

Hong Kong College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

I. SPECIALTY TRAINING IN GENERAL

1. Structure of Training

- 1.1 The minimum duration of specialty training in obstetrics and gynaecology is six years, with four years of basic training and two years of higher specialist training. This training period consists of five years of training in obstetrics and gynaecology, and one year of elective training.
- 1.2 The five years of training in obstetrics and gynaecology may be separate or combined, in one or more training units. The first four years of training in obstetrics and gynaecology should be in 6-month periods. In the fifth year, the minimum duration of each training period is 3 months. Training periods of shorter duration than stipulated will require prior approval from the College. With regard to the first 4 years of training in obstetrics and gynaecology, if all or part of the training was in components of just obstetrics or just gynaecology then the proportion should be approximately 50/50 (2 years obstetrics plus 2 years gynaecology) although up to a difference of 6 months either way could be allowed.
- 1.3 Elective training may be in other medical disciplines relevant to obstetrical and gynaecological practice, and it may also be in medical research. It may be undertaken in any of the six years of training. If taken during the higher specialist training period, it has to be in the form of O&G related research.
- 1.4 Elective training may be one 12-month period or two 6-month periods. All training should be supervised by Fellows of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine or equivalent, and the programme of training must be structured. A certificate of satisfactory completion of training must be submitted to the College within six months of completion of elective training and in any case before the Exit Assessment.
- 1.5 All elective and research programmes are subject to prior approval by the Education Committee of the College. Under special circumstances, the candidates who are in difficulty may apply to the College for special consideration.
- 1.6 All training must be in posts recognised by the College, and under the supervision of a trainer approved by the College.

2. Criteria for Entry into Training Program

- 2.1 Trainees must be doctors who are registerable with the Hong Kong Medical Council.
- 2.2 Trainees must be so registered with the College.

3. Trainers and Supervision of Training

- 3.1 Trainers are appointed by the College, and are responsible to the College for the proper supervision of trainees under their charge.
- 3.2 Trainers should be specialists and Fellows of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine or equivalent.
- 3.3 Trainers should be working in recognised training units.
- 3.4 A trainer must agree with the philosophy and must follow the protocol of training as defined by the College. The appointment should be reviewed every year, or when circumstances have changed.
- 3.5 A trainer should normally not be responsible for more than three trainees.
- 3.6 The trainer has the following responsibilities to the trainee:-
 - 3.6.1 To ensure that the trainee is adequately taught.
 - 3.6.2 To ensure that the trainee acquires adequate communication skills.
 - 3.6.3 To ensure that the appropriate and adequate clinical experience is available to the trainee.
 - 3.6.4 To ensure that the trainee is an effective member of the clinical team.
 - 3.6.5 To ensure that the trainee has enough time to study and reflect on his experience.
 - 3.6.6 To ensure that the trainee recognises and follows professional ethics and code of conduct.
 - 3.6.7 To facilitate the trainee to attend postgraduate education sessions.
 - 3.6.8 To act as an advocate for the trainee's welfare.
- 3.7 The trainer has the following responsibilities to the College:-
 - 3.7.1 To report any change in the training unit which may affect training.
 - 3.7.2 To inspect, ensure the accuracy of and sign the trainee's log book at regular intervals.
 - 3.7.3 To report on the training progress of trainees under his charge.
 - 3.7.4 To supervise training, ensuring that it conforms to the College's philosophy and protocol.

