



Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council



Report on the Inspection of Nenagh Hospital

19th January 2024



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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 - the Register of 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 the Republic of Ireland. The Council sets the standards for medical education and training in Ireland. 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 – NENAGH UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Date of Inspection: 19th January 2024
Location: Tyone, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, E45 PT86

Inspection Team

Assessor Team: Prof John Jenkins (Chair)
Ms Lesley Costello

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

Inspection considerations and decision-making process:

The assessor team took into account all documentation submitted by Nenagh University Hospital, the self-evaluation form and supporting documentation received prior to the visit; and the information and explanations provided by the supervisors and trainers at each site and the information provided by the Intern interviewed on 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: 4 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 Nenagh University Hospital 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 rotation was for 4 months at Nenagh University Hospital. 2. The intern rotation falls within the Medicine in General speciality.	
Recommendations ▪ Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Nenagh Hospital on Standard 1.	
Commendations ▪ There are no commendations for this standard.	



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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
Assessor Comments 1. Nenagh University Hospital was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 2 – Accreditation. The site is associated with the Royal College of Physician Ireland, University of Limerick and Midwest Intern Network.	
Recommendations ▪ Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Nenagh University 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: Nenagh University Hospital was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 3 – Content of Training.	



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1. Following conversations with both the intern and supervisors it was clear that personal participation of the intern at the clinical training site 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. They were welcomed onto the team and given support throughout.
2. The intern at this site advised they act at a grade appropriate to their growing competence and this was supported by her supervisor's comments on capabilities and progress.
3. The intern advised the assessor team that they feel they are progressing well. They began their rotation with an induction at the hospital, having started on the same day as a Senior House Officer (SHO) and Specialist Registrar (SpR). They toured the hospital and were provided with booklets which included forms for leave, hospital information, etc. The intern began the internship with 2 months of general medicine and is now completing 2 months of respiratory medicine. The intern now takes part in the clinics in the hospital, as well as undertakes procedures such as inserting catheters, placing cannulas etc. Recently, the intern removed a PICC line from a patient with support and feedback given by the SHO on the team. The intern now drafts discharge letters for patients of the hospital, and these are emailed to the supervisor for approval.
4. The intern on-site advised that they have regular opportunities to work as an integral part of a team with a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, including radiology and phlebotomy on-site, as well as the specialities based in University Hospital Limerick. For the Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings, members of the nursing staff, gastro team, respiratory team, etc give presentations which the intern can attend. The intern also interacts with Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Health Therapists and Physiotherapists.
5. The intern and supervisor stated there are regular education and training sessions with protected teaching and study time, with the intern attending online lectures hosted by University of Limerick at lunchtime and teaching from the team at Nenagh Hospital on Tuesday and Wednesday. Invaluable daily and weekly 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 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 SpRs on-site have case-based discussions with the intern to widen the intern's clinical experience and exposure.

Recommendations

- Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Nenagh University Hospital on Standard 3.

Commendations

- There are no commendations for this standard.



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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
Assessor Comments: Nenagh University Hospital was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 4 – Supervision. 1. It was felt that the intern at Nenagh University Hospital is adequately supervised, with overarching supervision from the supervisor on-site, as well as day-to-day supervision from other senior doctors at hospital. Recommendations - Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Nenagh University Hospital on Standard 4. Commendations - The assessor team would like to commend the staff at Nenagh University Hospital for the exceptional level of support provided to the intern on-site, as well as for the value they have placed on trainees by senior management and senior members of staff.	

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: Nenagh University Hospital was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 5 – Assessment. 1. It was felt that the intern at Nenagh University Hospital is adequately assessed, with regular and constructive feedback and assessment from the supervisor. The intern advised the assessor team that as the team is small, there is a lot of informal feedback taking place on the wards. 2. The supervisor and the intern are aware that there is a formal sign-off process, and this has been provided to the supervisor by the Intern Network Co-ordinator. Recommendations Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Nenagh University 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: Nenagh University Hospital was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 6 – Professionalism. 1. One supervisor on-site at Nenagh University Hospital advised that tutorials around Professionalism happen organically and this is not formalised. The supervisors on-site advised that junior doctors are empowered to take the lead with Professionalism. 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 Nenagh University Hospital 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,	FC



with their mentor, clinical supervisor and/or the hospital authorities. The intern must have access to appropriate advice and counselling should it be required.

Assessor Comments:

Nenagh University Hospital was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 7 – Resources for Interns.

1. The intern has a sufficient patient case-mix at Nenagh University Hospital.
2. The intern has appropriate space and opportunity for private study. The resources at Nenagh University Hospital include a newly refurbished residence room with internet access, fresh coffee, and space for extracurricular activities.
3. There was one intern on-site at the time of the inspection. The supervisors on-site did reference that they would be seeking approval for another intern for this site, as there would be huge benefits to this, mainly for the interns. The assessor team noted this, and given the excellent experience and support provided, as well as the disadvantages having a single intern on a site, agree additional interns at Nenagh University Hospital would be of benefit.
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. Should an issue occur with a doctor at the practice, the intern advised they would contact the Associate Program Director at the Intern Network.

Recommendations

- Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Nenagh University Hospital on Standard 7.

Commendations

- The assessor team would like to commend Nenagh University Hospital on the additional experience and specialist expertise they provide for interns, such as use of the Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) device and use of the chest drain simulator. This enhances the educational and clinical exposure the intern is receiving at this site.
- The assessor team would also like to commend the site for promotion of the University of Limerick Hospital Group NCHD App, which hosts information relating to the intern induction, details on accessing the Q Pulse System, useful telephone numbers and FAQ's, etc. This ensures the intern has instant access to documentation relating to them and can refer back to them when needed.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION AND THE INSPECTION VISIT.

General observations:

Nenagh University Hospital is a level 2 hospital and sits within the University of Limerick Hospital Group. There are 4 permanent specialist consultants, 5 Basic specialist trainee SHO's, 2 specialist trainee registrars, 5 Registrars and 4 SHO's. There is a newly refurbished residence room for interns and trainees, which includes video case conference facilities, and space for extra-curricular activities. There is a dedicated library on-site for interns, and computer access. The team at Nenagh University Hospital is planning for the roll-out of surface pro-tablets for the wards but remain waiting for Wi-Fi to be installed on-site.

The assessor team would like to note that the supervisors on-site did reference that they would be seeking approval for another intern for this site, as there would be huge benefits to this, mainly for the



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intern. The assessor team noted this, and given the excellent experience and support provided, as well as the disadvantages having a single intern on a site, agree additional interns at Nenagh University Hospital would be of benefit.

Recommendations:

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

Commendations:

Standard 4: Supervision of Training

- The assessor team would like to commend the staff at Nenagh University Hospital for the exceptional level of support provided to the intern on-site, as well as for the value they have placed on trainees by senior management and senior members of staff.

Standard 7: Resources for Interns

- The assessor team would like to commend Nenagh University Hospital on the additional experience and specialist expertise they provide for interns, such as use of the Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) device and use of the chest drain simulator. This enhances the educational and clinical exposure the intern is receiving at this site.
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DECLARATION

The Clinical Site at Nenagh University Hospital on 19th January 2024 for the purposes of:

- Satisfying the Council that Nenagh University 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 Nenagh University Hospital at Tyone, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, E45 PT86

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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