

Specialist Skills for Acute Internal Medicine

Information correct
as of August 2017

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Specialist Skill

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Gastroscopy

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum	JAG Accreditation
Other possible qualifications in this skill	No
How to train in this skill	Short courses: Yes Distance learning courses: No Part-time courses: No Full-time courses: No Fellowships/other paid posts: No Organised training schemes: Yes Self-organised training: Yes Basic endoscopy skills courses at various UK centres (see the JETS website)
Recommended courses or training programmes	JAG_003 Basic Skills in Upper GI Endoscopy Cost £850 JAG_GDP3 (M) Basic skills in upper gastrointestinal (UGI) endoscopy Cost £900-1000 (depends on location) http://www.jets.nhs.uk/FindCourse.aspx?courseType=0&Category=1 E-learning for health have an endoscopy training programme which is linked to the new e-Portfolio for endoscopy training (available from the JAG website).
Likely financial cost of training in this skill	A course will cost approximately £900, plus a further £1000 if you wish to do the therapeutics course (which is not mandatory) and £50 each for provisional then full certification.
General notes	Before attending a course, trainees must have written support from their trainer in endoscopy to guarantee six months supervised training on completion of the course. JAG has introduced an e-Portfolio for endoscopy training. Upper GI training consists of provisional certification followed by full certification. Provisional certification

is applied for after about 200 procedures, with a record of procedures and complications in association with formative and summative DOPS assessments. Full certification is applied for in the same way after about another 100 procedures in last 12 months. At the present time JAG only accredits diagnostic, not therapeutic upper GI endoscopy. The [JAG website](#) gives all the information needed with respect to training.

Training is variable: in some hospitals an arrangement has been set up by previous trainees and therefore slotting into pre-existing lists is easy, in others it is up to the trainee to try to organise training.

This can be a difficult skill to learn for an AIM trainee who is required to undertake posts in many specialties. Negotiations need to take place before every post to ensure that endoscopy training can continue at a new Trust. Attendance at a different Trust to continue training may be required. This will require an honorary contract. Training in therapeutic endoscopy may be too challenging and this may be attained post CCT.

Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H)

Other possible qualifications in this skill

There are many (e.g. HIV diploma, Microbiology MSc). Completion will be dependent on personal interests and local availability and relevance to acute internal medicine. Before undertaking they must be approved by TPD

How to train in this skill

Short courses: Yes
Distance learning courses: No
Part-time courses: Possible – if going for a specific diploma
Full-time courses: Yes - DTM&H three months
Fellowships/other paid posts: No
Organised training schemes: No
Self-organised training: Yes

DTM&H – essential. The two places you can do this are [Liverpool](#) or [London](#). This lasts three months.

It is possible to take a year out and do a masters qualification. The masters course is not that much more expensive than the diploma but you also need to factor the cost of being a student for a whole year.

Other short courses of interest (but these are not approved as a specialty skill:

- Diploma in Microbiology
- University of Liverpool Neurological Infectious Diseases

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

Minimum will be DTM&H at:
Liverpool - £5500
London - £5740
Plus the cost of being a full-time student.
Birmingham TB course - £250

Liverpool Neurological Infectious Diseases - £255

General notes

It can often difficult to get training. The best idea is to organise a minimum of three months fully integrated into an infectious disease unit as their registrar. This requires agreement between the ID and AIM course directors. Often the easiest way is to do a direct swap with an ID registrar who requires more training in Medicine to obtain their GIM competencies.

Try to follow the ID curriculum for directed learning. Not every hospital you are training in will have ID department – but will have microbiology – so it is good to develop strong links with this department. It is useful to attend Infection Control policy meetings etc. as this is excellent experience in both management, policy development and infection issues

Management

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

Postgraduate Diploma from a UK institution

MBA - this will cover the above and other aspects which many healthcare professionals opt to do, but this is expensive and time consuming

Other possible qualifications in this skill

Most higher education colleges offer qualifications that can count towards degree level qualifications – credits are accumulated and count towards a bachelors or masters degree.

