

Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine

Criteria for Accreditation of Sexual Health Medicine Advanced Training Positions

Background

Accreditation of advanced training sites was approved as an activity of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) in September 1999.

Advanced training in sexual health medicine is supervised by the Training Committee in Sexual Health Medicine (TCSHM). Training is undertaken prospectively under guidance of supervisors who provide formative and summative assessments of the trainee's program content and performance. In order to facilitate approval of training programs submitted by trainees, the TCSHM will accredit the training sites and positions and periodically review the accreditation to ensure that the sites are of acceptable quality and of an adequate standard.

Purpose of Accreditation of Training Positions

1. To facilitate approval of training programs
2. To determine:
 - i. the appropriateness of supervision for advanced training;
 - ii. the level of clinical workload for advanced training;
 - iii. the suitability of infrastructure for advanced training;
 - iv. opportunities for research and continuing education during advanced training;
 - v. availability of training in the allied components of sexual health medicine;
 - vi. recommendations for improving training at the sites
3. To assist trainees to select the position suitable to their current training needs.

Accreditation Criteria

The following criteria will be considered in accreditation of a training position.

Criterion A

The trainee shall be provided with appropriate supervision for advanced training.

- A.1 The advanced training position shall be provided with a minimum of one specialist in sexual health medicine on-site and one other appropriate clinical supervisor such as an infectious diseases physician, a microbiologist with HIV experience or a public health physician with dual training in sexual health or ID, who are able to supervise the trainee locally. The purpose of having two individuals is to ensure that at least one Specialist is always available to provide supervision and advice. It is recognised that much of the supervision can be provided by telephone, but the trainee must be able to call upon a Specialist to provide supervision in person.
- A.2 The Training Site must have at least 1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Sexual Health Medicine Specialists as staff members.

- A.3 The Sexual Health Medicine Specialists hold FACHSHM.
- A.4 The two appropriate specialists shall provide complete back-up cover for trainees involved in after-hours and on-call work.
- A.5 Supervisors should be trained in the supervision of advanced trainees in sexual health medicine. Supervisors must have attended College Supervisor Workshops at least once every 5 years.
- A.6 Supervisors shall support the trainee in the completion of mandatory requirements, including PREP tools

Criterion B

The trainee shall be provided with a sufficient workload of clinical material to support each advanced trainee. A specialist in sexual health medicine shall ensure that the trainee is involved in all aspects of the work of the service. This includes regular sufficient numbers of new patients, hospital, ambulatory and community consultations, review consultations, outpatient consultation clinics, inpatients and appropriate procedures including anogenital biopsy.

- B.1 The sexual health service should see a minimum of 300 new patients per year per training position. The clinical work load should include enough variety for the trainee to become proficient in managing the differential diagnosis of pelvic pain and other reproductive health issues as well as sexually transmissible infections and HIV.
- B.2 The sexual health service should have an interdisciplinary team to manage patients.
- B.3 The sexual health service should be seeing a minimum of 6 new HIV patients per year per training position with a clinic case load of at least 50 patients. The HIV services should include the prescription and monitoring of non-occupational post exposure prophylaxis for HIV and an awareness of the cost-benefit analysis of such treatment.
- B.4 The sexual health service should have at least 1.0 FTE Clinical Nurse (preferable at Nurse Specialist level for the purposes of education) on the service.
- B.5 The sexual health service should have access to health promotion officers working with high risk communities such as men who have sex with men, sex workers, injecting drug users or Aboriginal clients.
- B.6 The sexual health service should participate in at least one outreach activity in a community setting targeting a high-risk population and provide evidence of programs that include preventative health activities such as vaccination against hepatitis and human papilloma viruses.

Criterion C

The trainee shall be provided with a suitable infrastructure for advanced training.

- C.1 The training position shall include provision for the trainee to attend regularly scheduled interdisciplinary sexual health clinical meetings (at least one per week), peer-review meetings and correlative imaging meetings or other methods that can be documented.

- C.2 The training position shall include provision of an appropriate academic environment for advanced training, through direct teaching, access to on-line and distance learning activities, journal clubs, or other methods that can be documented.
- C.3 The trainee shall be provided with access to a medical library with current books, relevant journals and computer facilities.
- C.4 The trainee shall be provided with on-line internet access to clinical literature.
- C.5 The trainee shall be provided with opportunities to develop their skills in managing health services through their active participation in the development of rosters, the management of clinical incidents and near misses, the development or review of local policies and guidelines, communication with public health authorities and participation in the development of the local response to increased notifications of STIs or HIV in their local communities and by having the opportunity to act up in more senior positions when appropriate.

Criterion D

The trainee should be provided with encouragement to undertake research (which can include clinical trials, audits, QA activities) and/or continuing professional development during advanced training.

