

I. SPECIALTY TRAINING IN GENERAL

1. Structure of Training

- 1.1 The minimum duration of specialist training in obstetrics and gynaecology is six years, comprising four years of basic and two years of higher specialist training. This training consists of five years in obstetrics and gynaecology, and one year in elective training.
- 1.2 The five years of training in obstetrics and gynaecology may be separate or combined, and may be in one or more training units. The duration of each training period in the first four years is 6 months. In the fifth year, the minimum duration of each training period is 3 months. Training periods shorter than stipulated will require prior approval from the College. In the first 4 years of training in obstetrics and gynaecology, the proportion of training in obstetrics and gynaecology should be approximately equal (2 years obstetrics and 2 years gynaecology). In any case, there must be a minimum of 18 months in obstetrics and 18 months in gynaecology. Combined training posts are considered to be 50 % obstetrics and 50 % gynaecology.
- 1.3 Elective training may be in other medical disciplines relevant to obstetric and gynaecological practice or in medical research. It may be undertaken in any of the six years of training. Elective training may be in one 12-month period or two 6-month periods. All training should be supervised by Fellows of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine or equivalent, and the programme of training must be structured. A certificate of satisfactory completion of training must be submitted to the College within six months of completion of elective training and in any case before the Exit Assessment.
- 1.4 All elective and research programmes should be prospectively approved by the Education Committee of the College. Under special circumstances, candidates who have difficulty satisfying this requirement may apply to the College for consideration.
- 1.5 All clinical training in obstetrics and gynaecology must be in posts recognised by the College, and under the supervision of a trainer approved by the College.

2. Criteria for Entry into Training Programme

- 2.1 Trainees must be doctors who are eligible to register with the Hong Kong Medical Council.
- 2.2 Trainees must be so registered with the College.

3. Trainers and Supervision of Training

- 3.1 Trainers are appointed by the College, and are responsible to the College for the proper supervision of trainees under their charge.
- 3.2 Trainers should be specialists and Fellows of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine or equivalent.
- 3.3 Trainers should be working in recognised training units.
- 3.4 Trainers must agree with the philosophy and must follow the protocol of training as defined by the College. Their appointment should be reviewed every year, or when circumstances change.
- 3.5 A trainer should normally not be responsible for more than three trainees.
- 3.6 The trainer has the following responsibilities to the trainee: to
 - 3.6.1 Ensure the trainee is adequately taught
 - 3.6.2 Ensure appropriate and adequate clinical experience is available to the trainee
 - 3.6.3 Ensure the trainee acquires adequate communication skills
 - 3.6.4 Ensure the trainee is an effective member of the clinical team
 - 3.6.5 Ensure the trainee has enough time to study and reflect on his experience
 - 3.6.6 Ensure the trainee recognises and follows professional ethics and codes of conduct
 - 3.6.7 Facilitate the trainee to attend postgraduate education sessions
 - 3.6.8 Act as an advocate for the trainee's welfare
- 3.7 The trainer has the following responsibilities to the College: to
 - 3.7.1 Report any change in the training unit which may affect training
 - 3.7.2 Inspect, ensure the accuracy of, and sign the trainee's log book at regular intervals
 - 3.7.3 Report on the training progress of trainees under his charge
 - 3.7.4 Supervise training and ensure it conforms with the College's philosophy and protocol

