

Standards for delivery of Immunology training

The training programme

The standards for delivery of Immunology training are designed to ensure that all aspects of the Immunology curriculum are covered. It is recognized that trainees will require secondment to other centres if the host centre is unable to offer requisite training to cover the curriculum in its entirety.

1. Training will be provided in one or more centres led by a consultant clinical immunologist.
2. The posts in the training rotation comprising the training programme must ensure that the StR achieves knowledge and competencies in all domains of the specialty curriculum to attain FRCPath (Immunology) and CCT in Immunology after 5 (maximum 6) years (or equivalent if part time) training
3. In the first two years of training there must be an emphasis on acquiring an adequate knowledge of the basic science of immunology. This may be achieved through personal study and tutorials, study for a part-time MSc in Immunology (day release), attendance at appropriate short academic courses in Immunology and/or Allergy, or attendance at scientific meetings
4. In the first two years of training there must be an emphasis on laboratory training in Immunology with acquisition of appropriate practical skills as outlined in the laboratory training record
5. Training in other specialties, if appropriate, must be provided as indicated in the specialty curriculum
6. The training rotation must include a period of time at a Supra-Regional Paediatric Immunology Centre for Bone Marrow / Stem Cell Transplantation to fulfil the requirements of the Paediatric immunology component of the Immunology curriculum.
7. A laboratory management training course (additional to a generic management training course) must be included in year 4-5 of the training programme
8. There must be an induction at commencement of training and at the start of each rotational post supported by an induction document and access to local standards of care / management guidelines

Educational supervisors

1. There should be no more than two StRs per educational supervisor (one StR per educational supervisor is the preferred ratio)
2. Educational supervisors must have attended an appropriate training course as defined by the Postgraduate Dean.
3. Educational supervisors should be experienced consultants who are familiar with current PMETB standards.
4. Educational supervisors must review trainee portfolios every six months and complete the appropriate documentation
5. Educational supervisors must provide an annual report to inform the annual review process
6. Educational supervisors must ensure that annual workplace appraisal is performed
7. Educational supervisors must be part of the Deanery Quality Management process.

Typical elements of a weekly timetable

1. Outpatient clinics in immunodeficiency and allergy (both adults and children) – consultant-supervised (*minimum of one per week*)
2. Outpatient clinic in other medical specialties (including autoimmune disease and systemic vasculitis if not offered as part of the immunology clinic) – consultant-supervised (*maximum of one per week*)
3. Consultant-supervised ward referrals and ward review of immunology inpatients (clinical liaison) (*as necessary*)
4. Training in immunoglobulin replacement therapy (day area)
5. Training in allergen immunotherapy (day area)
6. Training in the Immunology laboratory (including internal quality control, external quality assurance, and other aspects of clinical governance and risk management)

SAC standards for delivery of specialty training curriculum

7. Immunology laboratory result reporting / authorization
8. Weekly educational supervision
9. Average half day per week (bleep-free) for attendance at ACP national Immunology training days, BSACI national Allergy training days, deanery training half days, personal study, audit, research project
10. Regional specialty meeting or local specialty meeting with case presentations (including review of deaths), audit presentations, research presentations, journal club presentations
11. Multidisciplinary Team meetings (i.e. primary immunodeficiency, allergy)
12. Experience of management meetings during years 4-5, including Immunology laboratory, Clinical Immunology, Directorate of Pathology, Directorate of Medicine (or similar)
13. Teaching