



Comhairle na
nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council

Intern Inspection of Children's Health Ireland (CHI) - Tallaght.

5th March 2026

About the Medical Council

The Medical Council's remit is patient safety, and the Medical Council is the regulatory body for doctors in Ireland. The Council is comprised of 25 members (13 non-medical and 12 medical members). The Medical Council maintains the Register of Medical Practitioners in the Republic of Ireland.

The Medical Council has a statutory role in protecting the public by promoting the highest professional standards amongst doctors practising in Ireland. The Medical Council sets the standards for medical education and training. It oversees lifelong learning and skills development throughout doctors' professional careers through its professional competence requirements. It is charged with promoting good medical practice. The Medical Council is also where the public may make a complaint against a doctor.

Context for Intern Inspections

As part of the Medical Council's regulatory and quality assurance role, the Medical Council sets and monitors adherence to standards for education and training as set out in Medical Practitioners Act 2007.



For Intern clinic training sites, the standards for education and training are set out in the [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)).

The Medical Council monitors compliance and adherence to these standards via site inspections and our monitoring processes.

Inspection Report – Children’s Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght

Date of Inspection: 5th March 2026
Location: Children’s Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 NR0A.

Inspection Team Details

Assessor Team: Mr Graham Knowles (Chair)
Dr Andrew Gilliland
Executive support: Ms Frances Omole – Quality Assurance Manager
Ms Zoë Trevaskis - Head of Postgraduate and Professional Competence)

Inspection considerations and decision-making process:

The assessor team considered all documentation submitted by Children’s Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght, the self-evaluation form and the supporting documentation received prior to the visit. Additionally, information and explanations provided by the site supervisor, the Operations Lead from the Dublin Southeast Intern Network (DSE), Intern Network Coordinator, the interns themselves were considered when assessing the clinical training site’s compliance with Medical Council Standards for Training and Experience Required for the Granting of a Certificate of Experience to an Intern.

A level of compliance is applied to each standard based on documentation reviewed as mentioned above, information gathered from interviews and the facilities inspection. The varying levels of compliance that can be allocated to each standard are highlighted below.

Recommendations and Commendations can be offered based on the compliance rating and any general observations by the Team following the inspection visit.

Level of Compliance for each Standard can be rated as:

Non- compliance (NC)



Partial compliance (PC)



Full compliance (FC)



Standard 1: Rotations

Which category of interns did you meet?

Surgery in general	☐	Medicine in general	☒	Emergency Medicine	☐
General Practice	☐	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	☐	Paediatrics	☒
Anaesthesia (to include peri-operative medicine)	☐	Radiology	☐	Psychiatry	☐

Duration of Rotation:

Criteria	FC/PC/NC
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.	FC
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) and Radiology.	FC
Assessor Comments: Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 1 – Rotations. - The assessor team noted that the current intern Medicine & Paediatrics rotation is for 3 months at Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght. - The intern's rotation falls within the Medicine in General & Paediatrics specialties. Recommendations: - Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght on Standard 1. Commendations: - There are no commendations for this standard.	

Standard 2: Accreditation

Criteria	FC/PC/NC
The training site must be affiliated with a Medical School and/or a PGTB/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.	FC
Assessor Comments: Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 2 – Accreditation. 1. The hospital is associated with the TCD and the Dublin Southeast Intern Network. Recommendations: - Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght on Standard 2. Commendations: - There are no commendations for this standard.	

Standard 3: Content of Training

Criteria	FC/PC/NC
1. Practice – based training involving the intern's personal participation, at an appropriate level, in the service and responsibilities of patient-care activity, in the training institution.	FC
2. Personal participation at a level (not acting "above grade") appropriate to an intern's growing competence (including not being asked to undertake clinical activities above their level of competence).	FC
3. Regular opportunities for the intern to exercise responsibility and clinical decision-making appropriate to their growing competency, skills, knowledge and experience.	FC
4. Regular opportunities to work as an integral part of a team with a variety of disciplinary backgrounds.	FC
5. Regular, pre-arranged/ scheduled formal education and training sessions.	FC
6. 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.	FC
7. Does this site provide training delivered in an integrated manner to include theoretical learning and practical training during service delivery?	FC

Assessor Comments:

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 3 – Content of Training.