Short courses: No - short courses do exist for an introduction but would not lead to the required qualification

Distance learning courses: Yes

Part-time courses: Yes

Full-time courses: Yes

Fellowships/other paid posts: Yes

Organised training schemes: Yes

Self-organised training: No - but you will need to organise time/study leave to attend courses if you study part-time

How to train in this skill

Medical Management Schemes and Courses

- [Darzi Fellowship \(London\)](#) - these are excellent. Similar programmes exist in a number of deaneries.
- [NHS Medical Directors Clinical Fellows Scheme](#)
- [Clinical Leadership Schemes](#) (National)
- RCP Chief Registrar scheme

Recommended courses or training programmes

Generic Management Courses:

- Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) Diploma in Senior Management
- Chartered Management Institute (CMI) Certificate/Diploma in Management studies (offered countrywide at many business colleges)

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

The cost varies on the institution and the qualification (diploma or masters) but they

tend to be more expensive than a medical education qualification of the same level. Costs range between £6K - £25K depending on the course and what it offers. An MBA can be much more expensive.

Fellowships tend to be full time and are taken as an OOPE. These are generally funded and so at no cost to the candidate. Doing a full time or part time two years masters course can range between £6k e.g. RCP Leadership course to £25K e.g. Tanaka business school. There are other well recognised courses which fall in between that price range such as: Loughborough Business School, Cass, Warwick and Kingston. Look out for ones which are a part of the Russell group and so are internationally recognised.

If you are interested in a more generic management training many adult business colleges are linked to higher education colleges and offer evening classes in recognised management qualifications. Some classes are free but a recognised qualification can cost anywhere between £150-£500.

General notes

Management and Leadership are both incredibly interesting and are increasingly recognised as necessary skills in the NHS. The '3 day SpR management course' is rapidly becoming outdated but are still mandated within training. If you are interested it is probably sensible to invest in some form of either healthcare management or leadership training before reaching CCT.

OOPE opportunities such as the Darzi Fellowship provide invaluable opportunities to network and gain experience. However they do take a year out of training and are subject to competitive entry, so may not be suitable for everybody. The structure of the course is also important to note and you will need to organise your time – the courses are

quite demanding. Almost all diploma / masters courses require written assignments to be submitted throughout the course.

Generic management courses are not NHS specific. They provided the opportunity to study alongside individuals from other backgrounds with different ways of thinking about business.

Medical Education

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

Postgraduate Diploma from a UK institution

Other possible qualifications in this skill

Masters/MD / PhD / EdD (all higher).

How to train in this skill

Short courses: Yes – often deanery led and free, useful as tasters in first registrar year
Distance learning courses: Yes
Part-time courses: Yes
Full-time courses: Yes
Fellowships/Other paid posts: Yes - numerous clinical teaching posts, can count three/six months towards training
Organised training schemes: Yes
Self-organised training: No

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

Diploma approximately £5000
MSc approximately £7500

General notes

You may be able to use your study budget to contribute towards costs. Alternatively a course may be funded as part of a fellowship.

This skill is easy to arrange as majority of training hospitals have education department and interested consultants. The master's course teaches you very useful transferable research skills. Educational research is increasingly popular.

Hyperlinks to some universities

[Warwick University](#)

[University College London](#)

[Dundee University](#)

[Keele University](#)

[Cardiff University](#)

Remote and Rural Medicine

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

Diploma

Other possible qualifications in this skill

There are numerous expedition medicine courses available. Other courses below are only approved as specialty skill where indicated.

Diploma of Tropical Medicine (approved as specialty skill)

Diploma in Travel Medicine and Vaccination
ALS, ATLS

Basic Surgical Skills

Basic dentistry

Safe transfer and helicopter rescue

Pre-hospital medicine (approved as specialty skill)

How to train in this skill

Short courses: Yes – privately run two - three day courses on expedition medicine, polar medicine, high altitude medicine.

Distance learning courses: Yes

Part-time courses: Yes

Full-time courses: Yes

Fellowships/Other paid posts: Yes – but this depends on what post is undertaken and who is the employer.

It is possible to work for: Charity/aid organisations, VSO, British Antarctic Survey, flying doctors, organised expeditions requiring doctor, cruise ships, ski-fields, remote jobs within UK (e.g. Scottish Isles and North) but not all of these are recognised for a specialty skill.

Organised training schemes: Yes - British Antarctic Survey Medical Unit- Scottish Deaneries now looking at early specialised training for remote and rural medicine and this is based in Aberdeen with experience gained in more remote settings.

Self-organised training: Yes - Broaden your horizons by attending courses.

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

Very dependent on what you do and where you go.

