



Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council



**Report on the Inspection of Primary
Care Centre, Dromahair, Co Leitrim**

25th October 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 – PRIMARY CARE CENTRE, DROMAHAIR

Date of Inspection: 25th October 2023

Location: Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, Co Leitrim F91 VX2F

Inspection Team Details

Assessor Team: Professor John Jenkins (Chair)
Ms Ger Feeney

Executive support: Ms Aoise O'Reilly – Quality Assurance Manager
Ms Sarah Jane Bowen - Inspections Manager

Inspection considerations and decision-making process:

The assessor team considered all documentation submitted by Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, 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 Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 1 – Rotations. 1. The visiting assessor team noted that the current intern's GP rotation was for 3 months at Primary Care Centre, Dromahair. The intern to follow will also complete a 3-month placement at Primary Care Centre, Dromahair. 2. The intern rotation falls within the General Practice speciality. Recommendations - Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, 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 Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 2 – Accreditation. Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, is associated with University of Galway and West/Northwest Intern Network.	
Recommendations Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, 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:

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

- 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 of patient-care activity. The intern felt well supported from the start of their rotation to their current position. They were welcomed into the practice and given support throughout.
- The intern at this site advised they act at a grade appropriate to their growing competence.
- The intern advised the assessor team that they feel they are progressing well. They started this rotation three weeks ago, and they began with shadowing the supervisor. They have progressed and now have their own patient list, where patients are selected from the practice list by the supervising GP. The intern triages these patients for the supervising GP, takes bloods, etc. 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 appropriately assigned. The intern also disclosed they come-up with patient management plans and the plans are discussed with the supervisor prior to finalising next steps with the patients.
- The intern on-site advised that they work closely with the supervising doctor at the practice and have the opportunity to shadow them, but also have frequent interactions with the GP Registrar. The intern informed the team that the practice nurses invite them to shadow whilst they carry out minor procedures, Cryotherapy, Venesections, etc. The intern also completes a 1 in 7 on-call rota at Sligo General Hospital.
- The intern stated that there are regular education and training sessions with protected teaching time provided by University of Galway via Zoom. The rota changes every week, and the sessions take place at lunchtime. There is daily informal learning also occurring due to the nature of the supervisory relationship in place for the intern. The practice also closes each Thursday afternoon, and this gives the intern opportunity to study.
- The intern referenced the content of training being in line with the Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice. The intern further advised that the supervisor and staff at this clinical training site are conscious of them getting a well- rounded education.
- 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 Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, on Standard 3.

Commendations

- The assessor team would like to commend the supervisor at the Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, for the quality of the structured induction at the site. It was well-thought out and supported the intern's education and familiarisation at the practice.
- The team would also like to commend the Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, for the well set-out and easily accessible protocols they have created for the intern on-site.



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
Assessor Comments: Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 4 – Supervision. 1. It was felt that the intern at Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, is adequately supervised, with overarching supervision from the supervisor on-site, as well as day-to-day supervision from other staff members at the practice, such as the nurses and the GP Registrar. Recommendations - Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, 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: Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 5 – Assessment. 1. It was felt that the intern at Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, is adequately assessed, with regular and constructive feedback and assessment from the supervisor. 2. The supervisor is aware that there is a formal sign-off process but had yet to have sight of this form. Upon discussion with the Intern Network Co-ordinator, they advised they would send this sign-off form to the supervisor as a matter of urgency. Recommendations Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, on Standard 5.	



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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: Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 6 – Professionalism. 1. The supervisor on-site at Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, 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 Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, 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:

Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, 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 is assigned patients from the supervisor.
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 for any cause for concern, in the first instance it would be their supervisor, or another member of staff at the practice. The intern also advised the team they are in regular contact with the Intern Co-ordinator in Sligo General Hospital.

Recommendations

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

Commendations

- There are no commendations for this standard.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION AND THE INSPECTION VISIT.

General observations:

Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, is a rural practice, comprising of 1 doctor; 1 GP trainee; 1 Intern, 2 nurses, practice manager/ nurse and Front of House staff. The practice facility is located in a primary care centre, with rooms for each doctor and a nurse's room. The practice manager also has a private office. There is an accessible bathroom on the ground floor. There is a large waiting room opposite reception. The practice is accessible by a regular bus route from Sligo town. To note, this practice will only have interns for 2 of the 4 potential rotations, initially.

Recommendations:

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

Commendations:

Standard 3: Content of Training:

- The assessor team would like to commend the supervisor at the Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, for the quality of the structured induction at the site. It was well-thought out and supported the intern's education and familiarisation at the practice.
- The team would also like to commend the Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, for the well set-out and easily accessible protocols they have created for the intern on-site.



DECLARATION

The Clinical Site at Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, Co Leitrim F91 VX2F was inspected on 25th October 2023 for the purposes of:

- Satisfying the Council that Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, 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 Primary Care Centre, Dromahair, Co Leitrim F91 VX2F 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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