specialist and learned societies

SKILLS

- Taking and analysing a clinical history and performing a reliable and appropriate examination, arriving at a diagnosis and a differential diagnosis
- Liaising, discussing and negotiating effectively with those undertaking the investigation
- Selecting investigations carefully and appropriately, considering (patients') needs, risks, value and cost effectiveness
- Appropriately selecting treatment and management of disease
- Discussing, planning and delivering care appropriate to patient's needs and wishes
- Preventing disease using the appropriate channels and providing appropriate health education and promotion
- Collating evidence, summarising, recognising when objective has been met
- Screening
- Working effectively with others including
 - Effective listening
 - Ability to articulate and deliver instructions
 - Encourage questions and openness
 - Leadership skills
- Ability to prioritise
- Ability to delegate effectively
- Ability to advise on and promote lifestyle change, stopping smoking, control of alcohol intake, exercise and nutrition
- Ability to assess and explain risk, encourage positive behaviours e.g. immunisation and preventive measures
- Involve patients' in solving their health problems, by providing information and education
- Availing of support provided by voluntary agencies and patient support groups, as well as expert services e.g. detoxification / psychiatric services
- Act in accordance with, up to date standards on palliative care needs assessment
- Valuing contributions of health education and disease prevention to health in a community
- Compile accurate and appropriate detailed medical notes and care reports including the results of examinations, investigations, procedures performed, sufficient to provide an accurate, detailed account of the diagnostic and management process and outcome, providing concise, informative progress reports (both written and oral)
- Transfer information in an appropriate and timely manner

- Maintaining legible records in line with the Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Medical Practitioners in Ireland
- Actively engaging with professional/representative/specialist bodies

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- Consultant feedback
- Workplace based assessment e.g. Mini-CEX, DOPS, CBD
- Educational supervisor's reports on observed performance (in the workplace)
- Annual Audit
- Medical Council Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics

Dealing with & Managing Acutely Ill Patients in Appropriate Specialties

Objectives: To be able to assess and initiate management of patients presenting as emergencies, and to appropriately communicate the diagnosis and prognosis. Trainees should be able to recognise the critically ill and immediately assess and resuscitate if necessary, formulate a differential diagnosis, treat and/or refer as appropriate, elect relevant investigations and accurately interpret reports.

Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice: Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care, Clinical Skills.

KNOWLEDGE

Management of acutely ill patients with medical problems

- Presentation of potentially life-threatening problems
- Indications for urgent intervention, the additional information necessary to support action (e.g. results of investigations) and treatment protocols
- When to seek help, refer/transfer to another specialty
- ACLS protocols
- Ethical and legal principles relevant to resuscitation and DNAR in line with National Consent Policy
- How to manage acute medical intake, receive and refer patients appropriately, interact efficiently and effectively with other members of the medical team, accept/undertake responsibility appropriately
- Management of overdose
- How to anticipate / recognise, assess and manage life-threatening emergencies, recognise significantly abnormal physiology e.g. dysrhythmia and provide the means to correct e.g. defibrillation
- How to convey essential information quickly to relevant personnel: maintaining legible up-to-date records documenting results of investigations, making lists of problems dealt with or remaining, identifying areas of uncertainty; ensuring safe handover

Managing the deteriorating patient

- How to categorise a patients' severity of illness using Early Warning Scores (EWS) guidelines
- How to perform an early detection of patient deterioration
- How to use a structured communication tool (ISBAR)
- How to promote an early medical review, prompted by specific trigger points
- How to use a definitive escalation plan

Discharge planning

- Knowledge of patient pathways
- How to distinguish between illness and disease, disability and dependency
- Understanding the potential impact of illness and impairment on activities of daily living, family relationships, status, independence, awareness of quality of life issues
- Role and skills of other members of the healthcare team, how to devise and deliver a care package
- The support available from other agencies e.g. specialist nurses, social workers, community care
- Principles of shared care with the general practitioner service
- Awareness of the pressures/dynamics within a family, the economic factors delaying discharge but recognise the limit to benefit derived from in-patient care

SKILLS

- BLS/ACLS (or APLS for Paediatrics)
- Dealing with common medical emergencies
- Interpreting blood results, ECG/Rhythm strips, chest X-Ray, CT brain
- Giving clear instructions to both medical and hospital staff
- Ordering relevant follow up investigations
- Discharge planning, including complex discharge
- Knowledge of HIPE (Hospital In-Patient Enquiry)
- Multidisciplinary team working
- Communication skills
- Delivering early, regular and on-going consultation with family members (with the patient's permission) and primary care physicians
- Remaining calm, delegating appropriately, ensuring good communication
- Attempting to meet patients'/ relatives' needs and concerns, respecting their views and right to be informed in accordance with Medical Council Guidelines
- Establishing liaison with family and community care, primary care, communicate / report to agencies involved
- Demonstrating awareness of the wide ranging effects of illness and the need to bridge the gap between hospital and home
- Categorising a patients' severity of illness
- Performing an early detection of patient deterioration
- Use of structured communication tools (e.g. ISBAR)

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- ACLS course
- Record of on call experience
- Mini-CEX (acute setting)
- Case Based Discussion (CBD)
- Consultant feedback

Therapeutics and Safe Prescribing

Objective: To progressively develop ability to prescribe, review and monitor appropriate therapeutic interventions relevant to clinical practice in specific specialities including non-pharmacological therapies and preventative care.

Medical Council Domains of Good Professional Practice: Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care.

KNOWLEDGE

- Pharmacology, therapeutics of treatments prescribed, choice of routes of administration, dosing schedules, compliance strategies; the objectives, risks and complications of treatment cost-effectiveness
- Indications, contraindications, side effects, drug interaction, dosage and route of administration of commonly used drugs
- Commonly prescribed medications
- Adverse drug reactions to commonly used drugs, including complementary medicines
- Identifying common prescribing hazards
- Identifying high risk medications
- Drugs requiring therapeutic drug monitoring and interpretation of results
- The effects of age, body size, organ dysfunction and concurrent illness or physiological state e.g. pregnancy on drug distribution and metabolism relevant to own practice
- Recognising the roles of regulatory agencies involved in drug use, monitoring and licensing e.g. IMB, and hospital formulary committees
- Procedure for monitoring, managing and reporting adverse drug reaction
- Effects of medications on patient activities including potential effects on a patient's fitness to drive
- The role of The National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC) in promoting safe and efficient use of medicine
- Differentiating drug allergy from drug side effects
- Know the difference between an early and late drug allergy, and drug side-effects
- Good Clinical Practice guidelines for seeing and managing patients who are on clinical research trials
- Best practice in the pharmacological management of cancer pain
- The management of constipation in adult patients receiving palliative care

SKILLS

- Writing a prescription in line with guidelines
- Appropriately prescribing for the elderly, children and pregnant and breast feeding women
- Making appropriate dose adjustments following therapeutic drug monitoring, or physiological change (e.g. deteriorating renal function)
- Reviewing and revising patients' long term medications
- Anticipating and avoiding defined drug interactions, including complementary medicines
- Advising patients (and carers) about important interactions and adverse drug effects including effects on driving
- Providing comprehensible explanations to the patient, and carers when relevant, for the use of medicines
- Being open to advice and input from other health professionals on prescribing
- Participating in adverse drug event reporting
- Take and record an accurate drug allergy history and history of previous side effects

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- Consultant feedback
- Workplace based assessment e.g. Mini-CEX, DOPS, CBD
- Educational supervisor's reports on observed performance (in the workplace): prioritisation of patient safety in prescribing practice
- Guidance for health and social care providers - Principles of good practice in medication reconciliation (HIQA)

General Internal Medicine Section

Objective: On completion of Higher Specialist Training the trainee will be able to identify and treat immediate life threatening causes of common medical presentations, form a differential diagnosis for non-life threatening cases and effectively manage the patient including further investigation and appropriate referral. They will have acquired a broad range of procedural and clinical skills to manage diverse presentations.