Universities

[Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh](#)

Research

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

MD
PhD

Other possible qualifications in this skill

The 2009 AIM curriculum says:
“Demonstrates extensive involvement in research including the acquisition of research grants and over five research publications in peer reviewed journals during their training period”.

There may be problems in achieving all of this, especially the publications given the time available in a training programme, but it is likely that trainees employed through grant making bodies (rather than local funds or via pharma) will have this specialty skill recognised. This should be confirmed with the local TPD.

How to train in this skill

Short courses: No
Distance learning courses: No
Part-time courses: Yes
Full-time courses: Yes
Fellowships/Other paid posts: Yes (ACF or other joint academic/clinical training post)
Organised training schemes: Yes
Self-organised training: Yes
Other: Period of out of programme research approved by Deanery (OOPR) +/- registration for a higher degree

Recommended courses or training programmes

The relevant courses to attend would be dictated by your chosen area of research. However, training in research methodology, literature searching, critical appraisal, document writing, and statistics would be useful generically. A higher degree is intended to be a training degree in research, though the quality and structure of this will vary by institution and supervisor. This is something to look into in detail before committing.

This is highly variable. If you apply for your own funding, the cost will depend on the amount of funding obtained. A fully funded clinical fellowship (such as Wellcome or MRC) might pay an unbanded clinician salary and all your tuition fees and all your research costs including additional courses, travel, conferences. A less generous grant would pay less and would not cover fees.

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

As an example University of Oxford PhD fees are approximately £3500 per year. College fees may also apply at some institutions. MD fees are less, a few hundred pounds each year. A clinical research fellow post (in other words a research post already funded as part of a larger project) is likely to provide an unbanded salary. Sometimes a banded salary is paid in association with some on call duties as part of the post. There may be some money for conferences etc.

Overall the take home pay to be lower than in a full time banded clinical post and it is likely that the odd supplementary locum shift will be needed.

Pros – challenging, interesting, novel, learn new generic skills, more freedom/fewer protocols, change of pace and lifestyle.

Cons – lack of clear pathway/structure, requires self motivation, not all projects successful, less money, may miss clinical work, easier for work to invade your “time off”

A few practical pointers:

- Choose carefully – there are many research posts for able clinicians so don't necessarily commit to the first opportunity that presents itself
- Talk to lots of people
- Don't panic about feeling unprepared – there is no expectation of expertise at the start

- Check out the proposed supervisor – have they supervised anyone before, do their students tend to succeed, have they got time to help?
- Speak to other people in the group/predecessors

The AIM and GIM SAC Lead on research is contactable through the TPD.

Stroke Medicine (Sub Specialty)

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

A CCT is recommended.

How to train in this skill

[JRCPTB stroke medicine website](#)

Short courses: Yes - [BASP](#) training days,
Distance learning courses: No
Part-time courses: No
Full-time courses: No
Fellowships/other paid posts: Yes. There are many posts in stroke medicine available across the country subject to competitive appointment
Organised training schemes: Yes
Self-organised training: No

Recommended courses or training programmes

There is a European Summer School in Stroke held annually for which places are funded by BASP (British Association of Stroke Physicians)

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

Minimal if you do jobs as an OOPE. The CCT requires two years of training. Note you may not receive a study budget whilst doing fellowships.

General notes

This programme is open to all trainees holding MRCP (UK) or equivalent and an NTN in a relevant medical specialty, namely geriatric medicine, neurology, rehabilitation medicine, cardiology, clinical pharmacology and therapeutics or general internal medicine. The background specialty of such clinicians is considered to be less important than the possession of those competencies needed to provide a specialist stroke service. After satisfactory completion of subspecialty training in stroke medicine, trainees would be eligible to have the subspecialty of stroke medicine included in their entry in the GMC's specialist register, after the award of a CCT in their parent specialty.

Some of the time spent in stroke medicine

will count towards the CCT in AIM – precisely how much depends on the training programme that you have been enrolled to.

Ultrasound

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

FAMUS accreditation (details available [here](#))

or Level 2 in a focussed ultrasound standard
See [RCR focussed standards](#) and [RCR standards for medical specialties](#).

or, four or more focussed standards signed off at level 1 to show a broad skill base will be acceptable.

