



Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council



**Report on the Inspection of Seaholm
Surgery, 10 Holmpatrick, Townparks,
Skerries, Co Dublin, K34 R942.**

8th March 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 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 – SEAHOLM SURGERY

Date of Inspection: 8th March 2024
Location: Seaholm Surgery, 10 Holmpatrick, Townparks, Skerries, Co Dublin, K34 R942

Inspection Team Details

Assessor Team: Professor Mary O’Sullivan (Chair)
Dr Ailis Ni Riain

Executive support: Ms Denise Carroll – Head of Undergraduate and Intern Programmes & Clinical Learning Environments
Ms Sarah Jane Bowen – Professional Development Manager (Intern Programme & Clinical Learning Environments)
Mr Cormac Glynn – Professional Development Executive

Inspection considerations and decision-making process:

The assessor team considered all documentation submitted by Seaholm Surgery, the self-evaluation form and supporting documentation received prior to the visit. Additionally, information and explanations provided by the supervisor and intern 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 Seaholm Surgery 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 Seaholm Surgery. Another intern is due to complete a 3-month placement at Seaholm Surgery. 2. The intern rotation falls within the General Practice speciality. Recommendations ▪ Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Seaholm Surgery on Standard 1. Commendations ▪ The assessor team would like to commend Seaholm Surgery for being so accommodating, welcoming to accept an intern in the practice at such short notice. As per the intern, their rotation at Seaholm Surgery has been a positive experience as it has been for the supervising GP.	



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 Seaholm Surgery was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 2 – Accreditation. Seaholm Surgery is associated with the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland and the Dublin Northeast Intern Network.	
Recommendations Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Seaholm Surgery 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.	PC
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.	PC
7. Does this site provide training delivered in an integrated manner to include theoretical learning and practical training during service delivery?	FC
Assessor Comments: Seaholm Surgery was found to be partially compliant in two areas relating to Standard 3 – Content of Training.	



1. Based on conversations with both the intern and the supervising GP, it was clear that professional 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.
2. The intern at this site advised they act at a grade appropriate to their growing competence.
3. The intern advised the assessor team that they feel they are progressing well. The intern advised they received an induction pack on their first day on-site. The supervising GP advised that the induction pack will be shared with the next intern in advance of their rotation. Due to taking the current intern at short notice it was not possible to share the induction pack in advance. The intern advised they started this rotation by sitting in with staff and being shown how to navigate the practice management system. They then began shadowing the supervising GP and felt they were ready to see patients after a few days. The intern sees patients and formulates a management treatment plan which is always reviewed and discussed with their supervising GP. They take bloods, fit blood pressure monitors, ECGs, etc. The intern shadows the doctors and nurses in the practice whilst they undertake procedures new to the intern, such as coil fitting, joint injections, etc.
4. The intern on-site advised that they work closely with the supervising GP at the practice, but also have frequent interactions with the other doctors and practice nurses. The intern also completes on-call at Beaumont Hospital. The team noted that the supervising GP provides care at a nursing home and attends home visits. It is suggested that opportunities are extended to the intern to participate in site visits to the nursing home and home calls. By involving the intern, it would provide them with a further opportunity to work as part of a team with a variety of multidisciplinary backgrounds. To date, no practice meetings have taken place which the intern could take part in.
5. The intern stated that there are regular education and training sessions with protected teaching time provided on-site in University College Dublin, Belfield. There is daily informal learning also occurring due to the nature of the supervisory relationship in place for the intern.
6. Upon speaking with the supervising GP on-site, it is evident there has been no formal curriculum nor syllabus provided to the intern trainer by the intern network. This does primarily lie outside the medical practice's control.
7. The supervising GP on-site has case-based discussions with the intern, and the intern receives individual teaching from the doctors and nurses on-site, and the teaching is provided in an integrated manner which includes theoretical learning and practical training during service delivery.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that Seaholm Surgery include the intern in regular Practice Meetings. By involving the intern, it would provide them with a further opportunity to work as part of a team with a variety of multidisciplinary backgrounds.
- It is recommended that Seaholm Surgery contact the Dublin Northeast Intern Network within one month of receiving this report to request the relevant resources around the Intern Curriculum to ensure full exposure to the required skillset is covered on the General Practice rotation.

