

# Licentiate of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine

## Syllabus

### LFFLM GFM (General Forensic Medicine)



Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine  
[www.fflm.ac.uk](http://www.fflm.ac.uk)  
[forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk](mailto:forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk)



Royal College of Physicians  
11 St Andrew's Place  
London  
NW1 4LE

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## Introduction

This syllabus sets out the knowledge criteria, generic professional skills and attitudes, competencies and evidence required for the objectives in each module. It also suggests training and support that candidates may find useful.

It should be studied by candidates and educational supervisors.

1. The aim of the LFFLM (GFM) is to guarantee competency in examining and to provide care to detainees in police custody, examining police and other staff where there is a complaint, undertaking forensic examinations including those arising out of road traffic legislation, the documentation of injuries and the taking of forensic samples, undertaking a relevant examination at a suspicious death scene and the preparation of witness statements.
2. This Diploma is not re-certifiable. Evidence of updating is necessary within the healthcare professional's regular appraisal or professional revalidation processes.
3. Candidates will be expected to have a theoretical knowledge of the essential facts and principles of all forms of medico-legal enquiry in respect of the forensic and clinical aspects of general forensic medicine, and the reasons for the form of that enquiry. Topics to be covered in 6 modules are:

Module	Objective(s)
1. Initial contact	Formulate a response to a request for a forensic medical examination
2. History	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Obtain consent.</li><li>b. To take an accurate and appropriate history of medical needs arising from the incident</li><li>c. To take a relevant and accurate medical history</li></ol>
3. Examination	Carry out a thorough, sensitive examination with regards to the care or forensic examination of the detainee, police officer or other staff, document injuries appropriately, obtain/take appropriate forensic samples and undertake an examination at a suspicious death scene. Ensure documentation is accurate, thorough, and comprehensive.
4. Aftercare	Provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Information and guidance to the detainee and police about aftercare</li><li>b. Immediate care at the time of the forensic medical examination, including the safe provision of appropriate medication.</li><li>c. On-going follow-up and support for a detainee, including referral to other agencies</li></ol>
5. Statement	Write a comprehensive and technically accurate statement in the prescribed form, that can be understood by a lay person
6. Court	Prepare and present oral evidence in court

## Medical

Candidates must be able to:

- a. Demonstrate their ability to obtain consent for:
  - i. Therapeutic and forensic examinations, understanding the limits to confidentiality.
  - ii. Release of information.
- b. Take a competent and appropriate medical history from a detainee, police, or staff member including the following:
  - i. Medical/surgical and gynaecological.
  - ii. Mental health (including self-harm).
  - iii. Current medications, including use of 'over the counter' treatments.
  - iv. Allergies.
  - v. Recreational and illicit drugs (including alcohol).
  - vi. Safeguarding and protection needs of vulnerable adults, children and young people when appropriate.
- c. Recognise and assess the risk of drug interactions and the importance of continuity of prescribing.
- d. Recognise the effects that abnormal mental states, intellectual impairment and previous experiences in custody may have on an individual and how this might affect fitness for detention and interview.
- e. Undertake a relevant physical examination.
- f. Recognise, assess, and provide initial management of life-threatening conditions. The FFLM require UKRC or equivalent Immediate Life Support certification.
- g. Demonstrate appropriate mental state examination and assessment of suicide risk.
- h. Discuss the issues pertinent to detainees and how that will affect their assessment and management e.g. intoxication, mental health problems, intellectual impairment, self-harm, head injury, physical illness.
- i. Explain common signs and symptoms of intoxication or withdrawal of drugs, including prescribed, recreational, and illicit.
- j. Demonstrate appropriate management of detainees with respect to the Road Traffic Act and associated legislation.
- k. Prepare a clear and concise care plan to inform the police about an individual's care and welfare in custody, including advice about the need for an Appropriate Adult, medication or transfer to hospital. The candidates should indicate the factors which should trigger the need for further clinical assessment in custody or at hospital.

## Forensic

Candidates must be able to:

- a. Discuss accurately the logistics for the forensic medical examination, including the nature of the assault, persistence of evidence, the recording of injury, suitability of where the examination should be performed and preservation of evidence.
- b. Define and identify different types of injury by undertaking a full examination. Thoroughly and accurately document positive and negative findings with regards to the known account of the alleged incident. Management of detainees who have been subject to the use of restraint included conducted electrical devices (CED) and irritant sprays.
- c. Discuss current persistence data and recovery methods for trace evidence.
- d. Demonstrate the collection of forensic samples, including how to ensure minimal cross contamination and correct labelling and packaging of forensic samples with regard to the chain of evidence and admissibility of evidence.
- e. Demonstrate competence at a suspicious death scene.
- f. Be able to perform assessments under road traffic legislation including understanding the limitations of the tests performed by the police.
- g. Safely undertake an Intimate Body Search as recommended in the FFLM document – Health Professionals asked to perform intimate body searches.