In all instances ongoing logbook evidence of competency (20 scans/year) and a total of five reflective case studies will be required

Other possible qualifications in this skill

Postgraduate Certificates in Medical Ultrasound (Abdominal/renal/thoracic USS) are run at several universities across the country :

- [Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Ultrasound at Teesside University](#) (Focussed Echo/Shock/DVT/Abdominal & renal USS)
- [Ultrasound in Emergency and Critical Care](#) at King's College, London (Cardiac & vascular/Abdominal & renal USS)

How to train in this skill

For details of FAMUS accreditation, see [here](#).
You will need to attend a practical course and complete supervised scans to cover the whole curriculum.

Short courses: Yes - but not recommended for training, better perhaps as a 'taster' to see if you like/are good at ultrasound.

Distance learning courses: Yes - the Teeside and King's College London courses are mainly distance learning, for instance the latter has three one week blocks of lectures over the year.

Part-time courses: Yes – all of the university courses can be studied part-time.

Full-time courses: Yes – but you would have to take an OOPE.

Fellowships/other paid posts: Yes – there are an increasing number of ultrasound fellowships available as an OOPE, often linked to critical care posts.

Organised training schemes: Yes – the PG Certs, are relatively easy to get a place on the university course, but much more difficult to organise the practical placement, which you'll need tenacity and determination for! You have to find somewhere and someone willing to train you for a session/week for about a year.

Self-organised training: No – this isn't really possible currently.

Recommended courses or training programmes

e-lfh have an online training module [here](#)

There are various critical care ultrasound courses available (training in both echo and ultrasound), for example [here](#)

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

The PG Certs cost approximately £2000 in university fees

You may also be charged for the practical scanning placement – for sonographer time per session.

FAMUS accreditation costs approximately £200 to attend a registered course and an indicative minimum 8 months training time.

General notes

In all cases an anonymised logbook of scans should be kept demonstrating at least 20 ongoing scans per year. In addition, trainees should have five reflective cases where the focussed ultrasound has directly influenced patient management (entered as reflective logs on your ePortfolio).

Echocardiography

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

[FICE accreditation](#) (50 reviewed scans), with ongoing evidence of CPD (20 further logbook cases per year) and five reflective case studies.

Other possible qualifications in this skill

[BSE transthoracic echocardiography \(TTE\) accreditation](#) (250 scans).

How to train in this skill

There are a number of [FICE-approved one day courses](#) to learn the basics of focussed echo, and an [online module to complete](#). 50 scans have to be completed within 12 months (10 directly supervised, all reviewed by a mentor or supervisor). A triggered assessment is then undertaken and if passed the paperwork must be sent to the ICS for ratification. All the details of the training are in the accreditation pack .

In order to ensure ongoing CPD and time spent training in this skill a further 20 logbook scans will be needed per year, as well as a total of five reflective cases where the focussed echo has directly influenced patient management (entered as reflective logs on the ePortfolio).

Eligibility for BSE accreditation depends on the supervisor and echocardiography department having BSE accreditation and BSE membership. There is a list of courses and further information about BSE accreditation available on [BSE website](#).

Short courses: Yes – required before starting the FICE module, recommended before starting out full BSE accreditation to understand the requirements

Distance learning courses: No

Part-time courses: The practical elements of FICE and BSE will both be undertaken part time, alongside regular clinical commitments.

Full-time courses: No

Fellowships/other paid posts: Yes – there are an increasing number of echo/ultrasound fellowships (often linked to critical care posts)

– likely to be taken as an OOPE/OOPT.
Organised training schemes: Yes – details as above
Self-organised training: No – this isn't really possible currently

Recommended courses or training programmes

See links above for approved basic echo courses. FEEL courses may count as introductory echo course for FICE.

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

FICE: ICS administration £50
FICE course £200

BSE: Written exam £150
Logbook submission £150
Courses >£2000 (practice/exam prep)
BSE annual fee: £60

General notes

FEEL accreditation is not considered adequate for specialist skill status; those with FEEL may wish to consider undertaking the supervised logbook/assessment components of FICE in order to become FICE accredited.

Bronchoscopy

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

Respiratory Medicine Curriculum Requirement - minimum 100 bronchoscopies for competence. There is no accrediting body. You must obtain two satisfactory DOPS each year as well as sign off from your educational supervisor and maintain a log book.

How to train in this skill

Short courses: Yes
Distance learning courses: No
Part-time courses: No
Full-time courses: No
Fellowships/Other paid posts: No
Organised training schemes: Yes
Self-organised training: Yes, negotiating session and liaising with the local respiratory team

Recommended courses or training programmes

On the BTS website, various hospital organise courses in UK. Usually deaneries incorporate a teaching day on bronchoscopy.

