



Comhairle na
nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council

Report on the Inspection of Cavan General Hospital, Lisdarn, Cavan Town, Cavan, H12 Y7W1.

4th September 2025

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 – Cavan General Hospital

Date of Inspection: 4th September 2025
Location: Cavan General Hospital, Lisdarn, Cavan Town, Cavan, H12 Y7W1

Inspection Team Details

Assessor Team: Mr Graham Knowles (Chair)
Dr Anna Clarke

Executive support: Ms Frances Omole – Professional Development Manager (Intern Programme & Clinical Learning Environments)
Mr Cormac Glynn – Professional Development Executive
Ms Debbie Chappat – Head of Undergraduate, Intern Programme & Clinical Learning Environments

Inspection considerations and decision-making process:

The assessor team considered all documentation submitted by Cavan General Hospital, the self-evaluation form and the supporting documentation received prior to the visit. Additionally, information and explanations provided by the supervisor, Operations Lead from the Dublin Northeast Intern Network, Intern Network Coordinator from the Dublin Northeast Intern Network and the 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 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: Cavan General Hospital was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 1 – Rotations. 1. The assessor team noted that the current interns Medicine & Paediatrics rotation is for 3 months at Cavan General Hospital. 2. The interns rotation falls within the Medicine in general & Paediatrics specialty. Recommendations: - Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Cavan General Hospital 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: Cavan General Hospital was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 2 – Accreditation. 1. The hospital is associated with the RCSI and the Dublin Northeast Intern Network. Recommendations: - Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Cavan General Hospital 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: Cavan General Hospital 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 and responsibilities for patient-care activity. The interns felt well	

supported from the start of their rotation. They 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.
3. The interns advised the assessor team that they feel they are progressing well. They began their rotation with a week-long induction in Beaumont Hospital, followed by an induction in Cavan General Hospital which consisted of a Medicine induction, a week-long Paediatrics induction, tour of the hospital and lab systems induction. The interns report more autonomy now compared to when they started.
4. The interns were unsure of the formal opportunities to work as an integral part of a team with a variety of disciplinary backgrounds. From speaking with the supervisor, it was evident that these opportunities were taking place. The assessor team suggest that Cavan General Hospital emphasise the Multi-Disciplinary Team opportunities that do take place and can be availed of. The assessor team suggest that Cavan General Hospital try to maximise these opportunities over the full duration of the placement including over the summer months. The interns advised that they work closely with the nursing staff. The assessor team welcome the new simulation facilities/training that is in development at Cavan General Hospital and encourage the hospital to continue to develop these facilities. The supervisor stated that if the interns wished further into their rotations to gain some experience outside of their assigned team e.g. Emergency Department, this could be facilitated
5. The interns and supervisor stated there are regular education and training sessions with protected teaching and study time, with the interns attending online lectures hosted by Beaumont Hospital at Thursday lunchtime, as well as Grand Rounds in Cavan General Hospital on Mondays, Paediatric Team teaching on Fridays etc. Invaluable daily and weekly informal learning also occurs due to the nature of the supervisory relationships in place for the interns. The interns expressed a wish for a session on transitioning back to Beaumont Hospital nearer the time of changeover.
6. There was evidence that the content of training and curriculum is consistent with the Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice.
7. Theoretical learning and practical training during service delivery happens on an on-going basis. The supervisors, the SHO's and SpR's on-site can facilitate case-based discussions with the interns at the morning meeting to widen the intern's clinical experience and exposure.

Recommendations:

- Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Cavan General Hospital 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
Assessor Comments: Cavan General Hospital was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 4 – Supervision. 1. It was felt that the interns at Cavan General Hospital are adequately supervised, with overarching supervision from the supervisor on-site, as well as day-to-day supervision from other senior doctors in the hospital. Recommendations: - Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Cavan General Hospital 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:

Cavan General Hospital 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. The assessor team suggest to Cavan General Hospital that feedback is signposted to the interns. A formal feedback session could be added.
2. The supervisor and the interns are aware that there is a formal sign-off process, and this had been provided to the supervisor by the Intern Network.

Recommendations:

- Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Cavan General Hospital 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:

Cavan General Hospital was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 6 – Professionalism.

1. The interns and supervisor at Cavan General Hospital advised that tutorials around Professionalism happen organically and this is not formalised. The assessor team suggest that Cavan General Hospital reinforce the pathways for raising issues or concerns. There is a Chair of Professionalism in RCSI that delivers teaching to the interns and fosters strong relationships with them.
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 Cavan General Hospital on Standard 6.

Commendations

- The assessor team would like to commend Cavan General Hospital as professionalism comes across very strongly from the interns and consultant supervisors.
- There appears to be a strong emphasis on open disclosure at this site.

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:

Cavan General Hospital 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 at Cavan General Hospital.
2. The interns have appropriate space and opportunity for private study. The resources at Cavan General Hospital include a dedicated library on-site with computer access. There are several meeting rooms, all with video conferencing facilities, as well as a Conference Hall & Board Room. The assessor team suggest that the intern shadowing week takes place at the site for the next intake and understand that as this was the first cohort of interns it couldn't take place on this occasion. The assessor team suggest that the site finalise the induction booklet specific to Cavan General Hospital. The assessor team suggest that Cavan General Hospital continue its work to improve Wi-Fi coverage and quality at the site, including gaining access to National Broadband Ireland.
3. There were two interns on-site at the time of the inspection. The supervisor on site did reference that they would be seeking approval for additional interns for this site, as there would be huge benefits to this, for the interns and the site. The assessor team noted this, and given the good experience and support provided, agree additional interns at Cavan General Hospital would be of benefit. The assessor team recognise that this is Cavan General Hospital's first-time taking interns, and the hospital has capacity to increase the number of interns to 10-12. As the number of intern posts increases, the assessor team suggest that the site and intern network work to increase this number. In addition, Cavan General Hospital should consider the provision of lockers for its current interns and for any increase in the future.
4. The interns would reach out to their consultant supervisor in the first instance for any cause for concern. The assessor team suggest that Cavan General Hospital reinforce the pathways to raising issues or concerns.

Recommendations:

- Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Cavan General Hospital on Standard 7.

Commendations

- There are no commendations for this standard.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION AND THE INSPECTION VISIT

General observations:

Cavan General Hospital is a Model 3 Hospital and sits within the Dublin and Northeast Regional Health Area. There are 55 Consultants and 135 WTE NCHD's. There is a dedicated library on-site for interns, and computer access. There are several meetings rooms, all with video conferencing facilities, as well as a Conference Hall, Board Room etc.

The assessor team would like to note that the supervisor on-site and Intern Network did reference that there is capacity for additional interns for this site. Given the excellent

experience and support provided in Cavan General Hospital, the assessor team agree that additional interns would be of benefit.

Recommendations:

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

Commendations:

Standard 6: Professionalism

- The assessor team would like to commend Cavan General Hospital as professionalism comes across very strongly from the interns and consultant supervisors.
- There appears to be a strong emphasis on open disclosure at this site.

DECLARATION

The Clinical Site at Cavan General Hospital was inspected on 4th September 2025 for the purposes of:

- **Satisfying the Medical Council that Cavan General Hospital 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 Cavan General Hospital, Lisdarn, Cavan Town, Cavan, H12 Y7W1, 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.**
- **Adheres to the relevant Guidelines on Medical Education and Training for Interns**

END.