



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

Jan 2024 Review date Jan 2027 - check www.fflm.ac.uk for latest updates

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 Healthcare 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 here: 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.

References

1. *Quality Standards in Forensic Medicine*
FFLM Sep 2022
2. *Quality Standards for Nurses and Paramedics in General Forensic Medicine (GFM)*
FFLM Jan 2024

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*. Fourth Edition. Springer Nature Switzerland 2020. ISBN 978-3-030-29461-8
2. Payne-James JJ. & Jones R. *Simpson's Forensic Medicine*. Fourteenth Edition. CRC Press Boca Raton 2020. ISBN 978-1-4987-0429-8
3. FFLM and Royal College of Psychiatrists *Detainees with Substance Use Disorders in Police Custody. Guidelines for Clinical Management. Fifth Edition* 2020



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.

<p>Module 1</p> <p>Introduction, course outline</p> <p>Role of the Healthcare Professional (HCP) working in a multidisciplinary team</p> <p>Police organisation</p> <p>Police and Criminal Evidence Act</p> <p>Personal safety and conflict resolution</p> <p>Consent, confidentiality and ethics</p> <p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Record keeping</p> <p>Module 2</p> <p>Fitness to detain and transfer</p> <p>Fitness to interview and charge</p> <p>Administration of medication</p> <p>Assessment of mental health, role of Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP), Appropriate Adults (AA), liaison and diversion</p> <p>Fitness to release</p>	<p>Module 3</p> <p>Traffic medicine – procedures under the Road Traffic Acts</p> <p>Substance use disorder and comorbidity</p> <p>Intimate searches</p> <p>Forensic science and sampling</p> <p>Module 4</p> <p>Documentation, interpretation, and management of injuries, including non-fatal strangulation (NFS)</p> <p>Types of restraint – handcuffs, irritant sprays, batons, CED, and management</p> <p>HCP at the scene of death</p> <p>Death in custody and the role of the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) and Coroner and equivalent in other jurisdictions</p> <p>Module 5</p> <p>Report writing</p> <p>The Court system</p> <p>Courtroom skills assessment</p> <p>Course debrief and consideration of future training</p>
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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.