For Example:

http://www1.imperial.ac.uk/nhli/training/educationcentre/shortcourses/modules_in_bronchoscopy/

<https://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/bts-learning-hub/short-courses/>

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

Varies depending on course. Courses providing a know-how of bronchoscopy will cost roughly £200-£600.

General notes

Can be challenging as Respiratory trainees are given priority.

Syncope

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

Two year minimum period (in parallel with the parent speciality), regular syncope/falls clinics supervised by trainers and assessors with the relevant specialist knowledge and skills:

- Assess 100 patients in an acute or clinic setting presenting with syncope/falls.
- Independently performed and reported a minimum of 50 tilt tests.
- Independently performed and reported a minimum of 25 carotid sinus massages.
- Achieved satisfactory performance in a minimum of 4 mini-CEX, 4 CbD and 6 DOPS per year relevant to, and spread across curriculum.
- Endorsement of above by clinical supervisor in his report and verified by ES and assessed in ARCP.

How to train in this skill

Short courses: No
Distance learning courses: No
Part-time courses: No
Full-time courses: No
Fellowships/other paid posts: No
Organised training schemes: Yes
Self-organised training: Yes, negotiating session and liaising local falls service

Recommended courses or training programmes

None

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

Depends on local resources to train.

Palliative Medicine

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

PG Diploma

e.g 120 level 7 Credits

Other possible qualifications in this skill
How to train in this skill

None

Distance learning course with weekly teaching packs and submission of assignments for formative assessment.

Ten study 'packs' have been developed which are designed for self-directed learning and which may be accessible electronically. Each defines learning objectives, provides guidance on reading and includes some journal extracts in electronic format.

Summative Assessment will be in two parts.

Part A – Assessed as pass/fail

A portfolio of work experienced and undertaken during the ten clinical attachment sessions which will include:

- Evidence of demonstration of syringe driver competence.
- A critical reflective diary of the clinical sessions experience demonstrating achievement of the learning objectives agreed with the personal tutor during planning of the clinical placement.

Part B – 100%

You will write a 4,000 word assignment reflecting on the management and care of a patient to illustrate your learning in practice, utilizing the theory of palliative care.

Likely financial cost of training in this skill
General notes

£2000- £4000

Practical Palliative Care for Doctors in Specialist Training. Teesside University, School of Health and Social Care.

The Module Leader at Teesside University is Ann French, Senior Lecturer, Centuria Building University of Teesside. Contact by telephone

01642 384698 or by e-mail
A.French@tees.ac.uk

Module Aims:

- To enable doctors in training to develop understanding, knowledge and skills in the palliative care management of patients with advanced and incurable malignant and non-malignant disease.

Other courses:

Sheffield Hallam University

https://www.shu.ac.uk/?sc_itemid=4982244B-A12E-4378-8D52-F1377CB04156

Cardiff University

<http://courses.cardiff.ac.uk/postgraduate/course/detail/p233.html>

Gerontology

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

PG Diploma in Gerontology

**Other possible qualifications in this skill
How to train in this skill**

MSc in Gerontology
Southampton University -
http://www.southampton.ac.uk/ageing/postgraduate/taught_courses/pg_diploma_gerontology_dl.page

Students on the part-time programme take three compulsory modules in year one, and two compulsory and one optional module in year two.

Recommended courses or training programmes

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

Part time ~ £3750

General notes

The aims of the course:

- Broaden students' knowledge about ageing and older people, their needs, the services provided for them, and the skills necessary for effective health, social and voluntary work.
- Provide students with a critical perspective on growing older.
- Integrate advances in knowledge about social, psychological, health and biological aspects of ageing, with an update and review of developments in policy and service delivery.
- Develop students' skills and awareness of the importance of research and evaluation.
- Provide students with the opportunity to enhance and develop their written and communication skills.
- Provide students with a stimulating intellectual environment.

