



The Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine

Training Programme for Specialists in Emergency Medicine

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1. OBJECTIVES OF TRAINING

The goal of training in emergency medicine is to develop trainees into specialists who are competent to accept and exercise the highest responsibility in the field of emergency medicine. In particular, the doctor should demonstrate knowledge and skill in the

- a) recognition, resuscitation, stabilization, evaluation and care of the critically ill or injured patient;
- b) arrangement of appropriate follow-up or referral as required;
- c) prehospital care of acutely ill or injured patients;
- d) management of emergency medical system providing prehospital care;
- e) administration of emergency department;
- f) teaching of emergency medicine; and
- g) research in areas relevant to the practice of emergency medicine.

2. ENROLLMENT OF TRAINEES

- a) Trainees must be doctors who are registered with the Hong Kong Medical Council and currently working in an accredited local Emergency Department with recognised training posts.
- b) Trainees shall enroll with the College at the commencement of their training by recommendation of the training supervisors of accredited training centres where they are working.
- c) Clinical experience obtained before enrollment, whether local or overseas, shall be subjected to individual assessment by the College for the purpose of recognition as accredited training. Due considerations will be given to whether the training is supervised, relevant to emergency medicine and of comparable standard. The decision of the College shall be final.

3. STRUCTURE OF TRAINING

The training of specialist in emergency medicine should span six years. Elective rotations will be required to give the trainee a wide exposure in other disciplines of medicine of importance to the practice of emergency medicine. There are two phases of training, namely, basic training and higher training.

Basic training

Basic training must include at least one year of accredited Emergency Medicine training. Trainees may sit for the intermediate examination after 24 months of training.

Higher training

A basic trainee will become a higher trainee only if he/she has completed the basic training and passed the Intermediate Examination for Emergency Medicine or its equivalent. Higher training comprises at least 2 years of accredited training in Emergency Medicine

After at least six years of accredited training, including at least one year of mandatory rotations as stated in section 3.2, and on compliance with all the training requirements, trainees may sit the Exit Examination for Emergency Medicine. All training must be accredited by the Education Committee of the College.

3.1. 3 Years of Mandatory Training in Emergency Department

All trainees must go through three years of recognised training in accredited Emergency Department(s) of which two years must be as higher trainee after passing the intermediate examination.

The objectives of training in emergency department are to expose the trainees to wide varieties of emergencies and to equip them with the basic knowledge and skills to handle these critical events.

3.2. One Year of Mandatory Rotations

Rotations outside Emergency Department are required to give trainees a broader perspective of the practice of emergency medicine. This also gives trainees a better appreciation of interdisciplinary approach to patient care with cooperation by different specialties. This serves to lay a firm foundation for further training. Each rotation period should be at least 3 months. The rotations will include:

- a) 6 months in surgical stream drawn from the following list
 - general surgery
 - cardiothoracic surgery
 - orthopaedic surgery
 - paediatric surgery
 - plastic surgery
 - neurosurgery
 - urology
- b) 6 months in non-surgical stream drawn from the following list
 - internal medicine
 - critical care
 - intensive care
 - paediatrics

This one year mandatory rotations can be done during either basic training or higher training, but must be satisfactorily completed before sitting for the Exit Examination.

3.3. Optional Rotations outside Emergency Department

Only rotations in units accredited by the College as suitable for training will be counted. The minimum period of hospital appointment for approved training is three months.

a) Category A rotations

A maximum duration of 24 months only may be accredited by the College for the following elective rotations

- internal medicine
- paediatrics
- general surgery
- orthopaedics & traumatology

b) Category B rotations

For this category of elective rotations, a maximum of 12 months may be accredited.

- ICU
- Critical care
- CCU
- Anaesthesia
- Neurosurgery
- Urology
- Plastic surgery
- Pediatric surgery

c) Category C rotations

Only a maximum of six months may be accredited for the following rotations:

- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Psychiatry
- Research
- ENT
- Ophthalmology
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Radiology
- Toxicology
- Family Medicine
- Rehabilitation medicine
- Oncology
- Pre-hospital emergency medical service
- Administrative Medicine

Trainees with interests in other special areas not listed above should discuss with his or her supervisor and seek approval from the Education Committee.

Trainees who wish to undergo overseas attachment for longer than 3 months in fields related to emergency medicine must obtain prior approval from the Education Committee.