Assessment and Learning Methods

Learning opportunities during HST are through:

- Self-Directed Learning
- Attendance at Study days
- Participation in In-house activities
- Unselected acute on call
- General Medicine outpatient clinics
- Department education sessions (black box, journal club, tutorials)
- Completion of Required courses
- Attendance at additional learning events such as recommended courses and masterclasses

Progress is assessed through:

- Case Based Discussion
- ePortfolio
- Annual assessment
- DOPS

In the Acute setting

During the course of HST the trainee will encounter common acute presentations and demonstrate the following competencies:

- Recognising and assessing urgency
- Stabilising the patient
- Prioritising
 - Tasks
 - Investigations
- Managing co-existing morbidities
- Making appropriate referrals
- Decision making and appropriate delegation

The presentations listed in this section represent the most common acute presentations and conditions currently seen in Irish hospitals, accounting for over 95% of admissions. It is expected that HST trainees in general internal medicine will have a comprehensive knowledge of, and be able to provide a differential diagnosis for, these conditions.

Presentations

1. Shortness of breath
2. Cough
3. Chest Pain
4. Blackout/ Collapse/ Dizziness
5. The frail older patient in the acute setting
6. Abdominal Pain
7. Fever
8. Alcohol and substance dependence or withdrawal
9. Falls and Decreased mobility
10. Weakness and Paralysis
11. Headache
12. Limb Pain and/or Swelling
13. Nausea and Vomiting
14. Seizure
15. Diarrhoea
16. Delirium/Acute confusion
17. Acute Psychological illness
18. Palpitations
19. Hepatitis or Jaundice
20. Gastrointestinal Bleeding
21. Haemoptysis
22. Rash
23. Acute Back Pain
24. Poisoning and Drug Overdose
25. Hyper-glycaemia

Emergency management

Recognising and managing emergency cases including:

- Acute Coronary Syndrome
- Acute Kidney Injury
- Acute Respiratory Failure
- Acute Seizure
- Anaphylaxis / Angioedema
- Cardio-respiratory arrest
- Critical electrolyte abnormalities (calcium, sodium, potassium)
- Hypo- or Hyperglycaemia
- Sepsis and septic shock
- Stroke/ TIA
- The unconscious patient
- Unstable hypotensive patient

Skills and Knowledge in the General Medicine Setting

On completion of HST the trainee should know life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, investigations and management, including indications for urgent referral, for common general medicine presentations. The following outlines commonly associated features, causes and/or routes of investigation for these presentations, both acutely and for ongoing case management, the trainee is expected to know and the competencies they are expected to demonstrate.

When a patient presents with a general medicine complaint the trainee should demonstrate an ability to:

- Assess their signs and symptoms; formulating a differential diagnosis
 - Take history as part of an investigation
 - Undertake primary assessment
 - Recognise and assess urgency
 - Undertake secondary assessment
- Initiate appropriate investigations
 - Interpret results for common investigations
- Initiate appropriate treatment, including stabilising the patient where necessary
- Manage co-existing morbidities
- Manage on-going cases including
 - confirming a diagnosis for those not requiring urgent referral
 - assessing response to initial treatment
 - recognising signs to escalate management when needed
- Appropriately refer based on:
 - Response to treatment
 - Local guidelines
 - Culture
 - Self-awareness of their own knowledge and ability
 - Services available
- Provide ongoing management of the case

Shortness of breath

When a patient presents with shortness of breath a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for common causes.

- Life threatening causes of breathlessness
 - Airway Obstruction
 - Acute severe asthma
 - Acute exacerbation of COPD
 - Pulmonary oedema
 - Tension pneumothorax
 - Acute presentations of Ischaemic heart disease
 - Acute severe left ventricular failure
 - Dysrhythmia
 - Pulmonary embolus
 - Cardiac tamponade
 - Metabolic acidosis

Cough

When a patient presents a cough a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Common causes of acute cough
 - Viral and Pertussis type cough
 - Acute bronchitis
 - Pneumonia
 - Tuberculosis
 - Lung cancer
 - Understand the relevance of subacute and chronic cough
 - Common causes (Asthma, Upper airway, GORD)
 - When to refer for assessment of lung cancer
 - Consideration of Interstitial lung disease

Chest Pain

When a patient presents with chest pain a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for common causes.

- Life threatening causes of chest pain
 - Myocardial infarction
 - Dissecting aortic aneurysm
 - Pulmonary emboli
 - Tension pneumothorax
 - Oesophageal rupture
 - Clinical features of:
 - Cardiac chest pain
 - Chest pain caused by respiratory disease and oesophageal rupture
 - Chest pain caused by gastrointestinal disease
 - Chest wall pain
 - Functional chest pain
-

Blackout / Collapse / Dizziness

When a patient blacks out, collapses or presents with dizziness a trainee should demonstrate that they know the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Stroke
 - Cerebral infarction
 - Primary intracerebral haemorrhage
 - Subarachnoid haemorrhage
 - Syncope
 - Cardiac causes (arrhythmia, cardiogenic shock)
 - Vasovagal syncope
 - Postural hypotension (e.g., drugs, neurocardiac, autonomic)
 - Localised vascular disease (posterior circulation)
 - Metabolic causes (e.g., hypoglycaemia)
 - Seizures and epilepsy
-

Management of the frail older patient in the acute setting

When a frail older patient presents a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the appropriate approach to assessment, risk factors, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for this population.

- Understand the broad differential diagnosis and management of complex multi-morbid illness in older patients
- Approach to investigation and management of recurrent Falls
- Non-pharmacological and pharmacological management of behavioural complications of dementia
- Investigation of causes, non-pharmacological and pharmacological management of Delirium
- Polypharmacy and inappropriate prescribing in older patients (e.g. renal dose adjustment)
- Medical management of nursing home residents- identifying aspiration risk
- Palliative care and pain management in the acute setting
- Acute stroke thrombolysis delivery and criteria for referral for intravascular intervention
- Completion of NIHSS stroke scale

Abdominal Pain

When a patient presents with abdominal pain a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Initial assessment of abdominal pain
- Differential Diagnosis:
 - Intra-abdominal
 - Gastrointestinal
 - Vascular (aneurysm, ischemia)
 - Urological
 - Gynaecological
 - Extraabdominal causes of pain
- Ability to identify and initiate management of life threatening conditions causes of abdominal pain
- Indications for surgical consultation and urgent referral
- Identifying constipation and urinary retention in older patients

Fever

When a patient presents with fever a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Recognize the symptoms and signs of sepsis
- Identify common causes of fever
 - Infection
 - Non-infectious including PE, Drugs, vasculitis,
- Delivery of initial management of septic patient
- Knowledge of the choice of empiric and infection targeted antibiotics

Alcohol and substance dependence or withdrawal

When a patient presents with dependence or withdrawal a trainee should demonstrate that they know the classifications and necessary management, including indications for referral.

- Recognition
- Psychosocial dysfunction
- Autonomic disturbances
- Stress and panic disorders
- Insomnia and sleep disturbance
- Understand the role of psychiatrist and referral to rehabilitation services

Falls and Decreased mobility

When a patient falls or presents with decreased mobility a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Common medical and social causes of falls in medical patients
- Complications of falls
 - Fractures including the neck of the femur
 - Intracranial injury
 - Rib fracture and pneumothorax
 - Loss of mobility and independence

Weakness and Paralysis

When a patient presents with weakness or paralysis a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Stroke/ space occupying lesion
- Spinal cord injury
- Underlying neurological causes: e.g. multiple sclerosis, Guillain-Barre syndrome
- Infections and disease causing weakness

Headache

When a patient presents with headache a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Clinical classifications of headache
- Headache with altered neurological and focal signs
- Headache with features suggestive of raised intracranial pressure
- Headache with papilloedema
- Headache with fever
- Headache with extracranial signs
- Headache with no abnormal signs
- Drugs and toxins

Limb Pain and/or Swelling

When a patient presents with limb pain or swelling a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- As a result of injury
- As a result of an underlying medical condition
 - Undifferentiated inflammatory arthritis

Nausea and Vomiting

When a patient with nausea and vomiting a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Understanding of common causes
 - Abdominal
 - Acute Gastroenteritis
 - PUD
 - Pancreatitis
 - Acute hepatitis
 - Bowel obstruction
 - Central Causes (CNS)
 - Poisoning and Medications
- Management
 - Identification of underlying cause
 - Control of symptoms
 - Treating dehydration

Seizure

When a patient presents with seizures a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Causes
 - Unprovoked seizures/epilepsy
 - Seizures associated with metabolic, toxic and system illness
 - Cerebral hypoxia
 - Seizures associated with drugs and toxic substances
- Management
 - Emergency supportive treatment
 - Anticonvulsant treatment
 - Work up of first presentation with seizure
 - Understand driving implications for patients with seizures

Diarrhoea

When a patient presents with diarrhoea a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Classification
 - Osmotic
 - Secretory
 - Exudative
- Causes
 - Infectious
 - Inflammatory
 - Ischemic
 - Malignant
- Complications
- Management
 - Acute management
 - Knowledge of appropriate investigations
 - Recognition of associated complications
 - Role of antibiotics
 - When to refer to gastroenterology.