Other Universities:

Kings College London

Obstetric Medicine

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

12 months clinical exposure to obstetric medicine

- Multi source feedback: 15 submissions, multiple positive comments
- CBD: five submissions
- Mini CEX: five submissions
- ACAT: three submissions

How to train in this skill

Outpatient clinic attendance

- General obstetric medicine clinics to include
 - Antenatal and postnatal reviews
 - Specific clinics with haematologists, renal physicians, endocrinologists and hepatologists
- Diabetes in pregnancy clinic
- Pre-pregnancy counselling clinics
- HIV in pregnancy clinic

Inpatient care

- Daily ward rounds of any woman with medical problems on the antenatal and postnatal wards and labour ward
- Inpatient reviews of pregnant or recently pregnant women admitted under other specialties
- One off reviews of patients requiring ambulatory care and urgent outpatient assessment on an ad hoc basis
- Time with obstetricians on labour ward

Recommended courses or training programmes

Medical Complications in Pregnancy RCPL and Imperial College three day course.

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

Course £550

General notes

This needs to be self-organised

Inpatient Diabetes

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

Indicative training duration 12 months working with a diabetes team in an acute setting.

How to train in this skill

20 Diabetes clinics including specialist diabetes clinics such foot, renal etc. Attendance DSN and dietitian clinic and inpatient ward.

- Diagnosis and classification of diabetes mellitus: X4 CBDs
- Diabetic emergencies: DKA, HSS, Hypoglycaemia – Mini-Cex or CBD x 2 each
- Management of patients with diabetes during acute illness: Minimum 2 CBDs (or 1 Mini-Cex or 1 CBD)
- Management of patients with diabetes during acute coronary syndrome: Minimum two CBDs (or one mini-CEX or one CBD)
- Management of patients with diabetes during surgery or other procedures which requires fasting: Minimum two CBDs
- Foot Disease: Minimum two CBDs (or one Mini-Cex and one CBD)
- Age-related conditions and diabetes – the elderly: Minimum two CBDs (or one Mini-Cex and one CBD)
- Renal disease and hypertension in diabetes: Minimum two CBDs (or one Mini-Cex and one CBD)
- Inpatient diabetes ward round: X5 ACAT of inpatient diabetes ward round of a minimum 5 cases
- Clinical Topic Review (CTR): A detailed discussion of the Clinical Topic Review previously submitted by the candidate. The CTR should be approximately 2,500 words in length

Recommended courses or training programmes

On Line E-Learning
NHS Diabetes

General notes

The attachment will have to be organised.

After completion of the requirements for the

special skill as laid out above the ARCP will review the trainee continues to have exposure to inpatient diabetes (1 sessions per week) to maintain their competence i.e. 1 inpatient diabetes ward round per week.

Neurology

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

Diploma in clinical neurology.

How to train in this skill

The Distance Learning Diploma in clinical neurology is a unique course with an online programme comprising more than 400 sessions covering a comprehensive range of neurological topics, designed by experts in the field. Sessions cover wide variety of neurological aspects, and including sessions on neurosurgery, neurophysiology, neuropathology. The text is accompanied by interactive multimedia features such as videos, interactive graphs and tables, as well as clinical graphics and line drawings.

All students undertake eight core modules, each with a credit value of 15 (amounting to a total value of 120 credits). Upon starting the course you will complete the module introduction to neurology which is not assessed, but is necessary in order to undertake the core modules. Upon successfully completing the diploma, you will be allowed to take an extra module on research training and statistics.

The core modules are:

- Stroke, Epilepsy and Rehabilitation - Basic (CLNEG041)
- Neurodegenerative, Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases of the Nervous System - Basic (CLNEG037)
- Neurology and Neurosurgery - Basic (CLNEG036)
- Common Problems in Neurological Practice - Basic (CLNEG038)
- Stroke, Epilepsy and Rehabilitation - Advanced (CLNEG043)
- Neurodegenerative, Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases of the Nervous System - Advanced (CLNEG040)
- Neurology and Neurosurgery - Advanced

(CLNEG035)

- Common Problems in Neurological Practice - Advanced (CLNEG039)

There is also a requirement to have a neurology attachment and perform workplace based assessments.

Likely financial cost of training in this skill £5400

General notes

Host University:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/education/courses/distancelearningdiplomaneurology>

International Programmes

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

Postgraduate Diploma in clinical trials, epidemiology, global health policy, infectious diseases or public health.

Other possible qualifications in this skill

MSc

How to train in this skill

Study support

You study independently, at a time and pace that suits you (subject to some course-specific deadlines), using the comprehensive study materials provided with learning support from our academic staff.

