



**Portsmouth Hospitals
University**
NHS Trust

Internal Medicine Training Programme (IMS2) Wessex Deanery, Health Education England

The Trust

Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust (PHU) provides comprehensive secondary care to approximately 675,000 people across south-east Hampshire, and certain tertiary services to a wider catchment area of over two million people. The Queen Alexandra Hospital is recognised as a major acute hospital, with approximately 1,200 beds and 28 operating theatres. In 2020, the Trust achieved University Hospital Status in collaboration with the University of Portsmouth and are a major provider of education and training in the South-East of England. As a large acute organisation our hospital ranked 2nd nationally for research activity and 1st for complexity weighted recruitment.

Portsmouth has excellent links to the rest of the Deanery, South Coast and London. The hospital and accommodation are with easy reach of the history city of Portsmouth, which has many attractions including the harbour, seafront and restaurants. There are a wide range of sports and leisure facilities nearby, including our on-site Oasis Wellness centre comprising of a gym and swimming pool. The South coast, New Forest, South Downs & Queen Elizabeth country park are all within easy reach.

The Internal Medicine Department

The Department was established in 2019 and is led by three substantive Consultant Physicians with an extensive background in both Acute and General Internal Medicine. There is a strong training emphasis and commitment to trainee development to ensure development goals and curriculum competences are achieved, with proven success to the specialist register. The team includes GIM trainees (both single and dual-accredited trainees), IMTs, foundation doctors, locally-employed SHO and registrar level doctors, as well as trainee ACPs.

The Department comprises of two inpatient wards with a total capacity of 50 beds, with a 7-day Consultant led service provided. There is a high turnover of patients, and new admissions to the ward include direct admits from the Emergency Department. Neurology are co-located within the department and provide an inpatient liaison service, in addition to training opportunities for registrars who may choose Neurology as a speciality of choice. The ward has also been used for care of patients requiring non-invasive ventilation during periods of high demand.

GIM Training at PHU

The Internal Medicine programme at PHU has been designed to support the specific learning developments of each individual trainee. We recognise trainees have varying backgrounds and experiences therefore rotations can be tailored to ensure trainees meet their GIM competences. An example of a bespoke training schedule is provided below as an *indicative* example of the split/time.

Indicative example training schedule

Training Year	Inpatient Rotations	Examples
ST4	8 months: Internal Medicine 4 months: Specialty of choice*	Cardiology, Respiratory, Gastroenterology, Renal, Neurology, ITU, Acute/Take, Medicine for Older People, Rehab and Stroke Medicine.
ST5	8 months: Internal Medicine 4 months: Specialty of choice*	
ST6	Internal Medicine, dedicated take experience, period of 'acting up' as a Consultant (provided satisfactory progress)	

*may be staggered

The departmental leads have extensive and strong working relationships with all medical specialities, emergency medicine and intensive care, providing ample opportunity to develop a robust clinical skillset as well as cater to individual interests/preference.

Inpatients comprise mostly of complex medicine cases, and are admitted via the ED, AMU or directly to the ward, in addition to repatriations from other Trusts. There is a focus on holistic care, particularly for patients approaching end of life who are supported by our hospital palliative liaison service. Our patient cohort offers comprehensive clinical and teaching opportunities, enabling trainees to develop their expertise in diagnosis, managing acuity and uncertainty, and clinical management of multimorbid, complex, and frail acute patients.

Outpatient clinics

Trainees are actively encouraged to attend specialty clinics to ensure they meet their curriculum requirements. Clinic time is allocated within the rota, and the department leads can coordinate with relevant specialties including SDEC to facilitate attendance. Our established working relationship with Neurology is also useful for following up patients post-discharge. The department has a Virtual follow up clinic for patients needing ongoing management following discharge / suspended admissions. We also support ward attenders and direct admissions.

Teaching and Training

The Trust and Department have multiple opportunities to develop teaching and training experience:

- Daily, following morning handover: 'lesson for the day' (15–20-minute discussion, usually around an interesting case, radiology/ECG/blood specimen finding)
- Weekly:
 - Teaching Ward rounds: opportunities for cases to be presented and leadership to be demonstrated under Consultant supervision
 - Classroom sessions/Journal club: teaching delivered by FY / IMT doctors on an interesting case or article specific to the RCP curriculum
 - Trust Grand Rounds
- Monthly morbidity and mortality meetings: emphasis on interactive case based learning
- Speciality-delivered teaching sessions
- Undergraduate and postgraduate medical student teaching (new Graduate Entry medical student programme commencing 2024)

- Palliative care experience/shadowing
- Support with submitting case reports
- Study leave and allowance for attending external training
- Self-development time allocated in rota providing protected time for trainees to work on individual development needs. Examples include working on portfolios, e-learning, simulation training, quality improvement activity, reflecting on clinical practice, preparing/delivering teaching, and career exploration

Additionally, trainees should attend Deanery-led GIM training days.

Trainees are all allocated a dedicated GIM educational supervisor, in addition to clinical supervisors for each rotation.

Leadership & Quality Improvement Opportunities

Trainees have various opportunities to develop their leadership skills including:

- Leading the daily MDT handover
- Support with taking a leadership role within the department teaching programme to develop their skills with teaching, training and leadership
- Mentoring trainee ACPs and doctors new to the NHS
- Supervision for 'acting up' in the final year of training / once relevant competences met
- Involvement in improvement projects at the Departmental/Care Group/Trust level e.g. RPIW

Other Educational Experiences

There are multiple learning experiences available to contribute to the overall development towards becoming a senior clinician and preparation for Consultant roles. The department leads have extensive experience in hospital management, governance, audit and quality/service improvement, teaching and education including certification. Opportunities can be discussed depending on trainee's educational needs and goals.

There are regular departmental clinical governance meetings, with opportunity to review safety learning events, adverse incidents, and develop skills in assessing risk/root cause analysis. Registrars are also supported with gaining experience in writing reports for HM Coroner and attending Coroner's court/inquests.