1. Following conversations with the interns and supervisors it was clear that personal participation of the interns at the clinical training site was at the appropriate level, in terms of service delivery and the responsibilities for patient-care. Interns receive training sessions in clinical skills, phlebotomy, a period of shadowing their clinical supervisor which consisted of a medicine induction, a week-long Paediatrics induction, tour of the hospital and a lab systems induction. They felt well supported from the start of their rotation and were welcomed into their respective teams and given support throughout.
2. The interns at this site advised they act at a grade appropriate to their growing competence. As there is usually one intern in each rotation, their autonomy in seeing patients is assessed on a case-by-case basis by the Clinical Supervisor, with interns reporting more autonomy and consulting independently, while still under supervision, by the second week.
3. The interns advised the assessor team that they feel their paediatrics internship progressed well. They each began their rotation with a 14 days-long induction provided by the clinical supervisor in CHI Tallaght, which includes highlighting the training & education responsibilities, their clinical responsibilities, and their responsibilities as an employee.
4. The interns spoke very highly of the formal opportunities to work as an integral part of a team with a variety of disciplinary backgrounds. The assessor team noted that Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght tries to maximise these opportunities providing interns with the opportunity to collaborate in research projects, as well as working closely with the nursing staff. The interns particularly noted the Diabetes training they received from the Diabetes Nurse Practitioner as positively impactful.

Due to the absence of funded on-call activity within Paediatrics, interns participate in on-call duties in General Surgery at TUH under a buddy system during their rotation at CHI Tallaght. As the site is co-located with TUH, interns are already integrated into the TUH clinical environment and work closely with TUH staff. This arrangement provides interns with the opportunity to gain experience in paid on-call work within a supported setting, while mitigating some of the risks associated with paediatric surgical on-call duties. The assessor team was positively impressed by the weekly simulation training at Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght and encourage the hospital to continue to develop these facilities.

5. The interns and supervisor stated there are regular education and training sessions with protected teaching and study time, with the interns attending didactic talks on Tuesdays and Fridays at lunchtime as part of their DSE Intern teaching programme. This conflicts with some of the city-wide CHI training, but the interns are welcome to attend both based on their availability. There are additional CHI teaching opportunities at CHI Tallaght, currently on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, that do not conflict with the Intern teaching programme and the Paediatric Interns are

available and welcome to attend. Intern attendance at teaching sessions is tracked and monitored and attendance feedback is provided to interns in case of non-compliance with the attendance rate of 70%, as set by the Intern Network. Invaluable daily and weekly informal learning also occurs due to the one-to-one nature of the supervisory relationships in place for the interns.

6. There was evidence that the content of training and curriculum is consistent with the Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice. Specifically, at induction Interns receive training and coaching on skills such as communication, open disclosure, and patient safety.
7. Theoretical learning and practical training during service delivery happens on an on-going basis. The Clinical Supervisor and Specialist Registrars on-site usually facilitate case-based discussions with the interns after visitation rounds to widen the intern's clinical experience and exposure.

Recommendations:

- Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght on Standard 3.

Commendations

- Commendation for the strong support provided to interns. Interns described receiving a combination of formal, informal, structured, ad hoc, and situation-specific guidance from their supervisor. This approach contributes to a supportive learning environment in which interns feel adequately supervised and well supported in their current training and future medical development.

Standard 4: Supervision

Criteria	FC/PC/NC
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.	FC
Assessor Comments: Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 4 – Supervision. 1. It was felt that the interns at Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght are adequately supervised, with overarching supervision from the supervisor on-site, as well as day-to-day supervision from other SPRs in the hospital. Recommendations: ▪ Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght on Standard 4. Commendations	

- There are no commendations for this standard.

Standard 5: Assessment

Criteria	FC/PC/NC
1. 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.	FC
2. The supervisor/trainer must meet any requirements set by the Medical Council regarding the policy and process of final assessment and sign-off.	FC
Assessor Comments: Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 5 – Assessment. 1. The interns advised the assessor team that there is a lot of informal feedback taking place on the wards and during check-in meetings. A formative feedback session takes place between the 1st and 2nd rotation, giving the interns a chance to check in on their progress and training experience to date, address any concerns whilst also providing an opportunity for the interns to informally offer feedback on their posts and experience. 2. The supervisor and the interns are aware that there is a formal sign-off process, and this has been provided to the supervisor by the Intern Network. End of rotation assessment forms are completed by the Clinical Supervisor in the company of the Intern in a meeting at the end of each rotation. These forms are then countersigned by the Intern Tutor. Recommendations: ▪ Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght on Standard 5. Commendations ▪ There are no commendations for this standard.	

