



Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council



**Report on the Inspection of
Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre, Co
Clare**

21st November 2023



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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 –BALLYVAUGHAN PRIMARY CARE CENTRE, CO CLARE

Date of Inspection: 21st November 2023
Location: Ballyvaughan, Co Clare

Inspection Team Details

Assessor Team: Professor John Jenkins (Chair)
Mr Graham Knowles

Executive support: Ms Sarah Jane Bowen - Inspections Manager
Mr Sam Kendlin Hobbs - Professional Development Programme Manager

Inspection considerations and decision-making process:

The assessor team considered all documentation submitted by Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre, the self-evaluation form and supporting documentation received prior to the visit. Additionally, information and explanations provided by the supervisors and trainers and interns at the site 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 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	☐	Medicine in general	☐	Emergency Medicine	☐
General Practice	☒	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	☐	Paediatrics	☐
Anaesthesia	☐	Radiology	☐	Psychiatry	☐

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
Assessor Comments Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 1 – Rotations. - The visiting assessor team noted that the current intern's GP rotation was for 3 months at the Centre. The intern to follow will also complete a 3-month placement. - The intern rotation falls within the General Practice speciality. All interns completing a general practice rotation at Ballyvaughan Primary Care are completing the Academic Track. This means that the interns at Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre spend 40% of their time on-site performing clinical work, and 60% working on their research project. Recommendations - Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre on Standard 1. Commendations - There are no commendations for this standard.	



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
Assessor Comments Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 2 – Accreditation. The Centre is associated with University of Limerick and Midwest Intern Network.	
Recommendations Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre 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:

Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 3 – Content of Training.

1. Based on conversations with both the intern and the supervisor, it was clear that personal participation was at the appropriate level, in terms of service and responsibilities for patient-care activity. The intern felt well supported from the start of their rotation to the present time. They were welcomed into the practice and given support throughout.
2. The intern at this site advised that they act at a grade appropriate to their growing competence.
3. The intern advised the assessor team that they feel they are progressing well. At the commencement of the rotation, the intern was shown the IT system and where the supplies are kept in the practice. They have progressed and now see patients themselves, triaging these patients for the GP they are allocated that day. They take the patient history and perform an examination. They then develop a diagnosis and management plan, which is always discussed with the doctor. The intern can prescribe medication. The prescription on a patient file will issue a notification to the supervisor on their computer. The supervisor then reviews the prescription and after discussion with the intern will approve the prescription if appropriate and the prescription is then sent to the pharmacy for the patient.
4. The intern on-site advised that they work closely with the doctors working the same day as they are at the practice, but also have interactions with the Public Health Nurse and the Physiotherapist and can discuss patients with them. The intern informed the team that doctors invite them to assist whilst they carry out minor procedures, such as cauterising a nosebleed, knee injections etc. The intern also mentioned that there has been one Medical Student from University of Galway on-site with them, and that they enjoy teaching this student and discuss interesting patients with them.
5. The intern stated that there are regular education and training sessions with protected teaching time provided by University of Limerick via Zoom and that these take place at lunchtime. There is daily informal learning also occurring due to the nature of the supervisory relationship in place for the intern.
6. The intern referenced the content of training being in line with the Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice.
7. The supervisor on-site has case-based discussions with the intern, and the intern receives individual teaching from the supervisor.

Recommendations

- Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre on Standard 3.

Commendations

- The team would like to comment Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre on giving the intern on-site the opportunity to interface with and have opportunities to teach a 3rd Year Medical Student.



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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
Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 4 – Supervision.	
1. It was felt that the intern at Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre is adequately supervised, with overarching supervision from the supervisors on-site, as well as day-to-day supervision from other staff members at the practice and the GP Registrar.	
Recommendations Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre 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
Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 5 – Assessment.	
1. It was felt that the intern at Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre is adequately assessed, with regular and constructive feedback and assessment from the supervisor.	
2. The named supervisor is aware that there is a formal sign-off process and will discuss this process with the Intern Network Co-ordinator as the named supervisor is not the day-to-day supervisor. It may be more appropriate for another doctor at the practice to complete this.	
Recommendations Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre on Standard 5.	
Commendations There are no commendations for this standard.	



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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
Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 6 – Professionalism. 1. The supervisor on-site at Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre advised that tutorials around Professionalism happen organically, and this is not formalised. 2. The intern is 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 Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre 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



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Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 7 – Resources for Interns.

1. The intern advised they have a sufficient case-mix and they are assigned patients from the staff at front of house under the supervision of the GPs.
2. The intern has appropriate space and opportunity for private study.
3. There was one intern on-site at the time of the inspection, and the remaining rotation will also see one intern per rotation. There is an appropriate level of resources for the site to provide safe patient care.
4. The intern was aware of whom to reach out to regarding any cause for concern and they would contact the Intern Network Co-ordinator if they felt it was required.

Recommendations

- Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre on Standard 7.

Commendations

- There are no commendations for this standard.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION AND THE INSPECTION VISIT.

General observations

Ballyvaughan Primary Care is a rural general practice, with 4 doctors: 2.2 FTE; 1 GP trainee; and 3 administrative staff - 2.0 FTE.

All interns completing a general practice rotation at Ballyvaughan Primary Care are completing the Academic Track. This means that the interns at Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre spend 40% of their time on-site performing clinical work, and 60% working on their research project.

To note, this practice will only have interns for 2 out of the 4 potential rotations.

Recommendations

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

Commendations

Standard 3: Content of Training:

- The team would like to commend Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre on giving the intern on-site the opportunity to interface with and have opportunities to teach a 3rd Year Medical Student.



DECLARATION

I have inspected this Clinical Site at *Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre, Ballyvaughan, Co Clare* on 21st November 2023 for the purposes of:

- **Satisfying the Council that Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre 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**

My recommendation is that Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre

Be approved by the 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.
 - Adheres to the relevant Guidelines on Medical Education and Training for Interns
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