



Recommendations

Recommendations for Introductory Training Courses in General Forensic Medicine (GFM)

The medico-legal guidelines and recommendations published by the Faculty are for general information only. Appropriate specific advice should be sought from your medical defence organisation or professional association. The Faculty has one or more senior representatives of the MDOs on its Board, but for the avoidance of doubt, endorsement of the medico-legal guidelines or recommendations published by the Faculty has not been sought from any of the medical defence organisations.

The Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (FFLM) Quality Standards^{1,2} recommend that all doctors and Health Care Professionals must attend a FFLM approved³ Introductory Training Course (ITC) in GFM prior to commencing work.

Applying for FFLM CPD course approval

Details of how to apply for approval can be found via the link:

<http://fflm.ac.uk/upload/documents/1256044477.pdf>

The criteria for approval are:

1. The primary purpose of the event must be education. Any commercial sponsorship or interests of the programme planner, presenters or facilitators must be declared on the application form and must not influence the structure or content of the event.
2. The learning objectives must be relevant to the core competencies expected of the members of the Faculty, or those practising in fields represented by the Faculty, and must fit the needs of the target audience.
3. The learning objectives must be specifically defined.
4. The teaching methods used will achieve the stated learning objectives.
5. Sufficient information (in the form of a Curriculum Vitae or equivalent) has been

provided to demonstrate that the presenters or facilitators have the expertise to deliver the learning objectives using the methods chosen.

6. There must be a procedure in place for evaluation of the event.
7. The evaluation record for previous events organised by the same provider is satisfactory, or reasons for unsatisfactory ratings have been addressed.
8. Certificates of attendance must be issued, in addition the provider agrees to supply to the participant or the Faculty, on request, confirmation of participation any time up to two years after the event has taken place.

Pre-reading

It is recommended course participants undertake some form of pre-reading from the suggested list:

1. Stark MM Ed. Clinical Forensic Medicine – A Physician’s Guide. Third Edition. Humana Press, Totowa, New Jersey 2011. ISBN 978-1-61779-257-1.
2. McLay WDS. Clinical Forensic Medicine. Third edition. Cambridge University Press 2009. ISBN 13: 9780521705684.
3. Wyatt JP, Squires T, Norfolk G, Payne-James J. Oxford Handbook of Forensic Medicine. Oxford University Press. 2011. ISBN-13:9780199229949

¹ Quality Standards in Forensic Medicine. September 2013. <http://fflm.ac.uk/librarydetail/4000113>

² FFLM Quality Standards for Nurses and Paramedics - General Forensic Medicine (GFM). August 2013. <http://fflm.ac.uk/upload/documents/1375347150.pdf>

³ FFLM approved in relation to content, teaching methods and with ongoing assessment for quality assurance. <http://fflm.ac.uk/upload/documents/1352375995.pdf>

Introductory Training Course Syllabus

The course must cover the following modules but not necessarily in the following order. Each module is a total of 6 hours.

Module 1 Basic skills

Introduction, course outline and reading list	0.5 hours
Consent, confidentiality, ethics	1.0 hour
Personal safety	0.5 hours
Police organisation	0.5 hours
Police and Criminal Evidence Act	1.5 hours
Record keeping and report writing	1.5 hours
Summary/questions	0.5 hours

Module 2 RTAct, assault and injuries

Drink Drive procedure – theory	1.0 hour
Drugs driving – theory	1.0 hour
Road Traffic Act – practical	1.0 hour
Classification and recording of injuries	1.0 hour
Offences Against the Person Act	1.0 hour
Practical exercise in recording injuries/report writing	1.0 hour

Module 3 Care of detainees and death

Fitness for detention	1.0 hour
Fitness for interview	1.0 hour
Approved Mental Health Professionals / Appropriate Adults	0.5 hours
Assessment of mental state/Mental Health Act	1.0 hour
Substance misuse/dual diagnosis	1.0 hour
Doctor at the scene of death	1.0 hour
Death in custody	0.5 hours

Module 4 Sexual Offences, Forensic Science and Child Safeguarding

Law relating to sexual offences	0.5 hours
Examination of sexual assault complainant/suspect	2.0 hours
Forensic science	1.0 hour
Domestic violence/elder protection	0.5 hours
Child safeguarding	1.5 hours
Victim care, safeguarding and support	0.5 hour

Module 5 Law, the Court system and Court Room skills

The Court System, judicial framework etc	1.0 hour
Human Rights Act	0.5 hours
Coronial System	0.5 hours
Legal protection of children, Children Act	0.5 hours
Court Room skills	1.0 hour
Court Room skills – practical exercise	1.5 hours
Course de-brief, future training	1.0 hour

It must be stressed that completion of the above course does not mean that the individual is competent to work unsupervised and further training, supervision and mentoring, in accordance with the FFLM Quality Standards documents, will be required.

Professor Ian Wall
Academic Dean

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