



Maltese Paediatric Association

FINAL DRAFT

4th July 2008

SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAMME IN PAEDIATRICS IN MALTA

The Maltese Paediatric Association (MPA) shall be the competent body to determine and monitor, from time to time, the curriculum for Specialist Training in Paediatrics and to recommend to the SAC the issue certification of completion of training for each paediatric trainee.

Duration

This is a 6 year programme divided into Basic Training (2 years), progressing to Higher Training for a further 4 years.

1. Training Programme

1.1 Basic Training (Pre-MRCPCH or equivalent)

Entry requirements:

Basic degree in medicine and surgery from the University of Malta or equivalent recognised in the EU.

Full Registration with the Medical Council of Malta

Objectives of the basic programme:

To ensure the trainee acquires basic knowledge and skills following assessment within the hospital or other workplace setting in preparation for the MRCPCH examination and/or equivalent after fulfilling the criteria for eligibility for sitting for the identified examination.

Outline of Basic Paediatric Training

A minimum of 18 months training in a supervised training post in acute hospital paediatrics in a teaching hospital

And

A minimum of 6 months supervised training in community paediatrics

1.2 Higher Training (Post-MRCPCH or equivalent)

Entry requirements:

- Basic degree in medicine and surgery from the University of Malta or equivalent recognised in the EU.
- Full Registration with the Medical Council of Malta
- Completion of Basic Paediatric Training
- Possession of the MRCPCH or equivalent diploma/degree recognised in the EU.

Objectives of the programme

Training will aim to enhance the trainee's knowledge and skills and gain competencies in three particular areas: neonatology, community child health and acute paediatrics. This will ensure that trainees are trained in the full breadth of the specialty.

Outline of Higher Training

a) Training Duration

A minimum of 4 years training which shall include:

A mandatory period of 2 years in a full-time supervised training post in acute hospital paediatrics in a teaching hospital

And

A further 2 years in a full-time supervised training post in acute hospital paediatrics in a teaching hospital and/or in Community Paediatrics

Training shall conform to all other requirements as laid down by the Malta Paediatric Association following the broad outlines of the UEMS and shall include a minimum of 12 months full time training in neonatology.

2. Training sites

Training shall take place in a recognised teaching institution or group of institutions recognised by the SAC which offer the trainee practice in the full range of the speciality

3. Curriculum & Content of Programme for Basic Training

The curriculum will aim to prepare candidates for the MRCPCH diploma or EU equivalent during the basic training phase and to deepen and strengthen the skills in general paediatrics to enable the candidate to manage simple and complex conditions independently or by working with other colleagues.

The training programme shall involve supervised responsibility for the care of children with:

- Acute medical problems in the wards

- Emergency work on wards or sick babies in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.
- Cover of casualty cases
- Review of children at outpatients
- Experience in various subspecialties related to the practice of Paediatrics

Other tasks will include:

- Letter and reports writing ability
- Ability to liaise with other health professionals
- Participation in departmental academic activities. A minimum of 4 hours per week protected time is envisaged
- Research and publication will be strongly encouraged
- Participation in and scientific contribution at national and international meetings will be strongly encouraged

4. Assessment procedure

The assessment procedures adopted will be developed by the Post Graduate Training Committee and broadly based on the UEMS standards. A range of assessment procedures may be undertaken which will include both formal examinations and workplace performance. This will be in place for the entire postgraduate training programme and will support the curriculum.

The overall purpose of the assessment is to reassure the individual, the profession and the public and service provider that a trainee is fit to practice.

The assessment system will have clear educational purposes:

- To support learning and progression across the curriculum
- To assess the level of competence achieved at different stages and to guide the trainee and provide support remediation in case of difficulties.

5. Assessment system

- I. MRCPCH examination or equivalent
- II. Workplace assessments
 - a. Competencies assessment
 - b. Performance assessment
- III. Log book review

I MRCPCH examination or equivalent

The trainee will be required to sit for the different stages of the examination during the period of the basic paediatric training.

II. Workplace assessments

Both the competencies and trainee performance will be assessed throughout the training period during work placements.

Competencies required will vary with the different stages of training and will include:

- Direct observation of trainees ability to communicate effectively with patients and colleagues as recommended by the UEMS
- Direct observation of trainee during a clinical encounter
- Directly observed Practical skills: trainees will be required to perform clinical procedures at different stages of training.
- Case-based discussions: this will assess the clinical reasoning skills and the ability to analysis, diagnosis and manage paediatric conditions.
- Report and letter writing ability
- Oral presentations

III. Log book review:

Trainees will be expected to maintain evidence of their progression in the log book. This will be reviewed by the trainer prior to completion of the trainer report and will contribute to the overall assessment.

The log book will contain:

- Education supervision documentation
- Skills log
- Workplace placements
- Case based discussions / reviews
- Record of CME activities e.g APLS, Neonatal resuscitation
- Assessment reports
- Trainer reports
- Research

5. Trainer Qualification and Supervision

The Specialist Training Committee of the MPA together with the Training Co-ordinator and Head of Department will be responsible for the implementation of the Training Programme as endorsed by the SAC.

A Post-graduate Co-ordinator appointed through a call for application by the Health Division will be responsible for the day-to day running of the Training Programme.

The Post-Graduate Training Co-ordinator and the trainers shall be listed on the Specialist Register of Paediatrics of the Medical Council of Malta and for a minimum period of 5 consecutive years.

6. Duties of Trainers

Trainees will be supervised directly by at least two trainers during their training period. The main responsibility of the trainers is to perform continuous assessment of progress of the trainee to ensure that trainee acquires adequate experience.

Trainers will have the following duties:

- To supervise all aspects of training
- To meet regularly with the trainee to discuss the programme, progress and short-comings.
- Trainers shall provide yearly reports to the post-graduate training committee on the progress of the trainee, indicating the necessary changes to the individual's training.
- Reports should summarise observations of the trainees in practice, workplace assessments, log book review and progress with examinations.
- To provide feedback, regarding the training programme, from both trainee and trainers.

7. Completion of Training

The MPA has the legal right and obligation to advise the SAC on

- all matters related to postgraduate training in Paediatrics and Neonatology
 - on matters related to the training performance of every trainee
 - whether a trainee has completed the full training programme i.e. leading to the issue of certification of completion of training by the SAC.
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