



**Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis**  
**Medical Council**



**Report on the Inspection of GPs at  
Tallaght Cross – Dublin.**

**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**



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**Medical Council**



# Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis Medical Council

## 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 Council maintains the Register of Medical Practitioners in the Republic of Ireland. The Register lists all doctors who are legally permitted to carry out medical work in Ireland.

The Medical Council has a statutory role in protecting the public by promoting the highest professional standards amongst doctors practising in Ireland. The 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 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 Council monitors compliance and adherence to these standards via site inspections and monitoring processes.





## INSPECTION REPORT – GPS AT TALLAGHT CROSS.

Date of Inspection: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

Location: GPs at Tallaght Cross, 3rd Floor, Russell Centre, Tallaght Cross West,  
Tallaght, Dublin 24

### Inspection Team

Assessor Team: Professor Mary O’Sullivan (Chair)  
Dr Ailis Ni Riain

Executive support: Ms Sarah Jane Bowen - Inspections Manager  
Mr Cormac Glynn- Quality Assurance Executive

### Inspection considerations and decision-making process:

The assessor team considered all documentation submitted by GPs at Tallaght Cross, the self-evaluation form and supporting documentation received prior to the visit. Additionally, information and explanations provided by the supervisors and interns at the site was reviewed when assessing the clinical training site’s compliance with Medical Council Standards for Training and Experience. This is required for the Granting of a Certificate of Experience to an Intern.

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

Recommendation 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)





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## Standard 1: Rotations

Which category of interns did you meet?

|                    |                                     |                          |                          |                    |                          |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Surgery in general | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Medicine in general      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Emergency Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| General Practice   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Obstetrics & Gynaecology | <input type="checkbox"/> | Paediatrics        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Anaesthesia        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Radiology                | <input type="checkbox"/> | Psychiatry         | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Duration of Rotation:** 3 months

| Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | FC/ PC /NC |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. 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         |
| 2. 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         |
| <b>Assessor Comments</b><br>GPs at Tallaght Cross was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 1 – Rotations.<br><br>1. The visiting assessor team noted that the current intern's rotation was for 3 months at GPs at Tallaght Cross. Another intern will follow and complete a 3-month placement at GPs at Tallaght Cross.<br>2. The intern rotation falls within the General Practice speciality.<br><br><b>Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for GPs at Tallaght Cross on Standard 1.</li></ul><br><b>Commendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There are no commendations for this standard.</li></ul> |            |



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## Standard 2: Accreditation

| Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | FC/ PC /NC |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. 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         |
| <b>Assessor Comments</b><br>GPs at Tallaght Cross was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 2 – Accreditation. GPs at Tallaght Cross is associated with Trinity College Dublin and Dublin Southeast Intern Network.                                                                               |            |
| <b>Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for GPs at Tallaght Cross on Standard 2.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                    |            |
| <b>Commendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There are no commendations for this standard.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |            |

## 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         |
| <b>Assessor Comments:</b><br>GPs at Tallaght Cross was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 3 – Content of Training.                                                              |            |



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1. Based on conversations with both the intern and the supervising GP, it was clear that personal participation was at the appropriate level, in terms of service and responsibilities of patient-care activity.
2. The intern at this site advised they practice at a grade appropriate to their growing competence.
3. The intern advised the assessor team that they feel they are progressing well. The intern advised they started this rotation by shadowing the supervising GP and now see patients by themselves. The intern takes patient vitals, patient history and then presents the patient to the supervising GP. Should clinical tasks arise from the consultation, the supervising GP assigns the intern to these tasks. They take bloods, fit blood pressure monitors, ECGs, etc. Should the intern have a query regarding a patient, they can message the supervising doctor on the practice management system.
4. The supervising GP on-site advised that they work closely with the intern at the practice. The intern also completes on-call at Tallaght University Hospital and visits the second site GP practice located at Jobstown each Friday morning, and some Wednesday mornings.
5. The intern stated that there are regular education and training sessions with protected teaching time provided on-site at Tallaght University Hospital every Tuesday and Friday at 2pm, with appropriate time given by the practice for the commute. Daily informal learning also occurs due to the nature of the supervisory relationship in place for the intern.
6. There was evidence that the content of training is in line with the Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice.
7. The supervising GP on-site has case-based discussions with the intern, and the intern receives individual teaching from the doctors and nurses on-site, and the teaching is provided in an integrated manner which includes theoretical learning and practical training during service delivery. The team would like to note that the intern has a weekly schedule, and this includes a named senior clinician who supervises them for each individual session.