Study Materials

After you register you will receive your study materials. Clinical trials students will receive details of how to use the online learning environment effectively. Study materials may include:

- Subject guides
- Readers
- Textbooks
- CD-ROMs/additional computer software (e.g. Stata)
- Past examination papers and Examiners' reports
- Handbooks
- Access to the school's online library resources

Credit system

LSHTM operates a credit system for its taught courses, consistent with the English and European (ECTS) credit systems. A total of 180 credits are required for an MSc degree and 120 for a Postgraduate Diploma.

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

Postgraduate Diploma £8,580

General notes

Host University: University of London

Intensive Care Medicine (CCT or Skill)

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

- CCT in Intensive Care
- Stage 1 Training equivalent (New ICM curriculum)
- Indicative training duration 18 months

Other possible qualifications in this skill

European Diploma of Intensive Care (EDIC)

How to train in this skill

Dual CCT in Intensive Care Medicine and Acute Internal Medicine. The indicative minimum timeframe for dual CCT training in AIM and ICM is 8.5 years.

- Stage 1 training equivalent (new ICM curriculum). Indicative training duration 18 months

Suggested duration for ICM training as an AIM special skill stage 1 training

Anaesthesia: Six months (to acquire the airway skills needed) to perform at a registrar level in ICM. An additional period may be required for those trainees who have entered aim higher specialty training (HST) through the CMT rather than the ACCS route to achieve the necessary competencies.

Intensive Care Medicine: 12 months in no more than two units of 6 months duration.

ICM as Acute Internal Medicine special skill: should encompass two stages

1. Stage 1 training
 - During this time the trainee should produce 10 expanded case studies
2. Ongoing ICM sessional exposure throughout their period of training

Recommended courses or training programmes

ATLS, APLS, ALS, USS thorax and FICE

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

All of the above courses can be claimed from trainees' study budgets.

General notes

The attachments will have to be organised. Six

months ICM can be organised as part of AIM training programme but the other six months ICM and six months anaesthetics will have to be OOPT.

After completion of the requirements for the special skill ongoing exposure should be organised. Ongoing ICM exposure should be achieved through 'sessional exposure' throughout the trainee's training in AIM. Sessional exposure is where the trainee spends a two sessions based on ICM, with the remaining eight sessions based on AIM. The sessional commitments should be to consolidate knowledge, maintain competence and develop further higher specialty knowledge. It can also be used to complete the 10 expanded case studies and ensure that all the Stage 1 competencies are acquired.

Toxicology

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

PG Diploma from a UK institution (e.g. Cardiff University).

Other possible qualifications in this skill

Masters (a higher).

How to train in this skill

Distance learning courses: Yes

Part-time courses: Yes

Full-time courses: No

Fellowships/Other paid posts: No

Organised training schemes: No

Self-organised training: No

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

Diploma and MSc approximately £4000 per annum for part time study.

General notes

You may be able to use your study budget to contribute towards costs. Alternatively a course may be funded as part of a fellowship.

“Candidates completing Diploma in Toxicology will have the practical skills to diagnose and manage the patients with common poisons and also will have knowledge in using the laboratory services and will be able to advice the industry and the environmental agencies in managing and preventing toxicological accidents. MSc candidates will gain knowledge in improving the services available in their work place in delivering toxicological services.”

Health Informatics

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

PG Diploma from University Central Lancashire

Other possible qualifications in this skill

MSc

How to train in this skill

Distance learning courses: Yes
Part-time courses: Yes
Full-time courses: No
Fellowships/Other paid posts: No
Organised training schemes: No
Self-organised training: No

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

£525 per module, typically six for PGD.

General notes

You may be able to use your study budget to contribute towards costs. Alternatively a course may be funded as part of a fellowship.

“You will learn the theory behind health informatics and develop practical management skills, as well as the ability to evaluate current trends in health and social care.

Two year distance learning (plus a dissertation for MSc)

LLM Legal Aspects of Medical Practice

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

LLM from Cardiff Law School, Cardiff University

How to train in this skill

Short courses: Yes – often deanery led and free, useful as tasters in first registrar year.

Distance learning courses: Yes/residential (weekends).

Part-time courses: Yes A part-time program taught by means of eight residential weekends held over two academic years is available.

Full-time courses: No

Fellowships/Other paid posts: No

Organised training schemes: No

Self-organised training: No

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

£9000 for the full two years

General notes

You may be able to use your study budget to contribute towards costs.

Course: Students must complete four modules (one assessment for each module comprising of a 5,000 word essay or examination) and a dissertation (not exceeding 15,000 words). Students must study four compulsory modules from the LLM Legal Aspects of Medical Practice program.