4. Training Units

- 4.1 Training units are recognised by the College, and the recognition is reviewed every five years. A training unit may comprise of more than one site.
- 4.2 The minimum requirements for a unit to be recognised for training are as follows:-
- 4.2.1 It must have at least one appointed trainer.
- 4.2.2 There must be sufficient training facilities and clinical experience for training purposes. These should include inpatient beds, outpatient clinics, access to operating theatres, referral sources, and emergency admissions.
- 4.2.3 The unit must have a quality assurance programme, and the standard of practice must be considered high enough by the College for training purposes.
- 4.2.4 The unit must have an organised postgraduate education programme suitable for training purposes.
- 4.2.5 Units which are unable to provide a full range of training experience must agree to co-operate with the College in organising full ranged training for their trainees.
- 4.3 The number of training posts in a training unit is determined by its ability to fulfill training requirement for each trainee.
- 4.4 The hospital of a recognised unit must have access to:-
- 4.4.1 A wide range of other specialties, including:-
- Internal Medicine
 - Surgery
 - Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (providing 24 hours cover for the labour ward)
 - Neonatal care (providing 24 hours cover for the labour ward)
- 4.4.2 A wide range of supportive services accessible at all times, including:-
- Blood Bank
 - Histopathology and Cytopathology including Frozen Section and Autopsy service
 - Chemical Pathology
 - Microbiology
 - Organ Imaging
- 4.4.3 Adequate library facilities, including a reading room, reference text books, major journals of the specialty, and facilities for reference searching.

4.4.4 Adequate classrooms or seminar rooms.

5. Contents of Training

- 5.1 The training curriculum is as determined by the College from time to time.
- 5.2 Trainees are expected to participate in the following activities, the extent of involvement being dependent on the stage of training.
- 5.3 The trainee should carry out clinical duties. These include:-
 - 5.3.1 Ward rounds, outpatient consultations, operations, consultation with other specialties.
 - 5.3.2 Specialised procedures such as ultrasound scanning and colposcopy.
 - 5.3.3 Supervisory cover for more junior staff.
 - 5.3.4 Preparation of clinical protocols.
- 5.4 The trainee should have teaching duties. These include:-
 - 5.4.1 Participation in seminars and formal case presentations and discussions.
 - 5.4.2 Lecture and tutorials to midwives and students.
 - 5.4.3 Supervision and clinical teaching to more junior doctors.
- 5.5 The trainee should participate in other educational activities which may benefit himself. These include:-
 - 5.5.1 Attendances at conferences, workshops, or other postgraduate activities.
 - 5.5.2 Participation in clinical research activities.
 - 5.5.3 Publishing of articles in learned journals, manuals, or text books.
 - 5.5.4 Oral or poster presentations of original work.
- 5.6 The trainee should participate in quality assurance activities. These include:-
 - 5.6.1 Preparation, presentation, and publishing of monthly and yearly departmental clinical statistics.
 - 5.6.2 Report and presentation of cases with unexpected outcome.
 - 5.6.3 Preparation and presentation at Joint Specialty Meetings.
- 5.7 The trainee should accept some administrative duties and management responsibilities. These may include:-
 - 5.7.1 Preparation of duty rotas.
 - 5.7.2 Preparation of departmental budgets and plans.
 - 5.7.3 Purchasing and maintaining equipment.
 - 5.7.4 Receiving management training
 - 5.7.5 Assisting in organisation of any departmental activities or projects.
- 5.8 The trainee should maintain an up-to-date logbook and present for review when called for.

II. BASIC TRAINING

1. Training Requirements

- 1.1 Basic training in obstetrics and gynaecology should be general in character. Exposure to subspecialties is considered beneficial but should not constitute a major part of training.
- 1.2 Trainees must be resident in hospital while on duty.
- 1.3 Trainees should be on 24 hour call on a 1 in 3 to 1 in 5 rota.
- 1.4 During training, trainees should on average attend one obstetric and one gynaecological clinic, and one operating session per week (calculated on a 3-hour equivalent per session). Trainees should also on average have a minimum of one day per week on labour ward duty (calculated on a 24-hour equivalent).
- 1.5 Trainees should attend on average at least one teaching round with a trainer per week.
- 1.6 Trainees should attend on average at least one postgraduate education session each week. These may be in the form of Perinatal and other audit meetings, case presentations, Clinical-Pathology Conferences, Journal Clubs, research presentations, lectures, or seminars.
- 1.7 Trainees should participate in other appropriate activities as listed in section I-5.

2. Completion of Training

- 2.1 Trainees are considered to have completed basic training and can proceed to higher specialist training after fulfilling the following:
 - completed a minimum of 4 years of supervised training
 - passed the Structured Oral Examination
- 2.2 Approval must be obtained from the College within 3 months of commencement of higher specialist training.

