



Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis Medical Council

STANDARDS FOR TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED FOR THE GRANTING OF A CERTIFICATE OF EXPERIENCE TO AN INTERN

These standards have been drawn up in fulfilment of the Medical Council's responsibilities under Part 10 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 to specify and publish in the prescribed manner the standards for training and experience for interns which is required for the granting of a certificate of experience (section 88 (3) (d)).

Standard 1: Rotations

Training and experience must comply with the Medical Council's policy on length of internship and approved rotations; that is, a minimum of a total of twelve months, which should normally be consecutive, of which at least three months must be spent in Medicine in general and at least three months in Surgery in general. As part of this twelve-month period, an intern may also be employed for not less than two months and not more than four months in the following specialties:

- Emergency Medicine
- General Practice
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Paediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Anaesthesia (to include perioperative medicine)
- Radiology

Standard 2: Accreditation

The training site must be affiliated with a medical school and/or a postgraduate training body/network and/ or health system which is accredited by the relevant regulator. The responsible body for organising, coordinating, managing and assessing the training setting and the training process on the site must be clearly identified.

Standard 3: Content of training

The intern year must comprise a combination of formal and informal training in an integrated manner, including theoretical learning, and practical training during service delivery. There must be:

- Practice-based training involving the intern's personal participation, at an appropriate level, in the services and responsibilities of patient-care activity, in the training institution
- Personal participation by the intern at a level appropriate to their growing competence in all medical activities relevant to their training, including on-call duties

- Regular opportunities for the intern to exercise responsibility and clinical decision-making appropriate to their growing competency, skills, knowledge and experience
- Regular opportunities for the intern to work as an integral part of a team composed of a variety of disciplinary backgrounds
- Regular, pre-arranged/scheduled formal education and training sessions
- Evidence that the content of training and syllabus / curriculum is consistent with the eight domains of good professional practice as adopted by the Medical Council.

Standard 4: Supervision

There must be effective overarching supervision of the intern's training and clinical practice by an identified clinician(s) of appropriately senior level, normally a specialist doctor who is recognised as a specialist by the relevant regulatory authority of the host country. The intern's clinical practice should always be appropriately supervised by a medical practitioner of at least SHO level or equivalent.

Standard 5: Assessment

There must be evidence of regular and constructive feedback and assessment by the supervisor/trainer who has knowledge of the intern's development and performance and can verify their satisfactory progress. The supervisor/trainer must meet any requirements set by the Medical Council regarding the policy and process of final assessment and sign-off.

The intern must achieve a satisfactory performance in any assessment required by or administered by Council. This includes any assessment of communication skills required by or administered by Council. If, in a jurisdiction outside Ireland, there is an exit examination or other summative assessment at the end of the intern year, the intern must pass it.

Standard 6: Professionalism

The training environment must emphasise professionalism and the development and maintenance of the relevant knowledge, skills, attitude and behaviour, including communication skills, integrity, compassion, honesty, adherence to professional codes, respect for patients and their families, colleagues and self-care. The intern must be aware of, and comply with, the Medical Council's *"Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Medical Practitioners"*, and the training should support these ethical standards.

Standard 7: Resources

The training site must have:

- Access to a sufficient number of patients and case mix so as to provide exposure to a broad range of clinical cases appropriate to the rotation.
- Space and opportunity for private study and access to a library with adequate and up to date books and journals, including on-line access to standard library databases for journal access and literature searches.

The number of interns on a site should be appropriate to the resources of that site, including its staffing at all levels while at the same time having due regard for patient care and comfort.

The training site must emphasise the primacy of patient safety, and interns must be encouraged to raise concerns about ethical issues, should they arise, with their mentor, clinical supervisor and/or the hospital authorities. The intern must have access to appropriate advice and counselling should it be required.

**Approved by the Medical Council
9th September 2010**

and

**Revised by the Medical Council
14th April 2011**