

# Specialist Skills for Acute Internal Medicine

Information correct as of October 2018

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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 centers (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 speciality 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**

Diploma in Expedition and Wilderness Medicine – RCPSG [Link](#) (*approved as specialty skill*)  
Diploma of Tropical Medicine (*approved as specialty skill*)  
Diploma in Travel Medicine and Vaccination  
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, and 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

Post graduate certificate in health research methods

## Other possible qualifications in this skill

This is dependent on whether you are undertaking research training within your allocated overall training time, or have additional funded time taken as OOPR. A research mentor/supervisor must be allocated to support all AIM trainees in getting this specialty skill recognized. This should be confirmed with the local TPD.

Depending on the length of OOPR and availability of funding, additional qualifications include:

Masters – MSc/MRes/MPhil  
Doctorate – MD/PhD/DPhil

## How to train in this skill

Short courses: Yes, if supported with supervision  
Distance learning: Yes if supported with supervision  
Part-time courses: Yes  
Full-time courses: Yes  
Fellowships/Other paid posts: Yes  
Organised training schemes: Yes (ACF)  
Self-organised training: No  
Other: Period of out of programme research approved by Deanery (OOPR) +/- registration for a higher degree

## Recommended courses or training programmes

A PG certificate should cover an introduction to research methods (quantitative and qualitative methodologies, evidence based medicine, clinical research governance, research ethics) with some choice depending on your interests and any previous training e.g. undertaking additional modules in health economics or advanced statistical methods.

Further training will usually be undertaken through a period OOPR. If funded by a training fellowship this will include costs for courses and doctoral supervision.

Increasingly, acute trusts are employing clinical research fellows with significant research time and some (20 – 50%) clinical service (check the support for training, which may be enough for doctoral study).

### Likely financial cost of training in this skill

PG Certificate courses provide very similar training across Universities but there is a wide variation in costs (University of Leeds charges £2750 whereas the University of Oxford charges £17,720)

If undertaking OOPR, salary is usually unbanded if you are supported through a clinical fellowship (Wellcome/MRC/NIHR). These fellowships will also cover research costs, publication costs and conference attendance.

Pros – challenging, interesting, opportunities to undertake varied projects from laboratory to applied clinical research, discovering new findings, learn new generic skills, more freedom, change of pace and lifestyle.

Cons – lack of clear pathway/structure, funding can be precarious, requires self-motivation, not all projects successful, less money, may miss clinical work, academic work very often invades your “time off”

A few practical pointers:

- Choose research projects that excite and interest you. It will take a lot of time and focus to deliver.
- Don't panic about feeling unprepared – there is no expectation of expertise at

- Check out the proposed supervisor – have they supervised anyone before, do their students tend to succeed, have they got time to help?
- Use the skills and expertise of those around you – science is a team game
- 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 focused ultrasound standard See [RCR focused standards](#) and [RCR standards for medical specialties](#).

or, four or more focused 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](#) (Focused 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 Teesside 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 OOPÉ.

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 focused 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).

[BSE Level 1 qualification](#) (75 scans) with ongoing evidence of CPD (20 further logbook cases per year)

## How to train in this skill

There are a number of [FICE-approved one day courses](#) to learn the basics of focused 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 focused 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.  
Organized training schemes: Yes – details as above  
Self-organized 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/](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 – diploma route

**Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum** PG Diploma  
e.g. 120 level 7 Credits

**Likely financial cost of training in this skill** £3000- £6000

**Recommended courses or training programmes**

**Examples include**

Keele University: Medical Ethics and Palliative Care

Cardiff University: [Link](#)

King's College London, University of London: [Link](#)

# Palliative Care – non-diploma route

## Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum

Indicative training duration 12 months working within a palliative care setting  
Optional Post Grad Certificate in Palliative Care ( if obtained could reduce indicative time to 6 months)

## How to train in this skill

Attachment in Palliative care including inpatient and outpatient hospice care and in reach into acute trusts

Assessments to include

- Identification of needs for palliative care patients: X2 CBDs
- Pain control in palliative care – x2 CBD/mini-cex
- Management of anxiety in palliative care – x1 CBD/mini-cex
- Management of breathlessness in palliative care x2-4 CBD/mini-Cex)
- Ethical issues in palliative care - CBD
- Inpatient hospice care – x3 ACAT, x3 CBD
- Acute trust in reach for palliative care x3 CBD
- Clinical Topic Review (CTR): A detailed discussion into a subject relevant to Palliative Care. The CTR should be approximately 2,500 words in length
- Post Grad Certificate in Palliative Care

## General notes

The attachment will have to be organised.

After completion of the requirements for the special skill as laid out above the trainee will be expected to continue sessional exposure to palliative care. This will be assessed at ARCP.

# 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/PGD in Gerontology  
Southampton University -[LINK](#)

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  
See linked curriculum on JRCPTB website

# 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**

Post Grad 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 Programs

## 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.ibtphem.orgg.uk](http://www.ibtphem.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)

e.g. [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)

E.g. [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.

# Patient Safety and Quality

**Minimum level of attainment required according to AIM curriculum**

This skill has two main aspects: training to develop patient safety skills, and evidence of using those skills in practice. The two parts are undertaken simultaneously

## How to train in this skill

### Academic Training

*Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Certificate in Patient Safety* – Consists of 13 modules: total time 20 hours. Topics include Introduction to Patient Safety, Responding to Adverse Events, Teamwork and Communication in a Culture of Safety

*Quality Improvement Training* – equivalent to “train the trainers”, for example Improvement Academy (Bradford) Gold-level Quality Improvement training (total hours 24 (3 x 8 hour days)).

*IHI modules – Root Cause and Systems Analysis, and Building a Culture of Safety.*

### Practical Training

Indicative training time 24 months. This would consist of:

1. Undertaking a patient safety project of strategic relevance to the trust (for example contributing to a CQUIN, improving an outcome assessed via the national patient safety thermometer). Following completion of the project, complete a 4000 word report which should include:
  - a. Current national patient safety initiatives/agendas
  - b. Explanation of strategic relevance of project
  - c. Use of measurement for patient safety, for example run chart, SPC chart
  - d. Demonstrate understanding of types of measures in patient safety (outcome, process, balancing)
  - e. Use of PDSA cycles

Report should be assessed as satisfactory by trust Head of Patient Safety/Quality or equivalent (Educational Supervisors report should confirm this)

2.Undertake, under guidance from a Consultant, Root Cause Analysis of patient safety incident (such as patient safety investigation, serious untoward incident, structured casenote review for inpatient death). Undertake reflective report & Case-based discussion WBPA.

3.Attend 3 patient safety meetings (such as patient safety group, safety and quality committee, mortality steering group) and write reflection on these.

4.Attend minimum 2 Patient Safety 'Walkabout' undertaken by senior leaders within organisation.

**After the indicative training period in complete, the trainee should continue to undertake equivalent of one session per week relevant to patient safety (e.g. undertaking safety improvement project, attending patient safety meetings).**

## Alternatives

Special skill in Patient safety and Quality could also be obtained during approved Patient Safety Fellowship.





# 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
8. University of South Wales Diploma in Respiratory Medicine