Delirium/Acute confusion

When a patient presents with delirium or acute confusion a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Clinical features of acute confused state- differentiating delirium, dementia, depression and psychosis
- Causes of delirium
- Use of screening instruments for delirium and/or cognitive impairment
- Clinical features of acute delirium
- Clinical features of acute functional psychosis
- Causes of confused state associated with alcohol abuse- delirium tremens, Wernicke's encephalopathy
- Drug induced/related confusion/delirium
- Bacterial meningitis, Viral encephalitis
- Subarachnoid haemorrhage/ subdural haematoma

Social issues

When a patient presents with social issues a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the appropriate approach to assessment, risk factors, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for this population.

- Managing medical conditions with an uncooperative patient
- Identifying potential elder abuse
- Recognising substance abuse
- Basic principles of psychiatry
- Recognising an at risk patient

Palpitations

When a patient presents with palpitations a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Anxiety
- Exercise induced
- In relation to pre-existing conditions including
 - Thyroid disease
 - Anaemia
 - Fever
 - Dehydration
 - Low blood sugar
 - Low blood pressure
- Resulting from medications or toxins
- Hormonal changes
- After prior myocardial infarct
- Coronary artery disease
- Other heart problems including congestive heart failure, heart valve or heart muscle problems

Hepatitis or Jaundice

When a patient presents with hepatitis or jaundice a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Incubation and prodromal phase
- Virus-specific
- Toxic hepatitis
- Autoimmune
- Acute liver failure

Gastrointestinal Bleeding

When a patient presents with gastrointestinal bleeding a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Understanding of the initial assessment and stabilization of patients with GI bleeding
- Understanding of haemovigilance and blood transfusion protocols
- Upper gastrointestinal bleeding including
 - Peptic ulcer Disease
 - Gastritis
 - Esophageal varices
 - Mallory-Weiss tears
 - Gastrointestinal cancers
 - Inflammation of the gastrointestinal lining from ingested material
- Lower gastrointestinal bleeding including
 - Diverticular disease
 - Gastrointestinal cancers
 - Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)
 - Infectious diarrhoea
 - Angiodysplasia
 - Polyps
 - Haemorrhoids and anal fissures

Haemoptysis

When a patient presents with haemoptysis a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Recognition and Management of massive Haemoptysis
- Common causes of haemoptysis
 - Acute and chronic bronchitis
 - Tuberculosis
 - Lung cancer
 - Pneumonia
 - Bronchiectasis
 - Pulmonary Embolus
 - Alveolar Haemorrhage (vasculitis)

Rash

When a patient presents with a rash a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Urticaria
- Anaphylaxis and Angio Oedema
- Erythroderma and exfoliation
- Psoriasis and seborrhoeic/contact dermatitis
- Purpura and vasculitis
- Blistering eruptions
- Infections and the skin

Acute Back Pain

When a patient presents with acute back pain a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Non-specific acute back pain
- Causes of chronic low back pain
- Neurologic findings in back pain
- Identifying serious etiologies of back pain e.g.,
 - Cancer
 - Fracture
 - Infection
 - Cauda equina syndrome

Poisoning and Drug Overdose

When a patient presents with poisoning or overdose a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Diagnostic clues in the assessment of overdoses
- Identification of toxic agent (paracetamol, SSRI, benzodiazepines, opiates, amphetamines, TCAD)
- Immediate management
- Mental health assessment and definitive care

Hyper-glycaemia

When a patient presents with hyper-glycaemia a trainee should demonstrate knowledge of the life threatening causes, clinical feature, classifications, appropriate investigations and necessary management, including indications for urgent referral, for the common causes.

- Symptoms of acute hyper-glycaemia
 - Recognition and Management of diabetic ketoacidosis
 - Recognition and management of Hyperosmolar non ketotic hyperglycemic states
-

Procedures

Objectives: To develop proficiency in common procedures required for general internal medicine.

Knowledge and Skills

Abdominal paracentesis under ultrasound

ECG Interpretation

Emergency DC cardioversion

- Up to date ACLS training to cover:
 - Necessity of Synchronised Shock
 - Starting voltage
 - Safe use of Defibrillator

Emergency care of tracheostomy

- In cases of:
 - Cardiac arrest
 - Dealing with a compromised airway

Femoral venous lines with ultrasound guidance

- Ultrasound guided femoral venous line placement
- Anatomical markers for femoral veins
- Safe cannulation of vein
- Secure line in place/review position on X-ray

Intercostal drain under ultrasound

- Anatomical markings
- Insertion of intercostal tube (small bore seldinger)
- Connection to underwater seal and secure in place
- Assessment and management of drain
- Safe removal of the tube

Joint aspiration

- Sterile field
- Fluid analysis
- Injectable compounds

Lumbar puncture

- Anatomical markers
- Cannula selection
- Safe puncture including appropriate preparation
- Measurement of CSF pressure
- Removal of samples and interpretation of results
- Management of post lumbar puncture headache

Non-invasive Ventilation

- Principles of BIPAP and CPAP
- Monitoring and limitations
- Mask fitting
- Understanding of pressures

Pleural and ascitic fluid aspiration under ultrasound

- Safe approach and role of ultrasound guidance
- Puncture pleural / peritoneal space
- Withdrawal of fluid

Specialty Section

Specialty Section

INTRODUCTION

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DOCUMENTATION OF MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINING

Section 1: Fluid, Electrolyte, and Acid-Base Disturbances

Objective: To provide the trainee with the skills and knowledge to assess and manage patients with fluid, electrolyte and acid base disturbances at a specialist level

KNOWLEDGE

- The clinical importance of fluid, electrolyte and acid base abnormalities
- The physiology of water, electrolyte and acid base metabolism
- The pathophysiology of sodium, potassium, and hydrogen ion imbalance, and dysregulation of water homeostasis
- Methods used to investigate fluid, electrolyte, and acid base abnormalities

SKILLS

- Assessing patients with disorders of fluid, electrolyte, and acid base homeostasis and administration of appropriate management
- Interpretation of arterial blood gases quickly and accurately and giving a focused differential diagnosis for acid-base disorders
- Ordering and interpreting appropriate investigations for electrolyte and acid base disorders
- Management of patients with fluid, electrolyte and acid base disorders
- Diagnosis and management of patients with poisonings presenting with acid-base disturbance
- Explaining the implications of familial disorders

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- Case-based discussion (CBD), Mini-clinical evaluation exercise (mini-CEX), NephSAP continuous assessment (NCA), In-Training examination (ASN-ITE), European Specialty Examination in Nephrology (ESENeph)
- St. Vincent's University Hospital Study day

Section 2. Disorders of Divalent Ions and CKD-Mineral Bone Disease

Objective: To provide the trainee with the skills and knowledge to assess and manage patients with disorders of divalent ions, chronic kidney disease (CKD) mineral bone disease (CKD-MBD) at a specialist level

KNOWLEDGE

- The physiology of calcium, phosphate, bone and mineral metabolism and the pathophysiology of CKD-MBD
- The use of biochemical tests, imaging techniques and histology in the diagnosis and management of CKD-MBD
- Indications for and the clinical use of dietary modification, phosphate binders, vitamin D preparations, calcimimetic drugs and parathyroidectomy
- The assessment of response to treatment for CKD-MBD
- The role of vitamin D in kidney disease
- Disorders of phosphate, magnesium and calcium balance

SKILLS

- Interpretation of the results of biochemical, radiological and histological investigations in patients with disorders of bone and mineral metabolism
- Diagnosis and management of CKD-MBD in patients with pre-dialysis CKD
- Management of CKD-MBD in patients on renal replacement therapy
- Identification and management of disorders of phosphate, magnesium and calcium balance
- Prevention, diagnosis and management of secondary and tertiary hyperparathyroidism

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESE Neph
- Cork University Hospital Study day

Section 3: Acute Kidney Injury and Critical Care Nephrology

Evaluation

Objective: To provide the trainee with the skills and knowledge to assess and manage patients with acute kidney injury (AKI) at a specialist level.