4. CONTENTS OF TRAINING

Contents of training should cover both knowledge and skills that are required for the management of critically ill patients. In general, the following aspects should be covered:

- a) basic sciences
- b) clinical skills
- c) review of current literature
- d) communication skills
- e) prevention and treatment of illness and promotion of health
- f) teamwork
- g) management skills
- h) knowledge and skills which cross specialty boundaries
- i) professional ethics and conduct

5. METHODS OF TRAINING IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Trainees are responsible to keep adequate record of their own training activities in the training logbook issued by the College. The forms of educational activities can vary a lot depending on the topic. For example:

- a) didactic lectures
- b) case conference
- c) mortality and morbidity meeting
- d) X-ray review
- e) journal club
- f) seminar
- g) workshop/drills
- h) quiz
- i) bedside coaching
- j) courses e.g. ACLS, ATLS
- k) research and clinical studies

Trainees should be given increasing responsibilities and exposure to all areas relevant to the practice of Emergency Medicine. The following points should be observed:

- Trainees will be given increasing responsibility in all areas relating to the clinical practice of emergency medicine.
- Trainees with subspecialty interests will be encouraged to widen their exposure in their areas of interest.
- Trainees will take up teaching of junior staff.
- Trainees should be given chances to participate in academic presentations and research at some stage of their training.
- Trainees should take part in Quality Assurance activities.
- Trainees should be given chances to participate in department/ hospital administration. They are also encouraged to take up management courses.

6. EXAMINATION

6.1. Intermediate Examination

The minimum entry requirements for the intermediate examination in Emergency Medicine of the College are:

(I) Passing the College Primary Examination or equivalent (Appendix 3), AND

(II) Completed at least 24 months of training including at least one year of accredited training in Emergency Department

The examination consists of the following sections:

- Written Examination
- Oral Examination/ Clinical Examination

6.2. Exit Examination

6.2.1. Requirements

Trainee must have passed the College Intermediate Examination. Other internationally recognised local or overseas qualifications (appendix 4) may be considered equivalent subject to review by the College Council and approval by the Academy.

Trainee is allowed to sit for the Exit Examination only if all of the followings are fulfilled:

(I) Completed at least six years of accredited training of which a minimum of

- a) three years must be in Emergency Medicine (of which two years must be in higher training);
- b) one year must be in mandatory rotations as listed in 3.2

(II) Fulfilled the College research requirement

Candidates who have completed 6 years of accredited training are allowed to sit the Exit Examination within three years after leaving the training posts.

6.2.2. Examination Board

- a) the Board should have at least three members
- b) Board members are senior Fellows appointed by the College
- c) The Board will examine the content of the logbook
- d) the Board will assess on aspects of clinical care and management of patients relevant to the practice of emergency medicine.
- e) the Board will examine on the management of an Emergency Department

7. ACCREDITATION

Trainees of the College who have fulfilled all requirements for training and examination are eligible to apply for Fellowship of the College subject to its Memoranda, Articles of Association and Bye-laws. The application should be supported by two current Fellows of the College. The decision of the Council to elect such a trainee to Fellowship shall be final.

8. PART TIME TRAINING AND JOB SHARING

Part-time training and job sharing could be accommodated. Trainees are still required to meet the minimum criteria of training as set out above in terms of full time equivalent. Approval must be sought from the College Education Committee beforehand.

9. ABSENCE FROM TRAINING

Trainees who are absent from their training post for more than 6 weeks in any training year, apart from annual or study leave, should notify the College for corresponding adjustment of the training period requirement.

10. INTERRUPTION OF TRAINING

Trainees who wish to suspend their training for more than 6 months should seek prior approval from the Education Committee. Trainees who, for whatever reason, suspend training for more than three years must re-enroll as trainee and recognition of their previous training experience will be assessed individually by the Education Committee.

APPENDIX 1: ACCREDITATION OF TRAINING CENTRES, TRAINING POST, AND TRAINERS

1. ACCREDITATION OF TRAINING CENTRES

1.1. Emergency Departments

Emergency Department accredited for training should meet the following criteria:

- a) The Department must have at least two full-time Consultants and one of whom will assume responsibility for the entire training programme as training supervisor.
- b) Each trainee must be assigned a trainer who is a Fellow of the Academy or of equivalent standing.
- c) The range and volume of cases should provide broad exposure to the trainee. The total attendance should be greater than 70,000 patients per year
- d) Training programmes should be approved by the College. Training program should ensure
 - trainees must have chance to participate in regular educational programmes e.g. case conferences, seminar, procedure workshops etc.
 - trainees must have chance to assume greater responsibilities gradually under supervision by suitable trainers
- e) Availability of a 24 hour laboratory and diagnostic radiology facilities
- f) Sufficient facilities for educational activities including an adequate library, venue for lecture and seminars.
- g) There must be medical audit in the department e.g. mortality & morbidity meeting.

The College will inspect training centres from time to time to see if the above requirements are complied with. Initial recognition of any training centre will be for 5 years and the status will be reviewed at the end of the fifth year.

The centres which have not satisfied all of the above criteria but have sufficient quality of training may be partially recognised by the College for training. The type and amount of training to be accredited shall be prescribed by the College.

