

Experience in Out-of-Hours (OOH) care and the Care of the Acutely Ill Chapter of the GP curriculum.

Introduction

This guidance is primarily written for General Practice Specialty training Registrars (GPStRs), but also Clinical and Educational Supervisors and Programme Directors within Health Education England - Yorkshire and the Humber (HEE YH), and is intended to provide overarching guidance on how to interpret current national guidance on Out-of-hours training. It should however be stressed that as circumstances differ in the way OOH care is arranged between individual training programmes across HEE YH, trainees must follow the requirements outlined in their respective programmes. The arrangements in each programme should fit with the guidance here.

Competency in OOH Care

The College describes clearly in its Chapter on Care of the Acutely Ill in the Curriculum the competencies the trainee should be looking to demonstrate in this area and these are outlined below. Please refer to the linked Attachment 'Care of the Acutely Ill' on this page for further details

- 1. Ability to manage common medical, surgical and psychiatric emergencies in the out-of-hours setting.*
- 2. Understanding of the organisational aspects of NHS out of hours care.*
- 3. Ability to make appropriate referrals to hospitals and other professionals in the out-of-hours setting.*
- 4. Demonstration of communication skills required for out-of-hours care.*
- 5. Individual personal time and stress management.*
- 6. Maintenance of personal security and awareness and management of the security risks to others*

At the ARCP panel, trainees will be assessed whether they have had sufficient experience in any GP post during the year to develop the above (see below for guidance) and need to demonstrate in their entries how they have made progress over the previous year with respect to these competencies.

Numbers and Length of Sessions

COGPED guidance on OOH (2009) indicates a MIMIMUM benchmark of one 4-6 hour session per month in any GP post. Therefore, in some training programmes, trainees could have as little as 24 hours experience over six months depending on the length of OOH sessions locally. HEE YH considers 24 hours to be the bare minimum required to demonstrate experience and

learning and stresses that the minimum of SIX SESSIONS are necessary to provide appropriate exposure and learning.

It is recognised that some OOH sessions provide more experience than others and therefore it is considered the responsibility of the trainee to provide clear evidence of the learning they have derived from their OOH sessions on their portfolio – see appendix 1 below.

The LENGTH of any session is therefore ultimately defined by the local circumstances of OOH provision and the length of the Clinical Supervisors session. Each session should include sufficient time for debrief and the opportunity to record the session on the e-portfolio. The maximum amount of hours allocated to any single session should be 6 hours.

If the GPStR is in an integrated training post based in General Practice they should undertake the same number of sessions as those in traditional General Practice placements. Less than full-time trainees should undertake the same number of sessions as their full time colleagues but over a longer timeframe.

Types and Balance of Sessions

Depending on local circumstances, some programmes have developed alternative experiences to the traditional OOH session in order to further enhance the breadth of experience available to trainees (e.g. experience with a telephone triage service, the ambulance service or crisis team) Guidance on the appropriate balance of these sessions should come from local programmes, as they are best placed to have knowledge of the OOH arrangements in their area. This local guidance must ensure that trainees have the appropriate experience to develop the competencies above and trainees must abide by any such local programme guidance with respect to the balance of their sessions.

Other Support for Curriculum Chapter - 'Care of the Acutely III'

Care of the Acutely III course

HEE YH provides training and support in this area of the curriculum via the above course and the accompanying pre-course workbook (which is also a reference resource for 'Care of the Acutely III' Chapter of the MRCGP curriculum).

The GP Tutors for this course are Dr Simon Hall (simon.hall@nhs.net) and Dr Rob Pearson (Robert.pearson@nhs.net). Leanne Sorby (leanne.sorby@yh.hee.nhs.uk)

Provides administrative support for the course on behalf of HEYH and future course dates can be found on the new main website:

http://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/general_practice/events

Local training programme support

Further support in developing competency in areas related to this chapter of the curriculum is often provided in local GPSTP half day release programmes (e.g. telephone consultations). Such sessions do not count as OOH experience for CCT purposes.

Probity Issues

HEE YH considers that non-attendance by the GPStR for a booked OOH session without good reason is a professional offence and views this as equivalent of failing to turn up for a booked surgery in their own practice. In such instances the OOH clinical supervisor should notify the trainees GP Trainer and the trainee must put an entry in the portfolio explaining the circumstances surrounding the event.

OOH providers should raise late arrivals of any GPStR with the OOH Clinical Supervisor for that session and if such behaviour is continued the GP Trainer should be informed. Trainees must make every effort to inform their OOH providers **and** Clinical Supervisors if they are unable to attend or are running late and should ensure they have the relevant contact details.

ARCP panels may observe that only 4 or 5 sessions have been undertaken by the date of a panel. In years ST1 and ST2, so long as the outstanding session(s) is/are booked and no concerns have been expressed on OOH issues it is expected that they will be judged satisfactory. A later probity check should be undertaken by the Training Programme and it will be considered a serious professional offence if, once signed off, a GPStR failed to complete any such booked sessions. In ST3 year, all OOH sessions must be completed by the date of the ARCP panel.

Ben Jackson
GP Locality Lead (South Yorkshire)

Appendix 1 - How to record OOH experience

As described above it is the trainees responsibility to demonstrate both exposure and learning in the all areas of the curriculum. An example e-portfolio entry is provided here to help trainees understand the type of entry expected.

Date July 21st 2010

Supervisor - Dr A Dunbar

Type of OOH session face to face consultations (
Venue (e.g. Airedale GPEC)
Time (19:00 - 23:00 5 hours)
Number of patients seen: 15

What did you learn?

Type of patients seen: Several minor respiratory infections - children and adult, acute back pain, probable depression, drug abuser seeking medication, new migraine, and emergency contraception.

Interesting cases and learning points

Acute back pain
- Description and reflection

Probable depression
- Description and reflection

Methadone user
- Description and reflection

Migraine diagnosis
- description and reflection

What will you do differently...?

What further learning needs did you identify?

How will you address these?

These should be completed in the same way as all other portfolio entries.

Naturally each entry should be linked to the 'care of the acutely ill' curriculum statement and any other parts of the curriculum that the session provided significant exposure to.