KNOWLEDGE

- The epidemiology, diagnostic evaluation and pathogenesis of AKI
- **The pathophysiology of AKI in different clinical scenarios e.g. acute tubular necrosis, glomerulonephritis, etc.**
- **Methods available to grade severity of AKI**
- **Methods of investigation relevant to AKI**
- Medication dosing and safe and effective prescribing for patients with AKI
- Treatment options: renal replacement therapy (including plasma exchange) and treatment relevant to the underlying cause of AKI (including potential adverse effects) such as the management of common AKI syndromes, including:
 - Cardiorenal syndrome
 - Hepatorenal syndrome
 - Sepsis-associated AKI
 - Radiocontrast nephropathy

SKILLS

- Taking a history for AKI focusing on drug, social and environmental factors
- Performing a reliable and accurate clinical examination to assess or diagnose AKI and differentiates pre-renal failure, renal failure and urinary tract obstruction
- Ordering, interpreting and acts upon investigations appropriately including: biochemistry, haematology, microbiology, immunology and imaging
- Performing examinations of the urine sediment for the assessment of AKI
- Performing bedside ultrasound to identify kidney obstruction and kidney size (optional)
- Identifies patients at high risk of AKI and institutes preventative measures
- Initiation of appropriate specialist management of AKI and the underlying cause (including renal replacement therapy, immunosuppression, plasmapheresis etc.)

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Study day

Renal Replacement Therapies in AKI

Objective: To provide the trainee with the skills and knowledge to prescribe and manage renal replacement therapy in acute kidney injury (AKI)

KNOWLEDGE

- The indications for acute dialysis
- The principles of haemodialysis, haemofiltration and haemodiafiltration and indications for their use
- The options for vascular access for acute renal replacement therapy

SKILLS

- Assesses the suitability of a patient for haemodialysis or haemofiltration

- Prescribes haemodialysis and haemofiltration safely, adjusts prescriptions appropriately and monitors response to treatment
- Prescribes medication safely and appropriately in patients with acute kidney injury
- Adjusts dialysis prescription in complex cases e.g. head injury, morbid obesity, acute liver failure, acute poisoning or drug overdose

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Study day

Section 4: Chronic Kidney Disease and Progression

Objective: To provide the trainee with the skills and knowledge to assess and manage patients with CKD at a specialist level.

KNOWLEDGE

- The causes of CKD
- The classification and stages of CKD
- Investigations used to assess the cause, severity and reversibility of CKD
- The use of estimating equations for glomerular filtration rate in the assessment of kidney function and diagnosis of CKD
- Natural history, timing of metabolic complications and prognosis of CKD
- Risk factors for CKD progression and their management
- The pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of diabetic nephropathy
- The pharmacology of medications in CKD and necessary dose adjustments
- The role of conservative or non-dialysis care of CKD in the elderly

SKILLS

- Taking an accurate clinical history in the assessment of CKD including drug history, family, social and environmental history
- Identify and treats reversible causes of CKD
- Managing the non-renal complications of CKD
- Identifying and treating cardiovascular risk factors in CKD patients, with appropriate referral for specialist cardiology review (including potential kidney transplant recipients)
- Discussing treatment options with patients appropriately and in liaison with the MDT to support the patient's decision-making processes
- Making timely and appropriate plans for renal replacement therapy where necessary

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Limerick University Hospital Study Day

Renal Anaemia

Objective: To provide the trainee with the skills and knowledge to manage renal anaemia and to safely prescribe and monitor erythropoietic stimulating agents

KNOWLEDGE

- The pathophysiology of renal anaemia and the haematological and biochemical methods to diagnose, assess and monitor treatment in renal anaemia
- Differences between anaemia secondary to CKD and other causes
- Indications for and the use of erythropoietic stimulating agents (ESAs) and their complications
- Indications for and use of oral and parenteral iron therapy and its complications
- Causes of resistance to ESA therapy and its investigation

SKILLS

- Diagnosing and treating renal anaemia, monitoring the effects of treatment and managing failure of treatment
- Managing renal anaemia in CKD patients not yet on renal replacement therapy
- Managing renal anaemia in CKD patients on renal replacement therapy
- Prescribing and monitoring iron replacement therapy
- Auditing the use of ESAs and iron therapy in individual patients and patient populations

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Galway University Hospital Study Day

Cardiovascular Disease in Patients with CKD

Objective: To provide the trainee with the skills and knowledge to assess and treat renal patients with cardiovascular disease

KNOWLEDGE

- The impact of cardiovascular disease on morbidity and mortality of patients with renal disease and in those receiving renal replacement therapy
- Cardiovascular risk factors and modification strategies (including hyperlipidaemias and obesity)
- How to manage acute coronary syndromes and associated problems in the renal patient
- The risk of AKI after angiographic procedures and knows how to reduce this risk

SKILLS

- Assessing a patient who may have cardiovascular disease including identification and treatment of cardiovascular risk factors
- Interpretation of the guidelines for treatment of cardiovascular risk factors including hyperlipidaemia and obesity
- Discussion of self-management strategies and dietary modifications with patients and when necessary prescribing and monitoring drug therapy
- Recognising patients who need referral for specialist cardiology review (including potential renal transplant recipients)

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Galway University Hospital Study Day

Section 5: Hypertension

Objective: To provide the trainee with the skills and knowledge to assess and manage patients with hypertension at a specialist level.

KNOWLEDGE

- Outline of the causes of secondary hypertension (HTN) and describes the interpretation of investigations and treatment
- International guidelines for treatment of HTN
- Unique considerations in treating HTN in special situations such as pregnancy, CKD and diabetes mellitus, and hypertensive urgency/ emergencies
- The importance of non-pharmacological measures in achieving BP targets
- The role of sodium intake in the pathogenesis of HTN
- The assessment and management of pre-eclampsia
- The diagnosis and management of resistant HTN
- The diagnosis and management of hypertensive emergencies

SKILLS

- Assessing a patient with HTN (including use of home and ambulatory BP monitoring) and appropriately investigates to exclude underlying secondary causes
- Identifying the patient with secondary HTN who is suitable for definitive treatment
- Instituting lifestyle measures and a suitable antihypertensive drug regime
- Prescribes antihypertensive medication to achieve blood pressure levels recommended by guidelines
- Monitors and reviews effectiveness of blood pressure control over time with patient and primary care team

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Galway University Hospital Study Day

Section 6: Renovascular Disease

Objective: To provide the trainee with the skills and knowledge to develop the ability to carry out assess and treat patients with hypertension and / or renal impairment secondary to renovascular disease

KNOWLEDGE

- The causes and pathophysiology of renovascular disease
- The methods used to investigate renovascular disease
- The risks and complications of investigations such as angiography
- The natural history of the disease and the long-term outcomes of intervention and medical management
- The general management of extra-renal vascular problems of patients with atherosclerotic renovascular disease

SKILLS

- Assessing patients who may have renovascular disease and determine if further investigation and intervention are required
- Minimising the risks of AKI after angiographic procedures
- Counselling a patient about risks and benefits of investigations and interventions such as angiography and angioplasty / stent
- Providing long term care of blood pressure and cardiovascular risk for the patient with renovascular disease

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Galway University Hospital Study Day

Section 7: Glomerular, Vascular, and Tubulointerstitial Diseases

Clinical Presentation and Assessment of Glomerular Disease

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to undertake specialist assessment and management of patients with haematuria and / or proteinuria.