4. Training Units

- 4.1 Training units are recognised by the College, and the recognition is reviewed every five years. A training unit may comprise more than one site.
- 4.2 A training unit must have the following:
 - 4.2.1 At least one College appointed trainer
 - 4.2.2 Sufficient training facilities and clinical experience for training purposes. These include inpatient beds, outpatient clinics, access to operating theatres, referral sources, and emergency admissions
 - 4.2.3 Quality assurance programme(s) and a standard of practice acceptable to the College for training purposes
 - 4.2.4 An organised postgraduate education programme suitable for training purposes
- 4.3 Units, which are unable to provide a full range of training experience, must agree to co-operate with the College in organising the full range of training for their trainees.
- 4.4 The number of training posts in a training unit is determined by its ability to fulfill training requirements for each trainee.
- 4.5 The hospital of a training unit must have access to:
 - 4.5.1 A wide range of other specialties, including internal medicine, surgery, anaesthesiology, intensive care and neonatal care
 - 4.5.2 A wide range of supportive services including blood bank, histopathology, cytology, frozen section and autopsy services, chemical pathology, microbiology and organ imaging
 - 4.5.3 Adequate library facilities, including a reading room, reference text-books, major journals of the specialty, and facilities for reference searching
 - 4.5.4 Adequate classrooms or seminar rooms

5. Contents of Training

- 5.1 The training curriculum is determined by the College from time to time.
- 5.2 The trainee should have clinical duties, including:
 - 5.2.1 Inpatient and outpatient patient care, operations and consultation with other specialties
 - 5.2.2 Specialised procedures such as ultrasound scanning and colposcopy
 - 5.2.3 Supervision of more junior staff where applicable
 - 5.2.4 Preparation of clinical protocols
- 5.3 The trainee should have teaching duties, including:
 - 5.3.1 Participation in seminars and formal case presentations and discussions
 - 5.3.2 Giving lectures and tutorials to midwives and students
 - 5.3.3 Supervision and clinical teaching of more junior doctors
- 5.4 The trainee should participate in other educational activities, including:
 - 5.4.1 Conferences, workshops, or other postgraduate activities
 - 5.4.2 Clinical research
 - 5.4.3 Publication of articles in learned journals, manuals and text-books
 - 5.4.4 Oral or poster presentations of original work
- 5.5 The trainee should participate in quality assurance activities, including:
 - 5.5.1 Preparation, presentation, and publication of monthly and yearly departmental clinical statistics
 - 5.5.2 Reporting of and presentation of cases with unexpected outcomes
 - 5.5.3 Preparation and presentation at joint specialty meetings
 - 5.5.4 Participation in clinical audit

- 5.6 The trainee should have administrative duties and management responsibility, including organization of departmental activities or projects. They should also receive relevant management training.
- 5.7 Training in research is mandatory. The requirements shall be stipulated by the Education Committee of the College from time to time.
- 5.8 Research as Elective or Higher Training Programme.
 - 5.8.1 Up to 12 months in elective or higher training may be spent in supervised research.
 - 5.8.2 The trainee may conduct unique projects or participate in larger or ongoing projects. However, the nature and amount of the research work proposed must be approved by the College prospectively.
 - 5.8.3 The research project must have a supervisor approved by the College.
 - 5.8.4 The trainee must be a major participant in the project, and the standard of the work should be considered to be suitable for publication in an internationally recognised journal.
 - 5.8.5 The amount of work undertaken by the trainee should justify the period spent in research. At the end of the research training period, the trainee is required to submit a report on the progress and the work involved in the project. The report must contain the following:
 - 5.8.5.1 Hypothesis tested or the question to be answered
 - 5.8.5.2 Summary of the literature review
 - 5.8.5.3 Description of methodology and study population
 - 5.8.5.4 Presentation of the data and results
 - 5.8.5.5 Discussion and conclusions
 - 5.8.5.6 Statement of extent of trainee's involvement
 - 5.8.5.7 Acknowledgement of contributions of other persons

- 5.8.6 Assessment of the research period shall be as follows:
 - 5.8.6.1 The Research Subcommittee of the Education Committee shall appoint a Board to assess the report submitted by the trainee.
 - 5.8.6.2 The Board shall assess the report and any additional documents and recommend whether the amount and quality of the research work is adequate. If the Board cannot recommend acceptance, the Board shall interview the trainee, and areas of doubt clarified. The Board shall then make a final recommendation to the Education Committee.
- 5.9 The trainee should maintain an up-to-date logbook and present it for review when required.