Clinical Simulation

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

Approved Simulation Fellowship and/or Educational qualification must be a Diploma or higher.

How to train in this skill

Short courses: Yes – often deanery led and free, useful as tasters in first registrar year

Distance learning courses: No

Part-time courses: No

Full-time courses: No

Fellowships/Other paid posts: Yes - OOP

Organised training schemes: No

Self-organised training: No

General notes

Posts tend to vary by LETB

Pre Hospital Emergency Medicine

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

Formal subspeciality training as defined by the Intercollegiate Board for Training in Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine.

How to train in this skill

PHEM training programme places will be available through a national recruitment, and will consist of 12 months whole time equivalent training taken after the ST4 year Assessments

WPBAs

A range of Workplace Based Assessments will need to be undertaken during placements.

Formal assessments

-Phase 1a local formative assessment - at the end of the first month, a local assessment to ensure trainees are competent to progress to more comprehensive practice including a reduction in supervision

-Phase 1 National Summative Assessment (NSA1) - the Diploma in Immediate Medical Care from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

-Phase 2 National Summative Assessment (NSA2) - the Fellowship in Immediate Medical Care from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Training and Assessment Panel (TAP)

Trainees are invited to the TAP towards the end of their training. It is this panel that will give a recommendation to the trainees parent College and the GMC on whether they have achieved the necessary requirements for

PHEM sub-specialty accreditation.

Recommended courses or training programmes

See www.ibtpphem.orgg.uk for full details

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

Please note that there are fees associated with NSA1 and NSA2. Details of fees and the assessments can be found on their website.

General notes

See website above for full details

Quality Improvement

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

PgDip Quality Improvement, University of Dundee

Other possible qualifications in this skill

MSc

How to train in this skill

Distance learning courses: Yes
Part-time courses: Yes
Full-time courses: No
Fellowships/Other paid posts: No
Organised training schemes: No
Self-organised training: No

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

£3530 for PgDip, £5000 for MSc.

General notes

You may be able to use your study budget to contribute towards costs. Alternatively a course may be funded as part of a fellowship.

Module breakdown:

Quality Improvement in Action
Leadership, Change and Organisational Development
Measuring Quality
Coaching in a Systemic Context
Practice Development: Independent Study

Developing Research and Evaluation Skills

Two year distance learning (plus a dissertation for MSC)

Acute Oncology

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

Approved Oncology Diploma (Level 6 -120 credits)

eg [Newcastle University](#)

How to train in this skill

Distance learning courses: Yes

It is recommended that the training is combined with a mandatory 4 month placement in acute oncology.

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

£4000-£5000.

General notes

In the RCP Acute Care toolkit 7: Acute Oncology on the Acute Medical Unit as a reference. It highlights the increasing number of emergency admissions of patients with disease or treatment related complications into AMUs. It highlights the need for collaborative working between Oncology Services and Acute Medicine in ensuring excellent standards of care for cancer patients in addition to decreasing length of stay and avoiding admission. Most trusts have now have an Acute Oncology Service, however in many DGHs Oncologists are not on site for more than 1 day a week and this service is run by specialist nurses.

Therefore there is a need for clinicians within acute medicine with an interest and skills in acute oncology to help bridge this gap, enabling decisions to be made in a timely fashion, facilitating early supported discharge, and improving standards of care for oncology in-patients.

Diploma in Practical Dermatology

Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

Approved Oncology Diploma (Level 6 -120 credits)

Eg [Cardiff University](#)

How to train in this skill

Distance learning courses: Yes

It is recommended that the training is combined with clinical sessions in Dermatology clinics/wards with WBAs to back this up.

Likely financial cost of training in this skill

£4000-£5000.

General notes

There is a need for clinicians within acute medicine with an interest and skills in acute dermatology as it can be a common presentation to Ambulatory Units. There is a recognised gap in senior dermatology experience in large parts of the country and this may help bridge this gap, enabling decisions to be made in a timely fashion, facilitating early supported discharge, and improving standards of care for patients with acute dermatological symptoms.

Special Skills Declined

1. General Practice
2. Diploma in Geriatric Medicine
3. Headache
4. Diploma Critical Care (Cardiff)
5. Stroke Medicine MSc (UCL)
6. Healthcare Six Sigma (OperaSee Ltd)
7. Diploma in Occupational Health