KNOWLEDGE

- Pathophysiology of visible and non-visible haematuria
- Causes of haematuria and define the relationship to systemic diseases
- Pathophysiology of proteinuria and the nephrotic syndrome
- Causes of proteinuria and define the relationship to systemic diseases
- Risk of extrarenal complications of the nephrotic syndrome
- The range of treatment options (including potential adverse effects) available for management of proteinuria and associated extrarenal complications
- Indications for kidney biopsy in investigation of haematuria, associated risks, likely prognosis and requirement for long term review

SKILLS

- Formulating a differential diagnosis, appropriate plan of investigation and management for a patient with haematuria and / or asymptomatic proteinuria or symptomatic proteinuria or nephrotic syndrome
- Recognising the indications for kidney biopsy in investigation of haematuria and / or proteinuria and discussing the associated risks, likely prognosis and requirement for long term review
-
- Assessing the severity of proteinuria and the risk of extra-renal complications

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- AMNCH Tallaght Study Day

Primary Glomerular Diseases

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to assess, diagnose and treat patients with primary glomerulonephritis, manage the complications of the diseases and their treatment, and both the systemic and local kidney manifestations

KNOWLEDGE

- The various types of primary glomerulonephritis, aetiology, pathology and clinical manifestations:
 - Minimal change disease
 - Focal and segmental glomerulosclerosis
 - Membranous nephropathy
 - Membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis
 - IgA Nephropathy
- The natural history and prognosis for the primary glomerulonephritides
- The investigation of a patient with glomerulonephritis, both at time of presentation and during long term follow-up (including role of kidney biopsy)
- The available management strategies (both specific and non-specific) including immunosuppression and is aware of recent clinical trials
- The place and timing of renal transplantation

SKILLS

- Clinically assessment of patients with primary glomerulonephritis
- Investigating patients appropriately including laboratory tests, imaging and biopsy
- Interpreting the results of laboratory investigations and kidney biopsy findings
- Making appropriate decisions about urgency of treatment
- Determining the place for immunosuppression, balances risks and benefits, and monitors long term use

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- AMNCH Tallaght Study Day

Systemic Diseases with Secondary Glomerular Involvement

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to assess, diagnose and treat patients with systemic diseases with secondary glomerulonephritis, manage the complications of the diseases and their treatment, and both the systemic and local kidney manifestations.

KNOWLEDGE

- The pathophysiology of systemic disease causing glomerulonephritis especially vasculitis and SLE, viral and other infections and thrombotic microangiopathies
- The various types of secondary glomerulonephritis, aetiology, pathology and clinical manifestations:
 - Lupus Nephritis
 - Anti-GBM Disease and Goodpasture's Disease
 - Systemic Amyloidosis and Non-amyloid Deposition Diseases
 - Antineutrophil Cytoplasmic Autoantibodies–Small Vessel Vasculitis
 - Cryoglobulinaemia
 - Scleroderma and thrombotic microangiopathies
- The natural history and prognosis for the different glomerulonephritides
- The investigation of a patient with glomerulonephritis, both at time of presentation and during long term follow-up (including role of kidney biopsy)
- Available management strategies (both specific and non-specific) including immunosuppression and is aware of recent clinical trials
- Recognising the occurrence of rare diseases such as fibrillary GN, scleroderma, cryoglobulinaemia, and knowing where to find more information
- The place and timing of renal transplantation

SKILLS

- Clinically assessing patients with glomerulonephritis with systemic involvement
- Investigating patients appropriately with laboratory tests, imaging and kidney biopsy
- Interpreting the results of laboratory investigations and kidney biopsy findings
- Making appropriate decisions about urgency of treatment
- Determining the place for immunosuppression, balances risks and benefits, and monitors long term use

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- AMNCH Tallaght Study Day

Tubulointerstitial Nephritis

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to assess, diagnose and treat patients with interstitial nephritis or tubulo-interstitial disease, manage the complications of the diseases and their treatment, and both the systemic and local kidney manifestations.

KNOWLEDGE

- The pathophysiology of interstitial nephritis and tubulo-interstitial disease, their causes and links with systemic diseases
- Investigations needed in patients with interstitial nephritis
- The natural history and prognosis of interstitial nephritis
- The management strategies for treatment and especially the place for steroids or other immunosuppression

SKILLS

- Clinically assessing patients with interstitial nephritis, and taking a full drug and environmental history.
- Investigating patients appropriately including use of laboratory tests, imaging and kidney biopsy
- Interpreting the results of appropriate laboratory investigations and kidney biopsy findings
- Making decisions about the urgency of treatment and the place of steroids or other immunosuppression

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- AMNCH Tallaght Study Day

Section 8: Renal Disease in Diabetics

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to assess and treat patients with diabetes and kidney disease

KNOWLEDGE

- The pathophysiology of diabetic nephropathy, its predisposing factors and available screening methods
- Factors that distinguish between diabetic nephropathy and incidental kidney disease in diabetic patients
- The role and importance of lifestyle factors (including smoking), diabetic control and other therapeutic strategies used to manage and slow progression of diabetic nephropathy and in the development of vascular disease
- The indications for referral of diabetic patients to specialist renal clinics
- The differing natural history of patients with diabetic renal disease compared to other CKD patients
- The role of pancreatic and / or renal transplantation in diabetic patients with kidney disease

SKILLS

- Making an accurate and focussed clinical assessment of patients who may have diabetic nephropathy
- Recognising and managing non-diabetic renal disease in the diabetic patient
- Implementing and monitoring treatment for hypertension, hyperlipidaemia and utilising other renoprotective and cardiovascular protective treatments
- Planning the long-term management of the patient with diabetic nephropathy who requires renal replacement therapy including renal transplantation
- Contributing to the management of diabetes and its complications in patients with CKD on dialysis or with a transplant

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Study Day

Section 9: Urological Presentations

Kidney Stones

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to assess and investigate a patient with renal stone disease and to formulate a management plan

KNOWLEDGE

- The causes and pathophysiology of renal stone formation, including associations with renal tubular or genetic disorders
- The clinical presentation of renal stone disease and its effect on renal function
- How to investigate a patient with renal stones using biochemical and imaging techniques
- Treatment options available including dietary and lifestyle measures to reduce renal stone risk

SKILLS

- Assessing the patient with renal stones and appropriately investigating patients with recurrent renal stones
- Discussing suitable dietary measures to reduce risk of renal stone formation
- Recognising the limitations of medical treatment and appropriately referring patients for surgical assessment
- Recognising the need to appropriately involve other clinicians including dietitians, urologists and radiologists

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Cork University Hospital Study day

Urinary Tract Infections

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to manage patients with urinary tract infections

KNOWLEDGE

- The bacteriological causes of urinary tract infection
- The underlying predisposing causes of urinary tract infections and the familial nature of some abnormalities
- The modes of presentation of urinary tract infections (including special circumstances e.g. immunosuppressed or pregnant patients)
- The potential long-term consequences of urinary tract infection

SKILLS

- Investigating and managing all forms of urinary tract infection including recurrent urinary tract infection

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph

Urinary Tract Obstruction

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to assess, investigate and manage patients with urinary tract obstruction and neurogenic bladder

KNOWLEDGE

- The anatomy of the urinary tract and the common sites and causes of urinary obstruction
- The acute presentation of urinary tract obstruction and the long-term consequences of urinary tract obstruction
- The types of reconstructive procedures undertaken in children and adults and the relevance to future management including transplantation

SKILLS

- Investigating and managing patients with urinary tract obstruction appropriately (including management of fluid and electrolyte disturbances occurring after the relief of obstruction)
- Recognising when appropriate to involve Radiologists and Urologists
- Explaining to patients and carers the interventions available to patients with urinary tract obstruction and bladder dysfunction (including neurogenic bladder) to avoid infection and prevent progressive renal damage

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph

Section 10: Inherited and Rare Diseases

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to assess, diagnose and treat patients with genetic and other rare diseases and advise on inheritance.

