



# Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis Medical Council

## GUIDELINES ON MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR INTERNS

### 1. Statutory Context

These guidelines have been drawn up in fulfilment of the Medical Council's responsibilities under Part 10 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 to prepare and publish in the prescribed manner guidelines on medical education and training for interns (section 88(3) (b)).

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Medical Council's "*Standards for Training and Experience Required for granting of a Certificate of Experience*" ([click here](#)) and "*Part 10 rules in respect of the duties of Council in relation to Medical Education and Training (Section 88)*" ([click here](#)) (please note that Rule 3 is the relevant rule for intern training).

### 2. Type of rotation

Intern rotations must comply with the Medical Council's policy on duration of internship and approved rotations. That is, internship must comprise a minimum 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, interns 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.

### 3. Accreditation

The intern 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; in Ireland, this is the Medical Council. The responsible body for organising, coordinating, managing and assessing the training setting and the training process on the site must be clearly identified.

### 4. Education and Training

#### (a) Ethos

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.

### ***(b) Training through clinical practice***

Interns must:

- Participate in practice-based training, at an appropriate level, in the services and responsibilities of patient-care activity in the training institution
- Be exposed to a broad range of clinical cases appropriate to the rotation
- Participate in all appropriate medical activities relevant to their training, including on-call duties at an appropriate level
- Exercise the degree of responsibility and clinical decision-making appropriate to their growing competency, skills, knowledge and experience
- Work as an integral part of a team composed of a variety of disciplinary backgrounds.

### ***(c) Formal education and training***

Interns must have regular, pre-arranged/scheduled formal education and training sessions, with learning opportunities that may include lectures, small group teaching, tutorials, case presentations and case-based discussions, participation in clinical audit, and attendance at relevant external courses.

Formal training for interns must include instruction in:

- The development of clinical judgement
- Elements of safe practice, including but not limited to, infection control, prescribing, awareness of pregnancy when prescribing and informed consent.

A programme for personal professional development must be part of the intern's training year.

### ***(d) Self-directed learning***

Interns must have, and utilise, appropriate resources and opportunities for self-directed learning.

### ***(e) Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice***

The content of intern training and an intern syllabus / curriculum must be consistent with the "Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice" ([click here](#)) approved by the Medical Council.

## **5. Supervision**

There must be effective overarching supervision of the intern by an identified clinician(s) of an appropriately senior level, normally a specialist doctor who is registered as a specialist or otherwise recognised as a specialist by the relevant regulatory authority.

## **6. Assessment**

Interns must:

- Have regular and constructive feedback and assessment by a trainer / supervisor who has knowledge of the intern's development and performance and can verify their satisfactory progress
- Pass all obligatory examinations, including any exit examination or other summative assessment at the end of the intern year.
- 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.
- Pass any exit examination or other summative assessment at the end of the intern year, which is or may be set in a jurisdiction outside Ireland.

## **7. Professionalism**

Interns must:

- Respect the primacy of patient safety
- Be aware of, and comply with, the Medical Council's "*Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Medical Practitioners*", ([click here](#)) available on the Council's website.
- Raise with their supervisor or other appropriate person any ethical / personal issues that may impact on the intern's personal performance and / or patient interests and / or safety
- Adhere to the rules and regulations, policies and procedures governing the training site.

## **8. Resources**

Intern training sites must have the resources to support the education and training requirements specified in these guidelines.

**Approved by the Medical Council  
19<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

and

**Revised by the Medical Council  
14<sup>th</sup> April 2011**