

Specialty Specific Standards

Palliative Medicine

2020

Introduction

All Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) training sites that specialise in Palliative Medicine will be required to achieve and maintain the accreditation standards detailed in this document. The Accreditation Office manages the process of inspecting and accrediting training sites.

General Information

Training Site			
Address			
Telephone			
Head of department			
Telephone		Email address	

1. SUPERVISION	
1.1	There must be a minimum WTE Palliative Medicine Consultant to supervise trainees and provide training in and supervision of Palliative Medicine procedures. At a minimum, there is twice weekly contact between the consultant(s) and the trainee working in the hospital, community or inpatient units to review new and complex patients.
1.2	A lead trainer will be assigned and available to trainees for clinical activities and meet with the trainees for informal teaching. This trainer must be RCPI registered.
1.3	Meetings between the trainer and trainee must occur on a minimum 3-monthly basis. Monthly meetings are strongly recommended.
1.4	Trainers are supported by the training site and RCPI to be given the time and resources to meet their supervision requirements.
CASE LOAD	
2.1	Trainees must gain adequate experience in diagnostic procedures, experience and skills throughout their training programme. The quantity and variety of the workload available to Palliative Medicine trainees must be sufficient to meet the requirements detailed in the current RCPI Palliative Medicine curriculum.
2.2	It is essential that there be adequate numbers and variations of patients that participate in the services provided. Trainees must experience adequate and supervised consultations.
2.3	Trainees must have the opportunity to partake in ward rounds, consultations and MDT Meetings. Effective support for the management of the palliative care caseload is available across the various sites including clinical nurse specialists, social work and allied health professionals.
3. RESOURCES	
3.1	Trainees must have access to appropriate learning resources and facilities, including up-to-date medical literature and online journal access appropriate for Palliative Medicine specialist training.
3.2	Trainees must have access to the infrastructure required for confidential and educational activities which allow telephone calls, emailing and reviewing of work online.
4. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES	
4.1	The training site should provide access to formal training including; Lectures, tutorials, grand rounds, and journal clubs.
4.2	Trainees should be provided with the opportunity to teach junior colleagues, undergraduates and allied health professionals.
4.3	The site should provide opportunities for trainees to develop research interests / Audit / Quality Improvement projects on site, or through affiliation with appropriate research institutions.
4.4	Trainees should have job plans which facilitate attendance at mandatory study days, local and regional days, this may include half day per week (or equivalent of protected, bleep-free study time to peruse learning opportunities and participate in activities relevant to completing their curricula.