KNOWLEDGE

- The pathophysiology and genetics of APKD, Alport's disease, reflux nephropathy, inherited tubular disorders, metabolic disorders such as oxalosis, Fabry's disease and thin membrane nephropathy (amongst others)
- Investigations needed in patients with cystic kidney diseases and other inherited diseases
- The natural history and prognosis of these diseases
- Available treatments and outlines their appropriate use
- The patterns of inheritance of genetic conditions and recognises indications for screening

SKILLS

- Assessing patients with inherited diseases, taking a full history including familial elements, and demonstrating awareness of any extrarenal systemic manifestations
- Initiating investigations including laboratory tests, imaging and kidney biopsy (when appropriate)
- Interpreting the results of investigations and initiating specific treatment appropriately
- Explaining the long term and progressive nature of these diseases to patients and acts to minimise complications
- Determining when screening is required and interpreting results of screening test.

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- AMNCH Tallaght Study Day

Section 11: Special Circumstances

Renal Disorders in Pregnancy

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to counsel patients with pre-existing kidney disease or a renal transplant about sexual health issues including fertility, contraception and the implications of pregnancy.

To also enable trainees to be able to manage renal conditions during pregnancy and to undertake a specialist assessment, investigation and management of a patient who develops a renal disorder during pregnancy.

KNOWLEDGE

- The effects of kidney disease on fertility and the need for safe and effective contraception in patients with renal disease and with a renal transplant
- The effects of pregnancy on renal physiology in normal individuals and those with pre-existing renal disease (including those on renal replacement therapy)
- The potential risks of pregnancy to the mother and foetus in patients with CKD (including dialysis and renal transplant)
- The importance of appropriate drug therapy in pregnancy and potential risks of commonly used drugs to the foetus
- How to manage co-morbid medical conditions in patients with pre-existing renal disease, dialysis or a renal transplant during a pregnancy with particular emphasis on minimisation of the risk to mother and foetus
- To recognise renal disorders that are inherited and the patterns of inheritance

SKILLS

- Counselling patients with renal disease, on dialysis or with a renal transplant about the risks and implications of pregnancy and acting to minimise risks to mother and foetus
- Investigating de-novo renal disease in pregnancy or a deterioration in renal function in a pregnant transplant patient
- Managing hypertension appropriately in pregnancy
- Modification of medication including immunosuppressive drugs appropriately during pregnancy or in a woman planning pregnancy
- Recognising and managing the renal consequences of pre-eclampsia and AKI in pregnancy and the puerperium
- Explaining the inheritance of genetic disorders, recognising the need for genetic counselling and appropriate referral

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Beaumont Hospital Study Day

Transition of Paediatric Patients to Adult Nephrology Services

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to carry out specialist assessment and treatment of young adults and adolescents with kidney disease progressing from the paediatric to adult renal services

KNOWLEDGE

- The common causes of CKD in paediatric patients, and where to obtain information on rarer causes of CKD in these patients
- Issues relating to consent and confidentiality in adolescent patients

- The impact of renal disease on other physical systems within the patient, on the psychosocial functioning of the patient, family, carers, and other professionals (healthcare, colleges etc)
- The importance of the developmental stage when communicating with adolescents and young adults

SKILLS

- Making an accurate and focussed clinical assessment of patients with kidney disease at the adult / paediatric interface
- Treating the patient holistically and sensitively in accordance with the patient's wishes and taking account of the needs and wishes of the carers and family members of the patient
- Managing the change of environment within which the patient will be managed
- Managing the change in personnel and referral systems applicable to CKD, dialysis and transplant patients at the paediatric / adult interface
- Recognising when the timing of referral from paediatric / young person / adolescent service to adult renal services is appropriate

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph

Nutrition in Patients with Renal Disease

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to identify, understand and manage the nutritional needs of patients with kidney disease

KNOWLEDGE

- The wide range of nutritional issues facing renal patients and special dietary regimes prescribed (e.g. low protein diet in CKD)
- The relationship between adequacy of dialysis and nutrition
- The treatment strategies for hyperlipidaemia in patients with kidney disease

SKILLS

- Consideration of a patient's nutritional status and provision of appropriate nutritional advice with the support of dieticians
- Managing the nutritional needs of patients with AKI and other complex multisystem disorders

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph

Section 12: Management of End-Stage Renal Disease

Supportive Care (non-dialysis or conservative care)

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to identify, counsel and manage patients with CKD who require active supportive management (non-dialysis or conservative care) and / or end of life palliative care. To also help trainees to develop the ability to formulate and supervise a management plan for end of life care, together with patient, family / carers and the multi-disciplinary team including palliative care.

KNOWLEDGE

- The symptoms of advanced CKD
- The evidence for active supportive care (non-dialysis) care of CKD
- The principles of pain relief and appropriate analgesic prescription in end stage renal disease (ESRD)
- The factors affecting survival in patients with ESRD
- The clinical features of dying
- The principles of bereavement management
- The medicolegal framework for decisions about patient treatment and advanced directives
- When to initiate a care pathway for dying patients with the help of the multidisciplinary and palliative care teams

SKILLS

- Identification of patients requiring active support management or end of life care
- Counseling patients and carers about active supportive care (conservative or non-dialysis, non-transplant) management of advanced CKD
- Recognition and management of the symptoms of ESRD including prescription of effective analgesia for patients requiring pain relief and initial management of depression
- Identification of the patient who is deteriorating despite dialysis; counselling of patients and carers about withdrawal of dialysis with the support of the multidisciplinary team

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Waterford Regional Hospital Study Day

Haemodialysis

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to be able to undertake the planning of haemodialysis, its prescription and measurement of adequacy.

KNOWLEDGE

- The methods of creating vascular access for haemodialysis
- The means to deliver purified water, the necessary standards and methods of assessment
- The principles of haemodialysis and the effects of changes in treatment length and frequency, different dialysis membranes and dialysate solutions
- An overview of the methods used to assess adequacy of haemodialysis
- The evidence for treatment targets of haemodialysis adequacy
- The complications of arterio-venous fistulae and artificial grafts
- The management of dialysis line sepsis, poor flow and line blockage
- The pathophysiology and management of intradialytic hypotension

SKILLS

- Prescribing haemodialysis for a patient initiating treatment and adjusting the prescription based on the patient's progress and monitoring
- Advising on ultrafiltration, sodium profiling and the use of different dialysate solutions
- Discussing the therapeutic and lifestyle implications of home versus hospital-based haemodialysis with a patient and carers
- Assessing the suitability of different methods of vascular access
- Organising the day-to-day management of a haemodialysis unit
- Identifying and managing the complications of vascular access involving, when necessary, surgeons and radiologists
- Managing dialysis-related sepsis and develops protocols with microbiologists
- Developing protocols to deal with acute dialysis emergencies

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Waterford Regional Hospital Study Day

Peritoneal dialysis

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to be able to supervise and manage patients on chronic peritoneal dialysis (PD) at a specialist level

KNOWLEDGE

- The principles of PD, including membrane physiology, dialysis solutions and their mechanism of action
- The relative therapeutic and lifestyle advantages of all modes of PD
- The different methods of insertion of peritoneal dialysis catheters and their advantages and disadvantages
- The assessment of adequacy of PD and peritoneal membrane function
- An overview of the evidence base supporting treatment targets for adequate PD
- The diagnosis and management of PD associated peritonitis
- The management of the catheter exit site and the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of associated infection
- The diagnosis and management of mechanical problems associated with PD (including herniae, leaks, catheter malfunction)
- The methods used to recognise and manage peritoneal membrane injury, including ultrafiltration failure and encapsulating peritoneal sclerosis

