

Assessment Blueprint for Neurology

Curriculum area	Competence	Specialist Exam	Mini-CEX	MSF	CBD	MRCP	Portfolio	Structured trainer's reports
Generic Clinical Curriculum in Neurology								
Ability to undertake the following clinical activities as applied to patients with neurological disorders								
History taking	Able to take an appropriate, focussed and comprehensive history, including where appropriate information from others, and communicate this verbally or in writing and in summary form		X		X	X		X
Mental and physical examination	Able to undertake an appropriate, focussed and comprehensive examination of mental and physical state and communicate this verbally or in writing and in summary form		X		X	X		X
Differential diagnosis	Able to formulate an appropriately ordered differential diagnosis based on an appreciation of the patient, their past history and current problems and their likely causes	X	X		X	X		X
Investigation	Able to formulate a focussed and relevant series of investigations	X	X		X	X		X
Management plan	Able to plan and order appropriate observations, liaise with members of the MDM, determine and prescribe fluids and medications, seek appropriate opinions and interventions and, with others, develop an overall plan for the individual patient	X	X		X	X		X
Multidisciplinary team (MDM) involvement	Able to liaise with, refer to and communicate with all members of the MDM in a constructive and professional manner in the interests of the patient and their carers		X	X	X			X
	Able to liaise with and understand the role of specialist nurses		X	X	X			X
Communication issues	Able to communicate effectively with the patient, their family and carers and other staff in relation to the individual needs of the patient and with appropriate regard for confidentiality		X	X	X	X		X
	Able to give a prognosis, to explain the patient's condition, to break bad news, to		X	X	X	X		X

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	obtain full and informed consent for investigations and treatment							
	Able to inform concerning patient support groups and relevant charities		X		X			X
Clinical Pharmacology of Neurological Disorders	Able to plan and administer pharmacological treatments safely and effectively	X	X		X			X
	Able to refer to local and national guidelines (NICE) and sources of evidence and information about treatments	X			X			X
	Understand principles of treatment especially: Vascular disease, migraine, epilepsy, pain, psychiatric disorders, movement disorders, multiple sclerosis, autoimmune disorders, infections, dementia, motor neuron disease	X	X		X			X
	Understand limitations: compliance, adverse effects, interactions, cost implications	X	X		X			X
	Understand information needs of patients and others	X	X		X			X
Special patient groups								
Women and pregnancy	Understand the effects of menarche, menstrual cycle and menopause on common neurological disorders	X	X		X		X	X
	Understand the effect of pregnancy on existing neurological disorders and neurological disorders as complications of pregnancy	X	X		X		X	X
The teenager	Understand the special needs of teenagers, particular issues of confidentiality, and transition disorders	X	X		X		X	X
The elderly	Understand the normal clinical and radiological findings in the elderly; special presentations of neurological disease in the elderly; diagnosis, investigation and management of dementia; effects of drugs in	X	X		X		X	X

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	the elderly; hospital based & community services; communication with relatives and care agencies; role of departments of medicine for the elderly							
Terminally ill	Understand end of life issues in neurological disorders and the role of palliative care services and specialist nurses	X	X		X		X	X
Common Neurological Presentations	Able to clinically evaluate patients with the presenting syndromes, initiate appropriate observations, investigations and treatment, make appropriate referrals and effectively communicate to patient and relatives and other staff about condition, procedures and prognosis. Able to effectively communicate with medical and nursing staff in referral situations	X	X		X	X	X	X
Specific subjects within neurology curriculum								
Ability to evaluate and manage people with the following neurological disorders								
Head Injury	Ability to evaluate and manage people with acute head injury [Perform immediate resuscitative measures; formulate a strategy for immediate and short term management: primary and secondary effects of head injury: symptoms and signs of head injury and its complications: indications for investigations: indications for medical interventions, ITU referral, urgent and delayed neurosurgery]	X	X		X		X	X
	Ability to evaluate and manage post traumatic change in consciousness, behaviour and cognition, and other post-traumatic symptoms (including epilepsy)	X	X		X		X	X
Headache		X	X		X		X	X