- D.1 The training site shall provide opportunities for research in clinical or laboratory aspects of sexual health for each trainee.
- D.2 The trainee is required to complete and submit for assessment, a major research project during the 3 years FTE of Advanced Training. This is a requirement in line with RACP Progression Through Training policy. Submission date is the 15th of September in any year before the end of Advanced Training. Supervision is to be provided by the staff in the department or any other research competent person.
- D.3 There should be a process in place for trainees to attend scientific meetings of local, national and international societies, and to submit abstracts to such meetings.

Criterion E

The trainee should be provided with access to other services such as pathology, radiology, gynaecology, urology, dermatology, pain management and other specialist services.

- E.1 The Sexual Health Training Site will have access to other specialist services such as pharmacy, pathology, radiology, allied health, infectious diseases, respiratory medicine (in particular TB), psychiatry including neuropsychiatric testing, gynaecology, urology, dermatology, pain management and gastroenterology.

Reporting Process

Training Sites will be required to complete and return a survey report to the TCSHM for initial consideration of accreditation and for review when the site's accreditation has expired. They are also required to report to the TCSHM on any changes during the accredited time period.

A visit will be necessary to confirm adequacy of the site. A teleconference may be deemed appropriate in exceptional circumstances.

The report will be considered by the TCSHM and the accreditation decision conveyed to the sites as soon as possible.

Types of Accreditation

The following minimum requirements must be met regardless of time accredited for training:

- 9 months training must be dedicated to sexual health medicine for female patients, and 9 months for male patients.
- 6 months must be dedicated to HIV medicine (trainees may combine training in sexual health and HIV at one site over 24 months).
- 6 months must be spent in reproductive health (trainees may combine training in sexual health and reproductive health at one site over 24 months).
- 6 months elective (optional) – may include sexual assault, transgender medicine, genital dermatology, sexual dysfunction, public health.
- Up to 12 months may be spent in a prospectively approved training post in a relevant discipline overseas.

Accreditation of high caseload General Practices

High caseload General Practices will only be accredited for 80 percent of a trainee's training time as no more than 80 percent of cases would be directly relevant to training in Sexual Health Medicine. This decision is based on the breadth of training trainees receive at General Practices compared with public clinics. Whether a General Practice constitutes a high caseload is to be assessed based on the activity report submitted by the training site as part of the accreditation process. Sixty percent or more consults relating to Sexual Health/HIV Medicine may be classified as a high caseload General Practice.

Types of Supervision

Trainees may complete some of their training via the co-supervision model. This may occur at training sites where the onsite primary supervisor may NOT hold a FACHSHM and co-supervises with another trainee supervisor who holds a FACHSHM off-site. This can occur, for example, during elective training. It is an essential requirement that all primary supervisors who do not hold a FACHSHM submit their curriculum vitae to the TC in Sexual Health Medicine, via SHMedTraining@racp.edu.au to ensure each application is accurately reviewed.

Reproductive Health Training

Accreditation of reproductive health training will be decided in line with the current Sexual Health Medicine AT Curriculum.

Training Duration

A maximum of 24 months FTE can be spent at any one training site. It is expected that trainees complete their Advanced Training at more than one training site. However, the Trainee Committee will consider exceptional circumstances on a case by case basis, if there are no other alternatives.

Dual Training

Dual trainees must discuss their training requirements and apply in advance for accreditation of their cross training. Credit will only be granted for up to 12 months of training. The terms can be combined or done concurrently. Completion of a Masters program during advanced training will be considered as concurrent training (that is, trainees must include their Masters study as part of their normal working hours). This must be prospectively approved. These units will have to provide assurance and evidence that adequate training will be provided.

Provisional Accreditation

Provisional accreditation may be granted to sites that are waiting to be reviewed and accredited by the TCSHM through the normal accreditation process. This is to ensure that existing trainees at the site are not disadvantaged. It is expected that sites that are accepting trainees for the first time will be prioritised for a site visit during the year of that first year of training.

Accreditation Cycle

Sites are reviewed every three to five years. The TCSHM may also undertake a review of a site at its discretion before the end of the cycle.

Accreditation of Overseas Advanced Training Positions

Training obtained overseas is acceptable, provided the proposed training position meets the accreditation criteria. Overseas training positions will be assessed and approved based on information provided by the trainee's supervisor/Head of Department in the form of a letter and completion of survey forms. The supervisor will also receive the RACP handbook *Requirements for Chapter Training Manual* which includes the requirements of advanced training in sexual health medicine for information. A copy of the sexual health medicine training curriculum will be provided to the overseas supervisor. A site visit will not normally be considered.

Appeals Process

If a site does not gain accreditation or reaccreditation or is not satisfied with the decision or the accreditation process, then it has the right to request that the TCSHM reconsider its decision. If the TCSHM upholds its original decision, the applicants may request review of the decision that is conducted by the Chapter Committee. If the Chapter Committee upholds the decision of the TCSHM, the applicants may appeal the decision to the Adult Medicine Division. The decision of this committee will be forwarded to the applicant, the TCSHM and the Chapter Committee.