SKILLS

- Assessing the suitability of a patient for PD in the context of other methods of renal replacement therapy
- Adjusting the prescription of PD and monitor change
- Organising the day-to-day management of a PD service
- Adjusting the prescription of PD required following complications
- Managing the prevention and treatment of PD associated infections
- Managing PD technique failure and transfer to haemodialysis

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- PD symposium study day

Plasmapheresis

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to be able to undertake the planning, prescription and monitoring of plasmapheresis

KNOWLEDGE

- Indications for plasmapheresis
- The principles of plasmapheresis and complications of treatment

SKILLS

- Assessing the suitability of a patient for plasmapheresis
- Prescribing plasmapheresis safely and assessing response to treatment
- Managing the patient with AKI requiring both plasmapheresis and acute kidney replacement therapy

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE. ESENeph
- Beaumont Hospital Study Day

Section 13. Transplantation

Assessment of the Potential Living Donor and Recipient

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to evaluate and manage patients who are suitable for kidney transplantation and kidney donation at a specialist level

KNOWLEDGE

- The role of transplantation in the management of patients with ESRD
- Principles of kidney transplantation, and the medical, surgical, ethical, and social contraindications
- The benefits and risks of transplantation compared with other treatment modalities for ESRD and pre-emptive transplantation
- The relative risks and benefits of living donor and deceased donor kidney transplantation
- Principles of blood group typing, HLA matching, and donor–recipient cross matching

SKILLS

- Assessing the suitability of patients with ESRD for kidney transplantation
- Discussing issues around living donor and pre-emptive transplantation
- Counselling patients and relatives in all aspects of kidney transplantation including living kidney donation
- Assessing the suitability of a person as a living kidney donor
- Developing and carrying out protocols for pre-transplant assessment of recipients and potential living donors

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Beaumont Hospital Study Day

Early Management of the Kidney Transplant Recipient (under 3 months)

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to be able to manage patients in the early stages post kidney transplant at a specialist level

KNOWLEDGE

- Issues that can influence outcomes early post kidney transplantation
- Medical and surgical problems which occur early post kidney transplant
- Indications for radiological investigation (ultrasound scan, radio-isotope scanning etc.) and transplant biopsy early post kidney transplant
- The role of kidney transplant biopsy and the Banff scoring criteria in the diagnosis of acute rejection
- The mode of action and adverse effects of immunosuppressive agents and the potential for interaction with other drugs
- Available management strategies for acute transplant rejection
- Factors early post transplant that influence long term graft function

SKILLS

- Optimising the graft and patient outcome early post kidney transplantation
- Assessing the significance of changes in kidney transplant function
- Investigation of kidney transplant patients with acute transplant dysfunction and interprets the results of investigations
- Evaluation of patients with surgical and medical complications of kidney transplantation

- Planning and modifying immunosuppressive therapy regimens
- Counselling patients and relatives in all aspects of renal transplantation

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Beaumont Hospital Study Day

Long-Term Care of the Kidney Transplant Recipient

Objective: To provide the trainee with skills and knowledge to manage the long term supervision and management of kidney transplant recipients at a specialist level.

KNOWLEDGE

- Factors that influence long term patient and kidney transplant survival
- Long-term medical and surgical problems which can occur following kidney transplant
- Late causes of graft dysfunction more than 3 months after kidney transplantation
- Potential long term adverse effects of immunosuppressive agents
- Strategies that maximise long term graft function and survival
- Recognition of increased risk of cardiovascular and malignant disease in the long term transplant patient and the treatment and preventative strategies available

SKILLS

- Identifying declining transplant function, assesses significance of changes, investigates appropriately, and makes appropriate changes to management
- Utilises strategies that optimise long term graft and patient outcomes
- Identifying and managing cardiovascular, malignant and infectious problems in long-term kidney transplant recipients
- Modifying long term immunosuppressive therapy regimens and tailoring to an individual patient considering other comorbid conditions and changing circumstances
- Minimizing and managing the medical complications of a failing kidney transplant
- Counselling patients and relatives in all aspects of kidney transplantation, including graft failure and preparation for dialysis or re-transplantation

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- CBD, Mini-CEX, NCA, ASN-ITE, ESENeph
- Beaumont Hospital Study Day

Section 14: Procedures

Kidney Biopsy (Native and Transplant)

Objective: To ensure that the trainee knows the indications for and potential complications of a renal transplant biopsy and is familiar with the skills necessary to perform native and transplant kidney biopsy.

KNOWLEDGE

- Indications for a kidney biopsy
- The anatomy of the native and transplant kidneys
- Contraindications to performing a kidney biopsy
- Potential complications of a kidney biopsy

SKILLS

- Minimising and managing the complications of kidney biopsy
- Interpreting the kidney biopsy findings with the assistance of a Histopathologist
- Discussing the indication, perceived benefits and potential risks of the procedure with a patient or relative in a manner that facilitates informed consent
- Discussing biopsy findings with a patient to enable shared decision making regarding treatment options
- Utilising ultrasound to localize kidneys and using ultrasound guidance to assist in kidney biopsy (not mandatory)
- Competent performance of a kidney biopsy (not mandatory)

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS)

Ultrasound Scanning (Native and Transplant Kidneys)

Objective: The trainee will be proficient at carrying out and interpreting ultrasound scanning of native and transplant kidneys in AKI and to facilitate kidney biopsy. They will also be able to identify anatomy and patency of central veins to facilitate central venous catheter placement.

KNOWLEDGE

- The anatomy of both native and transplant kidneys
- The anatomy of the central veins

SKILLS

- Using ultrasound to localise native and transplant kidneys for the purpose of kidney biopsy
- Localising central veins and assessing their suitability for percutaneous venous access
- Using bedside ultrasound to assess patients with AKI e.g. to rule out obstruction and evaluate kidney cortical thickness

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- DOPS
- Study Day
- Recommended: Ultrasound course to include the following:
 - neck and groin veins
 - native kidney
 - transplant kidney

Insertion of Temporary Haemodialysis Catheters

Objective: To insert and manage temporary haemodialysis catheters.

KNOWLEDGE

- The anatomy of the central venous system in the upper thorax, neck and femoral veins
- Indications for insertion of temporary haemodialysis catheters and the relative merits and problems associated with each site of insertion
- Complications associated with temporary haemodialysis catheter insertion, the methods of minimising these complications and their treatment should they occur
- Treatment of catheter related sepsis and blocked catheters
- Anatomical method of insertion of temporary haemodialysis catheters in all central vein positions

SKILLS

- Discuss the indications, benefits and adverse events of the procedure to patients, relatives and carers in a manner that will allow informed consent
- Insertion of temporary haemodialysis catheters using the Seldinger technique and ultrasound guidance for bilateral internal jugular and femoral veins
- Insertion of temporary haemodialysis catheters in all central vein positions
- Explaining the use of the catheter and its management to the patient, relatives and carers

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- DOPS
- **Insertion of Peritoneal Dialysis Catheters (not mandatory)**

Objective: The trainee will understand the different methods of inserting PD catheters. The trainee will be proficient at carrying out the insertion of PD catheters by the percutaneous method.

