

Important Information about Internal Medicine Training from 2019

In response to recommendations in the 2013 Shape of Training Report, and to better equip doctors with the skills needed for a 21st Century NHS, the Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB), on behalf of the Federation of the three Royal Colleges of Physicians, has developed a new model for future physician training, known as Internal Medicine Training (IMT). Internal Medicine Training will consist of two stages. Internal Medicine Stage 1 training will form the first three years of post-Foundation training for most doctors intending to enter Higher Specialty Training in the physician specialties (known as group 1 specialties). However, for some specialties, 2 years of IMT will be accepted (known as group 2 specialties). For those specialties dual training with Internal Medicine (group 1), there will be a further indicative year of Internal Medicine training integrated into Higher Specialty Training. This will be known as IM Stage 2. The curriculum for IM Stage 1 has been approved by the GMC. The curriculum for IM Stage 2 is being submitted for consideration by the GMC.

Proposed Group 1 specialties for which full IMT will be required are:

- Acute Internal Medicine
- Cardiology
- Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics
- Endocrinology and Diabetes Mellitus
- Geriatric Medicine
- Gastroenterology
- Genitourinary Medicine
- Infectious Diseases (except when dual with Medical Microbiology or Virology)
- Neurology
- Palliative Medicine
- Renal Medicine
- Respiratory Medicine
- Rheumatology

Proposed Group 2 specialties requiring 2 years of IMT:

- Allergy
- Audio-vestibular Medicine
- Aviation & Space Medicine
- Clinical Genetics
- Clinical Neurophysiology
- Dermatology
- Immunology
- Infectious Diseases (when dual with Medical Microbiology or Virology)
- Medical Ophthalmology
- Nuclear Medicine
- Paediatric Cardiology
- Pharmaceutical Medicine
- Rehabilitation Medicine
- Sport and Exercise Medicine

We are awaiting clarity about which group Haematology and Medical Oncology training will fit into.

IM stage 1 training is part of the programme that will ensure that doctors on the specialist register are competent to practise independently at consultant level in both their specialty and internal medicine. This model will enhance the training in Internal Medicine and will prepare doctors for the management of the acutely unwell patient, with an increased focus on chronic disease management, comorbidity and complexity. Generic professional capabilities (GPCs), as set out in the GMC's framework, will be embedded in all curricula to emphasise the importance of these professional qualities as well as helping to promote flexibility in postgraduate training.

IMT will mandate experience in intensive care medicine, geriatric medicine and outpatients and trainees will receive simulation training throughout the programme. Holistic decisions on progress will be made for the fourteen high level "Capabilities in Practice" (CiPs) using the professional judgement of appropriately trained, expert assessors. This represents a significant move away from the much criticised 'tick box' approach of previous curricula.

The IM stage 1 curriculum was approved by the GMC on 8 December 2017 and IMT will replace Core Medical Training (CMT) from August 2019. The curriculum was developed with the active input of consultants involved in delivering teaching and training across the UK, trainees, service representatives and lay representatives.

HOW WILL IMT DIFFER FROM CMT?

- IMT will deliver a training programme which enhances morale, values doctors in training and is ultimately better for patients
- The 3 years of IMT is intended to equip doctors to lead with confidence the care of general ward and acute take patients
- The length of the programme will better prepare trainees, providing supported progression for the medical registrar role
- This is not just CMT plus one year. This is a completely reformed programme and represents a new era in physician training
- It is hoped that more people training in Internal Medicine and the physician specialties will reduce rota gaps
- There will be wider exposure to medical specialties including dedicated experience in ICU
- It will provide improved access to outpatient experience
- Trainees will be supported though a three year programme as they progress through the MRCP Exam.
- There will be graded and supported increase in responsibility across the 3 years of the programme
- The JRCPTB will ensure that Educational Supervisors have access to a training package that will enable them to successfully provide strengthened and focused support alongside the assessment of the new Generic Professional Capabilities
- A new assessment system will be in place to ensure that IMT trainees are assessed in both formative and summative ways, reducing the concerns about tick-box assessments

All applicants will apply to a 3 year IMT programme but may exit the programme after IMT Year 2 if they are appointed to a specialty requiring only 2 years' IMT.

The Acute Care Common Stem (ACCS) and Broad Based Training (BBT) programmes are alternative routes into JRCPTB (physician) specialties. The curricula are currently under review and the JRCPTB is involved in developing new programmes for ACCS-Acute Medicine and BBT which will comprise an indicative two years common curriculum followed by completion of IMT Year 2 and IMT Year 3.

There will be transitional arrangements for trainees already in ACCS-AM and BBT programmes to ensure they are eligible for group 1 specialties.

RECRUITMENT:

There are two rounds of recruitment to IMT programmes starting in August 2019:

- Round 1 opens for applications at 10am on Wednesday 7 November 2018 and closes at 4pm on Thursday 29 November 2018.
- Round 2 opens for applications at 10am on Tuesday 26 February 2019 and closes at 4pm on Thursday 14 March 2019.

Your information hub for recruitment to IMT programmes in UK Internal Medicine Training (IMT) can be found at <https://www.imtrecruitment.org.uk/>

Further information, including the latest frequently asked questions, can be found on the JRCPTB website <https://www.jrcptb.org.uk/training-certification/new-internal-medicine-curriculum/new-im-curriculum-faqs>

If you have any questions about the new IM stage 1 curriculum, email curriculum@jrcptb.org.uk