## Legal

Candidates must be able to:

- a. Explain the principles of current legislation e.g.
  - i. The legal definitions of consent including awareness of the consequences of assessing 'Gillick' competency, parental responsibility, safeguarding and confidentiality. Awareness of the relevant guidance from the GMC, NMC and HCPC and any relevant legislation for the jurisdictions - England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland within the UK.
  - ii. Offences Against the Person Act [1861]  
Family Reform Act [1969]  
Mental Health Act [1983, 2007 & 2017]  
Police and Criminal Evidence Act [1984]  
Access to Medical Reports Act [1988]  
Children Act [1989, 2004 & 2014]  
Access to Health Records Act [1990]  
Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act [1996]  
Data Protection Act [1998 & 2018] & GDPR  
Human Rights Act [1998]  
Sexual Offences Act [2003] and [1956] and equivalent in other jurisdictions  
Mental Capacity Act [2005] and equivalent in the other jurisdictions

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act [2006]

Equality Act 2010

Road Traffic Legislation

The Police Reform Act 2002 & The Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2005

Terrorism ACT [2000] and [2006]

and the equivalent legislation in Scotland and Northern Ireland

- b. Discuss police processes and have an awareness of the consequences of the use of closed and open questions and how the Police and Criminal Evidence Act [1984] might impact on the process of forensic medical examination.
- c. Explain the requirements for documentation, labelling, storage of forensic samples and a chain of evidence.
- d. Explain the structure of the courts in all parts of the UK, the burden of proof in different legal proceedings, the core principles of the Criminal Procedure Rules and the Civil Procedure Rules.
- e. Understand the role of the Coroner.
- f. Discuss the roles of Expert Witnesses e.g. the Expert Witness of Fact and the other types of Expert Witness, the purpose of a witness statement and the rules of hearsay evidence.
- g. Demonstrate how to write a statement which is an accurate account based on contemporaneous medical notes (identifying the sources of any information) of the history of the allegations, the medical history, an account of the examination and findings (including negative and positive findings) and relevant body diagrams.
- h. Explain any medical or technical terms used in a manner that can be understood by a lay person.
- i. Explain how to indicate in a statement when the disclosure of information has not been complete. In instances where an opinion has been requested and it is appropriate to give that opinion, show how fact and opinion are separated.

## **Practitioner**

7. Candidates must be able to:
  - a. Discuss factors essential for forensic examination, including level of expertise, resources, the practitioner, GMC, NMC or HCPC guidance on confidentiality and consent and on health and safety.
  - b. Demonstrate an awareness of the risk of vicarious trauma to self and others, the role of a chaperone, personal safety, infection control, cross contamination and time management.

- c. Provide accurate and relevant curriculum vitae.

Candidates must have seen sufficient cases (normally in the last 12 months) to enable them to achieve all the competencies and the requirements for the Part 2 examination.

## **Supervision - Educational Supervisor(s)**

The Educational Supervisor should where possible comply with the requirements below:

### **Marking System**

#### **Part 1**

- a. Details of the LFFLM Part I Examination and marking system is set out in the General Regulations.
- b. Candidates will be informed whether they passed or failed each question.

#### **Part 2**

- a. SAQs and OSCEs: Details of the method of assessment is set out in the LFFLM (GFM and SOM) Regulations document.
- b. SAQs: Results will be issues 4 weeks post examination
- c. OSCE: Feedback will comprise a pass / fail result for each station and examiner's comments on the candidate's performance

## Person Specification for Educational Supervisor

Attributes	Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualifications</b>	<p>GMC or NMC or HCPC full registration</p> <p>Specialist or General Practitioner registration for medically qualified Educational Supervisor or MFFLM or LFFLM or Postgraduate Certificate – Advanced Forensic Practice (Sexual Assault and/or Custody)</p>	<p>Postgraduate qualification in education</p>
<b>Knowledge and Skills</b>	<p>Knowledge of management and governance structures in medical education and training and awareness of recent changes in the delivery of medical education and training nationally and locally.</p> <p>Assessment methods (see the Educator Hub on E-learning for Healthcare (e-LfH), <a href="https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/educator-hub">https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/educator-hub</a>)</p> <p>Follow GMC standards: See: <a href="https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/standards-and-outcomes">https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/standards-and-outcomes</a> for further information.</p> <p>Training and experience as an educational supervisor.</p> <p>Enthusiasm for delivering training.</p> <p>Effective communications skills, motivating and developing others, approachability, good interpersonal skills.</p> <p>Significant experience in sexual offence medicine and/or general forensic medicine as applicable</p> <p>Trained in Equality and Diversity (updated every 3 years)</p>	