Standard 6: Professionalism

Criteria	FC/PC/NC
1. 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.	FC

2. 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.	FC
Assessor Comments: Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 6 – Professionalism. 1. The interns and supervisor at Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght advised that training around Professionalism is ongoing for Interns and takes place at six to eight weekly intervals. Topics include physician health, professionalism, ethics, careers workshop, effective communication, medico-legal training. Furthermore, the current and previous interns at Tallaght stated they feel confident in the process for raising any issues or concerns. 2. The interns are aware of the Medical Council's "Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Medical Practitioners", and the training supports these ethical standards. Recommendations: - Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght on Standard 6. Commendations: - There are no commendations for this standard.	

Standard 7: Resources for Interns

Criteria	FC/PC/NC
1. 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.	FC
2. 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.	FC
3. 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.	FC
4. 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.	FC
Assessor Comments:	

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 7 – Resources for Interns.

1. The interns have a sufficient patient case-mix of acute general paediatric issues (Infections, respiratory, gastrointestinal) and specialist services in diabetes, endocrinology, respiratory, child development and complex care at CHI Tallaght.
2. The interns have appropriate space and opportunity for private study. All Interns are registered to the Trinity College Dublin college system and have access to Trinity libraries both online and in person for continuous self-directed learning. The resources at CHI - Tallaght, include access to the hospital library on-site which is open Monday to Thursday 9am to 5.30pm and 9am to 4pm on Fridays, and includes access to ten IT workstations, each equipped with a computer and internet access. Outside of these hours, there are several meeting rooms available for reading and study space, all with video conferencing facilities, as well as a large lecture hall & board room.
3. There were three interns on-site at the time of the inspection, one on their current rotation in paediatrics, and two interns from the previous rotation. The supervisor on site did reference that this Academic Track Intern Post is highly sought-after, given the good experience and support provided as well as the opportunities for mentorship and career development to those interns interested in pursuing a specialty in Paediatrics. In addition to the opportunity to publish research or contribute to health management projects. The assessor team were satisfied with the training resources provided to interns at CHI -Tallaght.
4. Interns at CHI - Tallaght reported they feel confident in their understanding of how to escalate concerns and raise issues related to patient safety and ethical practice. They indicated that, in addition to their clinical supervisor, they have access to support from both the Intern Tutor and the Surgical Tutor. Interns stated that their primary point of contact in the event of a concern would be their clinical supervisor; however, they are also aware of alternative escalation pathways should this not be appropriate, including escalation to lead NCHDs, the Intern Training Network, and hospital management.

Recommendations:

- Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght on Standard 7.
- **Commendations** There are no commendations for this standard.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION AND THE INSPECTION VISIT

General observations:

CHI – Tallaght, is a Model 3 Hospital situated within Dublin Southeast Intern Network. There are 85 Consultants and over 950 Whole-Time Employees NCHD's. The hospital is comprised of an emergency care unit, children's x-ray, children's outpatient's department, children's operating theatre and three wards. There is a dedicated library on-site for interns, with

computer access, as well as several meetings' rooms, all with video conferencing facilities, as well as a lecture theatre, conference hall, board room etc. Interns and have access to a shared break room in the second ward with lockers and storage space for their personal belongings. There is a hospital cafeteria on the lower ground, as well as a student-only cafeteria on the last floor.

All seven intern standards were deemed to be fully compliant; therefore, recommendations have not been issued for intern training in CHI at Tallaght. The recommendation is that CHI - Tallaght continue to be approved as a site for intern training.

Recommendations:

Based on full compliance with all standards, there are no recommendations.

Commendations:

Standard 3: Content of Training

Commendation for the strong support provided to interns. Interns described receiving a combination of formal, informal, structured, ad hoc, and situation-specific guidance from their supervisor. This approach contributes to a supportive learning environment in which interns feel adequately supervised and well supported in their current training and future medical development.

DECLARATION

The Clinical Site at Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght was inspected on 5th March 2026 for the purposes of:

- **Satisfying the Medical Council that Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght setting meets acceptable intern training standards. (49 (3)(b)) MPA 2007**
- **Monitoring adherence to guidelines on medical education and training for interns and standards for training and experience required for the granting of a certificate of experience. (88(3)(e)) MPA 2007**

It is recommended that Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 NR0A, be approved by the Medical Council as the site:

Is compliant with the standards for training and experience required for the granting of a certificate of experience to an Intern.

END.