



Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine

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

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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 approved 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: www.fflm.ac.uk/revalidation/cpd-accreditation/

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. Wyatt JP, Squires T, Norfolk G, Payne-James J. *Oxford Handbook of Forensic Medicine*. Oxford University Press. 2011. ISBN-13:9780199229949
3. FFLM & Royal College of Psychiatrists *Substance Misuse Detainees in Police Custody. Guidelines for Clinical Management* 2011

References

1. *Quality Standards in Forensic Medicine*
FFLM February 2016
2. *Quality Standards for Nurses and Paramedics – General Forensic Medicine (GFM)*
FFLM May 2016



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

Introduction, course outline and reading list
 Role of the Healthcare Professional (HCP) working in a multidisciplinary team
 Police organisation
 Police and Criminal Evidence Act
 Personal Safety
 Consent, confidentiality and ethics
 Safeguarding
 Record keeping

Module 2

Fitness to detain and transfer
 Fitness to interview and charge
 Administration of medication
 Assessment of mental health, role of Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP), Appropriate Adults (AA), liaison and diversion
 Fitness to release

Module 3

Traffic medicine – procedures under the Road Traffic Acts
 Substance misuse and comorbidity
 Intimate searches
 Forensic science and sampling

Module 4

Documentation, interpretation and management of injuries
 Types of restraint – handcuffs, irritant sprays, batons, TASER
 HCP at the scene of death
 Death in custody and the role of the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) and Coroner

Module 5

Report writing
 The Court system
 Courtroom skills assessment
 Course debrief and consideration of future training

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.