1.2. Rotations outside Emergency Department

- a) Training units shall be accredited by the Education Committee. Reference will be made to accreditation of the unit by other Colleges of the Academy for the training of specialist in that specialty.

2. Training Posts

- a) Training post(s) must be approved by the College and reviewed every five years.
- b) Training post(s) must be in an accredited training centre.
- c) Trainee to trainer ratio should be no more than 3:1 normally.
- d) The number of training posts or the duration of training in a particular post can be varied by the College if trainees in that post are inadequately supervised.

3. Supervisor and Trainer

- a) Supervisors and Trainers are appointed by the College, and are responsible to the College for the proper supervision of trainees under their charge.
- b) Supervisors and Trainers should be full-time Academy fellow or equivalent in emergency medicine in an accredited training centre.
- c) Each training centre must have a supervisor. The supervisor will have overall responsibilities to oversee the training of trainees in a training centre. The supervisor has the responsibility of reporting any changes in the training centre which may affect training.
- d) Supervisors should be specialists in Emergency Medicine and Academy Fellows or of equivalent standing.
- e) Trainers should be Academy Fellows or of equivalent standing.
- f) Supervisors and Trainers have the following responsibilities
 - Ensure adequate teaching of trainees
 - Provide career guidance to trainees
 - Advocate for the welfare of trainees
 - Inspect and sign training log book
 - Report on the training progress of trainees under their charge

APPENDIX 2: COLLEGE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The College Education Committee will perform the following functions :

- a. accreditation, supervision and recommendation for approval by the Council of the College of education and training programmes;
- b. accreditation and recommendation for approval by the Council of the College of recognised training units;
- c. accreditation, supervision and recommendation for approval by the Council of the College of recognised training posts;
- d. accreditation and recommendation for approval by the Council of the College of recognised supervisors and trainers;
- e. registration and supervision of recognised trainees;
- f. supervision, inspection and recommendation for approval by the Council of the College training logbooks;
- g. maintenance of a central registry of trainees;
- h. recommendation for approval by the Council of the College of the formats of assessment and examination for the assessment of trainees at various stages of their training;
- i. accreditation and recommendation for approval by the Council of the College of continuing medical education activities;
- j. to keep in close liaison with the Academy Education Committee, post graduate medical education centres in hospitals and clinics, medical faculties of the Universities, specialist trainers and hospital chief executives;
- k. to form any subcommittee necessary for the purpose of carrying out any of the above functions.

APPENDIX 3: PRIMARY EXAMINATION

Attainment of primary examination is essential for being eligible to sit for the Intermediate Examination.

The Primary Examination in Emergency Medicine (PEEM) of our College is the primary examination that trainees are encouraged to attempt.

Other examinations that are currently considered equivalent to PEEM include the followings:

- MCEM Part A
- Primary Examination of Australasian College for Emergency Medicine
- MHKICBSC Part 1&2

APPENDIX 4: INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED LOCAL OR OVERSEAS HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS

(updated on 12 January 2010)

Type of Qualification	Institutions	Qualifications
Surgery and Orthopaedics	1. Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh: Diploma in General Surgery	FRCS (Edin)
	2. Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England: Diploma in General Surgery	FRCS (Eng)
	3. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow: Diploma in General Surgery	FRCS (Glasg)
	4. Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland: Diploma in General Surgery	FRCS (Irel)
	5. Associate Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in the United Kingdom	aFRCS
	6. Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in the United Kingdom	MRCS
	7. Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons	FRACS
	8. Member of Hong Kong Intercollegial Board of Surgical Colleges	MHKICBSC
Medicine	1. Member of the Royal College of Physicians (UK)	MRCP (UK)
	2. Member of the Royal College of Physicians (London, Edinburgh, Glasgow or Ireland)	MRCP (Lond, Edin, Glasg, Irel)
	3. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (London, Edinburgh, Glasgow or Ireland)	FRCP (Lond, Edin, Glasg, Irel)
	4. Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians	FRACP
Emergency Medicine	1. Fellow of the Royal College of Edinburgh : Diploma in Accident & Emergency Medicine & Surgery	FRCS (Edin)
	2. Member of the Royal College of Edinburgh: Diploma in Accident & Emergency Medicine	MRCS (Edin)
	3. Member of the Faculty of Accident and Emergency Medicine in the UK	MFAEM
	4. Fellow of the Faculty of Accident & Emergency Medicine in the UK	FFAEM
	5. Fellow of Australasian College for Emergency Medicine	FACEM
	6. Diplomate of American Board for Emergency Medicine	ABEM
	7. Fellow of Royal College of Physicians of Canada (Emergency Medicine)	FRCPC (Emergency Medicine)
	8. Member of the College of Emergency Medicine in the UK	MCEM