

STUDY LEAVE FOR GP VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Summarised below is guidance on essential courses and additional training which needs to be undertaken during the first 2 years of GP training as a hospital SHO. The need to focus this training in the hospital years is due to the following factors:

1. During the final GP Registrar (3rd) year the study leave budget is significantly less.
2. The Day Release Course, which is compulsory for all GP Registrars (GPRs) in their final year, takes 30 days of study leave.

Below is a list of courses that are deemed essential or necessary for all GP Registrar's to undertake. It is understood this list may change in the light of the forthcoming New GP contract.

These courses may be taken at any time during the SHO years, regardless of the speciality or department that the GP SHO is in at the time.

The GP vocational training scheme SHO posts are educational and 50% of the funding for these posts is held by the Deanery.

SHO's are entitled to 60 sessions of 3.5 hours (30 days) study leave **per year** pro rata.

Every Department must provide a **core education programme** relevant to that speciality which includes induction, appraisal, weekly teaching and a covering senior doctor.

Up to half of the GP SHO's study leave (30 sessions per year or pro rata) can be set against half day departmental structured training programmes in protected time. If so these sessions should be of high quality, relevant to general practice and in fully protected time.

In addition every SHO is entitled to undertake 30 sessions per year, (pro rata) of external study leave to attend the examinations and courses outlined below.

The normal Hospital Trust application process and rules apply to all GP SHOs when planning or requesting study leave and application should be made in advance (allow 6 weeks at least).

Category A – Essential Clinical Skills and Training

- Child Health Surveillance (3 days theory + 6 additional practical sessions)
- Minor Surgery (2 day theory course + 3 additional practical sessions)
- Wessex Week – this combines the child health surveillance course and minor surgery theory courses (equals 5 days theory)
- Basic Family Planning (non IUCD) (8 sessions)
- Half Day SHO Release – There are 10 per year and there is a mandatory attendance of 8 in any 12 month period.
Failure to attend requires notification of reasons and may result in the non-signing of the VTR/2 for that relevant training period

- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses

Category B – Exams & Exam Courses

- DRCOG
- DCH or other relevant qualification such as diplomas or the MRCP
- MRCGP
- Summative Assessment
- Advanced Family planning - IUCD

Category C – Additional training

General practice is a broad specialty and there are many courses, which GPRs undertake to expand their clinical skills. This is therefore reflected in the wide spectrum of study leave applications that may be sought.

Examples include:

- Consultation Skills
- Management Skills Courses
- Alternative medicine e.g. Acupuncture
- Specialist skills e.g. ENT, Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Surgery, Endoscopy
- Specialist environment courses
e.g. Medical Diving Courses or Tropical Medicine Courses

These applications need to be considered on an individual basis as part of the overall learning plan for each GP Registrar.

We expect that every GP Registrar will have, in the first few months of commencing their VTS, a written plan of their training and study leave requirements. This should be written on the 3 year “study leave plan” sheet available from the Wessex Deanery website on <http://www.wessex.org.uk/medical/genpract/sho/index.htm>

Category C courses are appropriate if the essential Category A and B courses are already included into the study leave plan. They are options if study leave time and funding remains after the Category A and B courses have been arranged and entered in the 3 year study leave plan.

Due to the broad nature of general practice there will be a huge number of courses that will fall into Category C. Your local GP SHO Programme Organiser can help advise in areas of uncertainty.

The Wessex Association of GP SHO Programme Organisers 2003.