### Recommendations

- Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for GPs at Tallaght Cross on Standard 3.

### Commendations

- There are no commendations for this standard.

## Standard 4: Supervision

| Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | FC/ PC /NC |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. 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         |
| <b>Assessor Comments:</b><br>GPs at Tallaght Cross was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 4 – Supervision.                                                                                                                                                   |            |
| 1. It was felt that the intern at GPs at Tallaght Cross is adequately supervised, with overarching supervision from the supervising GP on-site, as well as day-to-day supervision from other staff                                                                                      |            |



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members at the practice. It was clear if the supervising GP is away from the office there is always a designated GP to supervise the intern.

### Recommendations

- Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for GPs at Tallaght Cross 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:

GPs at Tallaght Cross was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 5 – Assessment.

- It was felt that the intern at GPs at Tallaght Cross is adequately assessed, with regular and constructive feedback and assessment from the supervisor.
- The supervising GP is aware that there is a formal sign-off process for the intern at the end of each rotation. The supervising GP advised the assessor team that this is the first time the practice had taken a GP intern. In that context, the supervising GP would have found some formal preparation helpful. Such preparation might include discussion around the expectations for interns when completing the sign-off form. It was noted by the assessor team that there is no capacity to provide some detail around the context of the GP practice where the intern is working or/and the level of intern at the practice (e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> rotation). This would help to contextualise the rating given by the supervisor under each competency in the sign-off form. Such background information is a valuable assessment tool for each supervisor, Intern Network and intern.

### Recommendations

- Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for GPs at Tallaght Cross 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 | FC       |



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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
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| professional codes, respect for patients and their families, colleagues, and self-care.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |    |
| 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 |
| <b>Assessor Comments:</b><br>GPs at Tallaght Cross was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 6 – Professionalism.<br><br>1. The supervising GP and intern on-site at GPs at Tallaght Cross advised that tutorials around Professionalism happen organically through interaction with patients, and this is not formalised.<br><br>2. The intern was aware of the Medical Council's "Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Medical Practitioners", and the training supports the awareness of these ethical standards.<br><br><b>Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for GPs at Tallaght Cross on Standard 6.</li></ul><br><b>Commendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There are no commendations for this standard.</li></ul> |    |

### 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       |
| <b>Assessor Comments:</b><br>GPs at Tallaght Cross was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 7 – Resources for Interns.<br><br>1. The intern advised they have a sufficient case-mix of patients                                                                                                      |          |



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2. The intern has appropriate space and opportunity for private study. The intern has their own room for patient consultations.
3. There was one intern on-site at the time of the inspection, and another intern will join the practice for the remaining rotation of the intern year. There is an appropriate level of resource for the site to provide safe patient care.
4. The intern was aware of whom to reach out to for any cause for concern, they would contact the intern tutor at the hospital, or contact the Intern Network Co-ordinator.

### Recommendations

- Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for GPs at Tallaght Cross on Standard 7.

### Commendations

- There are no commendations for this standard.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION AND THE INSPECTION VISIT.

### General observations:

GPs at Tallaght Cross is an urban practice, comprising of 4.5 whole time equivalent doctors; 1 GP trainee; 4 whole time equivalent administrative staff members. The practice facility is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of a large primary care centre, with rooms for each doctor and the intern. There is a large waiting room opposite and reception area.

### Recommendations:

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

### Commendations:

- There are no commendations.

## DECLARATION

The Clinical Site at GPs at Tallaght Cross, 3rd Floor, Russell Centre, Tallaght Cross West, Tallaght, Dublin 24 on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 for the purposes of:

- Satisfying the Council that GPs at Tallaght Cross 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 GPs at Tallaght Cross, 3rd Floor, Russell Centre, Tallaght Cross West, Tallaght, Dublin 24 be approved by the Council as the site:



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- Is complaint with the standards for training and experience required for the granting of a certificate of experience to an Intern.
  - Adheres to the relevant Guidelines on Medical Education and Training for Interns
-