



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Specialist Advisory Committee in Infectious Diseases

From A/Prof Geoffrey Playford, Chair of the SAC in Infectious Diseases
To Infectious Diseases Physicians
Date 18 August 2015
Subject Review of the SAC in Infectious Diseases' Advanced Training Site Accreditation Criteria

Background

The Specialist Advisory Committee (SAC) in Infectious Diseases initiated a review of Site Accreditation Criteria for Advanced Training in Infectious Diseases. The following changes have been proposed:

1. The SAC will be accrediting individual sites for the maximum number of trainees that can be adequately trained at any one time.
2. Under the Profile of Work, the SAC have specified each trainee at an individual site is required to see 500 Category A consultations (see definitions below) per year. Previously, sites were accredited (for an unspecified number of trainees) if the site encountered a total of 350 (Adult Medicine) or 250 (Paediatrics) consultations (unspecified type) per year.

A survey was sent to Infectious Diseases supervisors and site contacts (which was available from 17 April to 8 May 2015) to gather feedback on the proposed changes. A total of 33 Infectious Diseases Physicians completed the survey.

Context of Proposed Changes

1. *The SAC will now be accrediting the number of trainees that can be adequately trained at any one time.*

The SAC does not currently accredit a maximum number of Infectious Diseases Advanced Trainees per training site. They have therefore made this change for the following reasons:

- to ensure that trainees can receive an adequate breadth of experience at any accredited Infectious Diseases training site
 - to ensure that the same standard of training is happening across all accredited Infectious Diseases training sites
2. *Under the Profile of Work, the SAC has specified the type of consultative service that will be accredited. This includes what is considered as an appropriate consult and the increase of the number of consultations required from 350 (Adult Medicine) and 250 (Paediatrics) for the site to 500 Category A consults for each trainee at the site.*

The aim of Advanced Training is to equip trainees to practice independently as an Infectious Diseases Physician after the completion of their training. Currently, the 350 consultations would equate to a minimum of seven consults per week or one



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consultation per day, which would not reflect the average Infectious Diseases job. The SAC therefore raised concern that the current number of consultations required may not provide sufficient experience for Infectious Diseases.

In order to quantify the appropriate number of consultations per trainee, the SAC had first identified that an appropriate consult was the full assessment of a patient, including documentation within the medical record of this assessment and the clinical plan, and discussion with a consultant.

They had then divided the consultations into three categories – A, B and C. As specified in the draft Site Accreditation Criteria (that was circulated for consultation), Category A consults include inpatient consults, outpatient consults and new inpatient admissions under the Infectious Diseases service. All others that did not fall under Category A were then divided into Category B (e.g. follow up inpatient or outpatient consultations) and Category C (e.g. telephone consults, stewardship rounds).

With this clarified definition, the SAC then based the minimum 500 consults on the current number of Infectious Diseases consults seen in currently accredited Infectious Diseases sites across Australia and New Zealand and had specified that the required 500 consults should be Category A consultations.

Next steps

The SAC will be implementing the above changes to their Site Accreditation Criteria. The SAC acknowledge that there may be exceptional circumstances and will consider flexibility of 500 consults on a case-by-case basis.

This will impact sites as follows:

1. New sites (sites that are not currently accredited for Advanced Training in Infectious Diseases) will be assessed against the updated Site Accreditation Criteria from 2015.
2. Sites that are accredited will have the current number of trainees at their site recognised as part of their accreditation as the maximum number of trainees for that training site. If the site wishes to have additional trainees accredited, this additional number will be assessed against the updated Site Accreditation Criteria.

The RACP currently maintains a list of the number of registered Infectious Diseases and Infectious Diseases & Microbiology Advanced Trainees (in core infectious diseases positions) at each training site. The Education Officer for Infectious Diseases and Infectious Diseases & Microbiology will be in contact with sites, which are currently accredited, to confirm these numbers. These sites will then receive updated documentation to outline their accreditation, which will include the maximum number of trainees at the site.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via Lanica Alonzo on InfectiousDiseases@racp.edu.au.