

Hepatology Guidelines

Official approval for a subspecialty of Hepatology was obtained from the STA (now PMETB) on 13/10/04.

For trainees, appointed to one of the approved Hepatology posts, the STA has approved an entry on the Specialist Register in Gastroenterology or Gastroenterology and General (Internal) Medicine with *subspecialty* recognition in Hepatology.

The curriculum for this subspecialty can be found in the 2003 Gastroenterology curriculum available on the JRCPTB website (www.jrcptb.org.uk).

Approved posts

HEPATOLOGY TRAINING POSTS (brackets indicate the deanery)	Post Approved by the JCHMT (now JRCPTB)
Leeds (Yorkshire)	2003
Sheffield (South Yorkshire and South Humber)	2003
Nottingham (Trent)	2003
Newcastle (Northern)	2003
Cambridge (Eastern)	2003
Oxford	2003
Plymouth (South Western)	2003
Birmingham (West Midlands)	2003
Cardiff (Wales)	2004
Southampton (Wessex)	2004
London St Mary's (THN W)	2004
London Royal Free (THN E)	2004
London The London	2004
London The Middlesex (THN E)	2004
London Kings	2004
West and South of Scotland (Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Glasgow Royal)	03/06/05

Appointment to sub-specialty posts

The posts must be advertised and appointed in open competition.

The appointee should be in their third or fourth year. **Final year trainees should be avoided or this scheme will be seen to be lengthening training, which is not the intention.** If the best candidate is a final year trainee he/she can be appointed providing the Postgraduate Dean is in agreement. If final year trainees apply for these posts then Deanery approval is particularly important, as they will wish to return for their six-month period of grace, which in some cases will already have effectively been subsumed. Trainees will not be able to apply for CCT until the end of the year

thus delaying the point at which they may apply for consultant posts, and in some cases this could impact on the GIM CCT.

The SpR appointed will bring their NTN but the exporting deanery will be able to use a Hepatology NTN for the year and will take the trainee back at the end of the year into their scheme. There will need to be a mechanism to return the NTN when another trainee leaves the scheme.

Prospective applicants will need the approval of their Dean before application.

The curriculum must be followed.

Duration of training

All trainees, as part of the general Gastroenterology training, must complete at least 6 months in a liver unit or general post with a significant liver interest.

Trainees wishing to pursue Hepatology sub-specialty accreditation must:

1. Complete 12 months in an approved Hepatology sub-specialty post that was accessed by competitive interview, and
2. Complete 12 months liver experience as part of the general Gastroenterology training within a specialist liver unit (please refer to the curriculum). If training in a specialist liver unit is not available for the full 12 months, then the trainee may spend up to a maximum of 6 of the 12 months in a general gastroenterology unit in which there is a consultant with a special interest in hepatology.
3. Spend at least 6 months on a liver transplant service.

Therefore Hepatology sub-specialty training will take 24 months in total.

Research

Trainees wishing to pursue Hepatology sub-specialty accreditation are allowed to participate in research but will not be allowed to count research credit towards CCT. Any trainee awarded research credit that goes on to pursue Hepatology sub-specialty accreditation will have their research credit revoked thus delaying their CCT.

After completion of research, trainees must undertake 12 months clinical training.

Hepatology training conducted before STA approval

Any trainee who has completed an additional year of Hepatology training prior to STA approval of Hepatology as a sub-specialty (13/10/2004) should contact JRCPTB to see whether this training can be recognized.

Frequently asked questions

Q: Is someone able to get Gastro and GIM CCT and then apply for their subspecialty accreditation in Hepatology afterwards?

A: No. Hepatology comes as part of Gastro/GIM training or not at all.

Q: A year 3 trainee is embarking on three years research from October 2005, none of which is counting, thus delaying CCT date from 17/06/07 to 17/06/2010. He then wants to take up one of the Hepatology posts for 12 months. Would his date then be put back to 17/06/2011 or is the Hepatology year incorporated into the 2010 date?

A: The Hepatology year would form one of the five Gastroenterology/GIM years so his CCT date would be 17/06/2010.

Q. Are trainees not wishing to sub-specialise in Hepatology still expected to do 6 months of Hepatology training in a specialised liver unit?

A. Yes – please see previous information regarding duration of training.

Q. When did the STA give Hepatology approval?

A. 13/10/04

Q. Are plans to approve any more Hepatology numbers?

A. No, not currently (Jan 2007).

Q. If I have done training in posts that are now approved, can I get subspecialty accreditation?

A. No, subspecialty accreditation can only be awarded if 12 months has been completed in one of the approved 'extra' liver posts, after 13/10/04.

Q. What happens if I have done the time but pre approval i.e. pre 13/10/04?

A. Contact the JRCPTB as they may be able to arrange for a letter to come from the SAC to confirm that the training undertaken was equivalent in content to that which would now be accorded Hepatology subspecialty accreditation.

Q. Can I register my interest for subspecialty accreditation at time of completion?

A. No, trainees must register with JRCPTB when they are appointed to the approved Hepatology post.

Q. Can Hepatology be recognized as a 6th year?

A. No, Hepatology is recognized as a sub specialty but not as a 6th year (this was the original plan but was rejected by the STA). The additional Hepatology year should be completed within the normal remit of the training programme.

Q. Can research be counted if I do the Hepatology year?

A. No (see previous guidelines)

Q. Can trainees who are not holding a Gastro NTN be appointed to one of the posts?

A. No

Enrolment with JRCPTB

Once appointed, Hepatology sub-specialty trainees must register with JRCPTB. Registration is essential for PYA and STA audit purposes.

For further information please contact:

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