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: Seaholm Surgery was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 4 – Supervision. 1. It was felt that the intern at Seaholm Surgery is adequately supervised, with overarching supervision from the supervising GP on-site, as well as day-to-day supervision from other staff members at the practice. Recommendations - Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Seaholm Surgery 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.	PC
Assessor Comments: Seaholm Surgery was found to be partially compliant in one area relating to Standard 5 – Assessment. 1. It was felt that the intern at Seaholm Surgery is adequately assessed, with informal regular and constructive feedback and assessment from the supervisor. The team felt that the intern would benefit from formal, continuous de-briefs with the supervising GP more frequently. The quality of feedback at regular intervals is noted as a positive and valuable insight for the intern's development and progression throughout their rotation. 2. Upon speaking with the supervisor at this site, it is evident that no final sign-off process has been provided, nor has there been a discussion with the Intern Network Co-ordinator around this. Recommendations It is recommended that Seaholm Surgery contact the Dublin Northeast Intern Network Coordinator for guidance in criteria to be used in completing the office sign off document within one month of receiving this report.	



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: Seaholm Surgery was found to be fully compliant in all areas relating to Standard 6 – Professionalism. 1. The supervisor and intern on-site at Seaholm Surgery advised that tutorials around Professionalism happen organically. 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 Seaholm Surgery 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:

Seaholm Surgery 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 of patients.
2. While there is no dedicated room for the intern, the practice has ensured there is a dedicated room for the intern each day through the weekly schedule. In addition, the practice has prepared a doctor's bag of instruments for the intern's use, which they house in their allocated room for that day.
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 if they had any cause for concern: in the first instance it would be their supervising GP, or the practice manager who regularly checks in with the intern. The intern was also aware they could reach out to the Faculty Coordinator of the Dublin Northeast Intern Network in case of any issues.

Recommendations

- Based on full compliance, there are no recommendations for Seaholm Surgery on Standard 7.

Commendations

- There are no commendations for this standard.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION AND THE INSPECTION VISIT.

General observations:

Seaholm Surgery is an urban practice, comprising of five doctors; one GP trainee; and seven administrative staff members. The practice is located in the town centre, and although there are limits to the physical infrastructure, there are six consultation rooms, a large nurse's room, two physiotherapists' rooms, a practice management office and an administrative office. There are two waiting rooms on the ground floor, as well as one waiting room on the first floor. There is an accessible bathroom on the ground floor and a large bathroom located on the second floor. The bathroom on the second floor has both baby-changing and shower facilities.

The team noted that the supervising GP provides care at a nursing home and attends home visits. It is suggested that opportunities are extended to the intern to participate in site visits to the nursing home and home calls. By involving the intern, it would provide them with a further opportunity to work as part of a team with a variety of multidisciplinary backgrounds.

Recommendations

Standard 3: Content of Training:



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- It is recommended that Seaholm Surgery include the intern in regular Practice Meetings. By involving the intern, it would provide them with a further opportunity to work as part of a team with a variety of multidisciplinary backgrounds.
- It is recommended that Seaholm Surgery contact the Dublin Northeast Intern Network within one month of receiving this report to attain the relevant resources around the Intern Curriculum to ensure full exposure to the required skillset is covered on the General Practice rotation.

Standard 5: Assessment

- It is recommended that Seaholm Surgery contact the Dublin Northeast Intern Network Coordinator for guidance in criteria to be used in completing the office sign off document within one month of receiving this report.

Commendations

Standard 1: Rotations

The assessor team would like to commend Seaholm Surgery for being so accommodating, welcoming to accept an intern in the practice at such short notice. As per the intern, their rotation at Seaholm Surgery has been a positive experience as it has been for the supervising GP

DECLARATION

The Clinical Site at Seaholm Surgery, 10 Holmpatrick, Townparks, Skerries, Co Dublin, K34 R942 was inspected on 8th March 2024 for the purposes of:

- Satisfying the Council that Seaholm Surgery 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 Seaholm Surgery, 10 Holmpatrick, Townparks, Skerries, Co Dublin, K34 R942 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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