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			M		M			
Disorders of consciousness		X	X M		X M		X	X
Disorders of sleep	Ability to evaluate and manage people with sleep disorders	X	X		X		X	X
Disorders of higher function & behaviour	Ability to evaluate and manage people with disordered higher function & behaviour	X	X		X		X	X
Epilepsy	Ability to evaluate and manage people with epilepsy.	X	X M		X M		X	X
Cerebrovascular disease	Ability to evaluate and manage people with stroke.	X	X M		X M		X	X
Tumours of the NS, neurological complications of systemic cancer, complications of treatment of cancer	Ability to evaluate and manage people with tumours of the NS or effects of systemic tumours or their treatment.	X	X		X		X	X
Infections of NS	Ability to evaluate and manage people with infections of NS	X	X		X		X	X
CSF disorders	Able to evaluate and manage people with disorders of CSF	X	X		X		X	X
Demyelination and vasculitis	Ability to evaluate & manage people with demyelinating & vasculitic disorders	X	X X		X M		X	X
Immunological disorder and NS	Ability to evaluate & manage people with immunological disorder caused by disease or treatment.	X	X		X		X	X
Parkinsonism & Movement disorders	Ability to evaluate & manage people with Parkinsonism & Movement Disorders	X	X M		X M		X	X
Motor neuron disease	Ability to evaluate & manage people with motor neuron disease	X	X M		X M		X	X

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Metabolic & toxic states	Ability to evaluate and manage people with metabolic/toxic state	X	X		X		X	X
Disorders of the visual system	Ability to evaluate and manage people with disorders of the visual system	X	X M		X M		X	X
Disorders of cranial nerves	Ability to evaluate and manage people with disorders of cranial nerve function	X	X		X		X	X
Disorders of spine, spinal cord, roots and spinal injury	Ability to evaluate and manage people with disorders of the spine, spinal cord and roots and the acute & chronic consequences of acute spinal cord injury including effects of paralysis, autonomic dysfunction and sensory loss	X	X M		X M		X	X
Disorders of peripheral nerve	Ability to evaluate and manage people with disorders of peripheral nerves (including plexus lesions)	X	X M		X M		X	X
Disorders of autonomic system	Ability to evaluate and manage people with disorders of the autonomic nervous system (ANS)	X	X		X		X	X
Disorders of muscle	Ability to evaluate and manage people with disorders of muscle	X	X		X		X	X
Pain	Ability to evaluate and manage people with neurological disorders causing pain and common non neurological causes of pain including musculoskeletal	X	X		X		X	X

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Related Speciality curriculum								
Ability to recognise the role, limitations and utility of the Specialities below in the evaluation and management of neurological disorders								
Clinical neurophysiology	Understand role and practice of neurophysiological investigations in disorders of the nervous system: ability to interpret a neurophysiology report. <i>see also sections on epilepsy, sleep disorders, peripheral nerve and muscle</i>	X	X M		X M		X	X
Neuroendocrinology	Understand the principles of the NS in endocrine function and neurological features of endocrine disorder and need for referral	X	X		X		X	X
Neurogenetics	Understand the principles of genetics as applied to neurological disorder: ability to interpret a genetics report	X	X M		X M		X	X
Neurointensive care	Ability to evaluate and manage (with others) people in ICU	X	X M		X M		X	X
Neurootology	Ability to evaluate the deaf and / or dizzy person and interpret reports	X	X		X		X	X
Neuropaediatrics	Understanding of neurological disorders in intrauterine life and childhood: ability to evaluate and manage neurological disorders in teenagers in liaison with paediatric neurologists	X	X		X		X	X
Neuropathology	Ability to appropriately request pathological investigations and interpret pathology reports	X	X		X		X	X
Neuropsychiatry	Ability to evaluate and interpret psychiatric symptoms in and as presentations of neurological disorders, psychiatric consequences of neurological disease and neurological features in people with psychiatric disorders	X	X		X		X	X
Neuropsychology	Ability to utilise basic clinical tests of cognitive function, to understand the need to refer to and the role of the Clinical Neuropsychologist and to interpret reports.	X	X		X		X	X
Neuroradiology	Ability to request and evaluate neuroradiological investigations and reports	X	X		X		X	X

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	and liaise effectively with the neuroradiologist: understand the role, risks & limitations of common techniques		M		M			
Neurorehabilitation	Ability to evaluate the requirement for rehabilitation in people with neurological disorders in the context of a multidisciplinary team and make appropriate referrals	X	X M		X M		X	X
Neurosurgery	Ability to evaluate the requirement for neurosurgical interventions in people with neurological disorders and to liaise effectively with the neurosurgeon	X	X M		X M		X	X
Uro-neurology	Ability to evaluate, manage and or refer people with disordered micturition and sexual function due to neurological disorder	X	X		X		X	X