KNOWLEDGE

- Indications for insertion of PD catheters
- Different medical and surgical techniques for insertion of PD catheters including complications and means to minimise these
- Anatomy of the anterior abdominal wall, abdominal cavity and peritoneum, the different types of catheters and their use
- The role of nurses in the management of a catheter after its insertion

SKILLS

- Assessing a patient's suitability for insertion of a PD catheter by different techniques
- Discussing the indications, benefits and adverse events of the procedure to patients, relatives and carers in a manner that will allow informed consent
- Insertion of PD catheters using the percutaneous approach
- Managing acute complications following catheter insertion – catheter malposition, catheter related sepsis and occluded catheter

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING METHODS

- DOPS

Documentation of Minimum Requirements for Training

- These are the minimum number of cases you are asked to document as part of your training. It is recommended you seek opportunities to attain a higher level of exposure as part of your self-directed learning and development of expertise.
- You should expect the demands of your post to exceed the minimum required number of cases documented for training.
- If you are having difficulty meeting a particular requirement, please contact your speciality coordinator

Curriculum Requirement	Required/Desirable	Minimum Requirement	Reporting Period	Form Name
Section 1 - Training Plan				
Personal Goals Plan (Copy of agreed Training Plan for your current training year signed by both Trainee & Trainer)	Required	1	Training Post	Personal Goals Form
On Call Rota Unselected Admissions for General Internal Medicine (Completed within first 3 years)				Clinical Activities
GIM Year	Required	480	Training Programme	
Dual Specialty Year	Required	480	Training Programme	
Section 2 - Training Activities				
Outpatient Clinics (minimum 1 per week)				Clinics
Nephrology OPD (1 per week)	Required	40	Year of Training	
Chronic Haemodialysis	Required	10	Year of Training	
Peritoneal dialysis	Required	10	Year of Training	
Chronic Transplant	Required	20	Year of Training	
Ward Rounds				Clinical Activities
Consultant Led (minimum 1 per week)	Required	40	Year of Training	
SpR Led (minimum 2 per week)	Required	80	Year of Training	
Consultations - This should include the following category of patients:	Required	50	Year of Training	Clinical Activities

Curriculum Requirement	Required/Desirable	Minimum Requirement	Reporting Period	Form Name
Obstetric nephrology (where available)	Required	40	Training Programme	
Acute kidney injury	Required	40	Year of Training	
Acute transplant care (Beaumont)	Required	20	Training Programme	
Chronic haemodialysis	Required	30	Year of Training	
Chronic peritoneal dialysis (where available)	Required	10	Year of Training	
Chronic transplant	Required	20	Year of Training	
Acute haemodialysis	Required	15	Year of Training	
Continuous renal therapies	Required	10	Year of Training	
Procedures/Practical Skills/Surgical Skills				Procedures, Skills, & DOPS
Renal biopsy (Native and Transplant)	Desirable	8	Year of Training	
Temporary vascular access - Femoral	Required	10	Training Programme	
Temporary vascular access - Internal jugular	Desirable	5	Training Programme	
Ultrasound scanning of kidney	Desirable	10	Year of Training	
Peritoneal dialysis catheter insertion	Desirable	5	Training Programme	
Examination of urinary sediment	Desirable	10	Year of Training	
Additional/Special Experience Gained e.g. Point of Care Ultrasound Scan	Desirable	1	Training Programme	Cases
General Internal Medicine Procedures/Practical Skills/Surgical Skills				Procedures, Skills, & DOPS
BIPAP/CPAP	Required	10	Training Programme	

Curriculum Requirement	Required/Desirable	Minimum Requirement	Reporting Period	Form Name
Emergency DC cardioversion	Required	10	Training Programme	
ECG interpretation	Required	50	Training Programme	
Joint aspiration	Required	4	Training Programme	
Lumbar puncture	Required	20	Training Programme	
Abdominal paracentesis – under ultrasound	Desirable	4	Training Programme	
Femoral venous line placement – under ultrasound	Desirable	1	Training Programme	
Pleural aspiration – under ultrasound	Desirable	4	Training Programme	
Intercostal drain Insertion – under ultrasound	Desirable	1	Training Programme	
Section 3 - Educational Activities				
Mandatory Courses				Teaching Attendance
ACLS	Required	1	Training Programme	
Ethics Foundation	Required	1	Training Programme	
Ethics for General Medicine	Required	1	Training Programme	
An Introduction to Health Research Methods	Required	1	Training Programme	
HST Leadership in Clinical Practice (\geq Year 3)	Required	1	Training Programme	
Mastering Communication	Required	1	Training Programme	
Performing Audit (Year 1)	Required	1	Training Programme	
Wellness Matters	Required	1	Training Programme	

Curriculum Requirement	Required/Desirable	Minimum Requirement	Reporting Period	Form Name
General Internal Medicine Mandatory Courses				Teaching Attendance
NIHSS Stroke Scale	Required	1	Training Programme	
Delirium Recognition and Response (Online)	Required	1	Training Programme	
Non-Mandatory Courses	Desirable	1	Training Programme	
GIM Study days	Required	4	Year of Training	Teaching Attendance
GIM Year	Required	6	Year of Training	
Non-GIM Years (Years 1-3)	Required	3	Year of Training	
Specialty Study Days				Teaching Attendance
Non-GIM Years (Years 1-3)	Required	4	Year of Training	
Years 4+	Required	4	Year of Training	
Participation at In-house activities minimum of 1 per month from the categories below:				Attendance at Hospital Based Learning
Grand Rounds (minimum of 2 per month)	Required	20	Year of Training	
Other including:				
Seminars or lectures	Required	8	Year of Training	
Radiology Conference	Desirable	6	Year of Training	
MDT Meetings	Required	12	Year of Training	
Pathology Conference	Required	4	Year of Training	

Curriculum Requirement	Required/Desirable	Minimum Requirement	Reporting Period	Form Name
Journal club	Required	10	Year of Training	
Kidney club	Required	3	Year of Training	
Examinations				
ASN ITE	Required	2	Training Programme	Examinations
ASN NephSAP online multiple-choice continuous assessment questions	Required	5	Year of Training	
European Specialty Exam in Nephrology (ESENeph)	Desirable	1	Training Programme	
Delivery of Teaching (minimum 2 formal teaching session per month)	Required	20	Year of Training	Additional Professional Experience
Lecture	Required	5	Year of Training	
Tutorial	Required	5	Year of Training	
Bedside Teaching	Required	10	Year of Training	
Audit activities and Reporting (1 per year either to start or complete, Quality Improvement (QI) projects can be uploaded against audit)	Required	1	Every two years	Audit & QI
Publications	Desirable	1	Year of Training	Additional Professional Experience
Presentations (national or international meetings)	Desirable	1	Year of Training	Additional Professional Experience
Attendance at national/international meetings	Required	1	Year of Training	Additional Professional Experience
Research: presentation at national or international meeting	Desirable	1	Training Programme	
Research: publication	Desirable	1	Training Programme	

Curriculum Requirement	Required/Desirable	Minimum Requirement	Reporting Period	Form Name
Additional Qualifications	Desirable	1	Year of Training	Additional Professional Experience
Committee attendance	Required	1	Year of Training	Additional Professional Experience
Section 4 - Assessments				
DOPS				Procedures, Skills, & DOPS
Insertion of temporary haemodialysis catheter	Required	1	Training Programme	
Renal biopsy	Desirable	1	Training Programme	
Ultrasound scanning	Desirable	2	Training Programme	
General Internal Medicine DOPS				Procedures, Skills, & DOPS
BIPAP/CPAP	Required	1	Training Programme	
Communication e.g. chairing care planning meeting for complex discharge, procedure consent	Required	1	Training Programme	
DC cardioversion	Required	1	Training Programme	
ECG interpretation	Required	1	Training Programme	
Joint aspiration	Required	1	Training Programme	
Lumbar puncture	Required	1	Training Programme	
Abdominal paracentesis under ultrasound	Desirable	1	Training Programme	
Femoral venous line placement under ultrasound	Desirable	1	Training Programme	
Pleural aspiration under ultrasound	Desirable	1	Training Programme	

Curriculum Requirement	Required/Desirable	Minimum Requirement	Reporting Period	Form Name
CBD	Required	4	Year of Training	Case Based Discussion
Mini-CEX	Required	4	Year of Training	Mini CEX
Observed Consultant Ward Round	Required	1	Years 3 and 4	Observed Consultant Ward Round
Quarterly Assessments/End-of-Post Assessments	Required	4	Year of Training	Quarterly Assessments/End-of-Post Assessments
End of Year Evaluation	Required	1	Year of Training	End of Year Evaluation