III. HIGHER SPECIALIST TRAINING

1. Training Requirements

- 1.1 Of the 2 years of higher specialist training, at least 12 months must be in clinical training for general obstetrics and gynaecology; the 12 months need not be consecutive.
- 1.2 For the other year, the following programmes may be considered:
 - 1.2.1 General Clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology
 - 1.2.2 supervised O&G-related Research
 - 1.2.3 recognised subspecialty training
 - 1.2.4 any other programmes approved by the College

Programmes other than clinical training in general obstetrics and gynaecology must receive prior approval from the College.

- 1.3 Trainees in higher specialist training should play a more supervisory role and assume more administrative duties as compared to the basic training period.
- 1.4 Trainees should satisfy the research training requirement as defined by the College.

2. Clinical Training in General Obstetrics and Gynaecology

- 2.1 Trainees should participate in activities as listed in section I-5.
- 2.2 Trainees in higher specialist training should be trained in decision making towards management of more challenging clinical conditions. The aim is to acquire competence in independent management of more difficult obstetric and gynaecological problems.

3. Supervised O&G-related Research

- 3.1 Up to one year in higher specialist training may be spent doing O&G-related research under supervision.
- 3.2 The trainee may conduct unique projects or part of larger or ongoing projects. However, the nature and amount of the research work to be conducted must be approved by the College prior to the commencement of the training.
- 3.3 The research project must have a supervisor approved by the College. The subject should be related to Obstetrics and Gynaecology, though not necessarily be clinical in nature.
- 3.4 The trainee must be a major participant in the project, and the standard of the work should be considered to be suitable for publication in an internationally recognised journal.

- 3.5 At the end of the research training period, the trainee is required to submit a report on the progress and work involved in the project. The report should contain at least the following:-
- 3.5.1 The background, purpose, and significance of the project.
 - 3.5.2 The hypothesis involved or the question to be answered.
 - 3.5.3 A summary of the literature review.
 - 3.5.4 Methodology and population involved.
 - 3.5.5 Presentation of the data and results.
 - 3.5.6 Discussion and conclusions.
 - 3.5.7 Acknowledgment of other contributors and a statement on the extent of the trainee's involvement.
- 3.6 Assessment of the research period shall be as follows:-
- 3.6.1 The Education Committee shall appoint a Board to assess the trainee's work, and to make recommendations on whether the amount and quality of the research work is adequate.
 - 3.6.2 The Board shall assess the report submitted by the trainee, and any accompanied publications or documents.
 - 3.6.3 If the quality of the trainee's report on research work is such that the Board cannot immediately recommend acceptance, the trainee shall be interviewed, and areas of doubt clarified.
4. Subspecialty Training
- 4.1 Up to one year of higher specialist training may be spent in recognised subspecialty training.
 - 4.2 The training programme as well as the units involved must be recognised by the College as suitable for formal Subspecialty Training.
 - 4.3 The assessment of the year of training shall be the same as that prescribed in Subspecialty Training endorsed by the College.
5. Any Other Programme
- 5.1 Up to one year of higher specialist training may be spent in any other programme approved by the College. These include:-
 - 5.1.1 Overseas training in a unit approved by the College.
 - 5.1.2 Work in a subspecialty area in a unit which may not be recognised for Subspecialty Training but be considered by the College to have a subspecialty practice of acceptable quality.
 - 5.1.3 A combination of more than one type of work.
 - 5.2 The programme may be individualised to suit the trainee's needs. However, it should be approved by the College prior to its commencement.
 - 5.3 Assessment should be appropriate for the programme and shall be determined by the College at the time of its approval.

6. Completion of Training

- 6.1 Trainees are considered to have completed higher specialist training after fulfilling the following:
- completed a minimum of 2 years of supervised higher training
 - passed the remaining components of the Intermediate Assessment (the Structured Oral Examination should be passed during Basic Training)
 - attained relevant levels of competence expected of a specialist trainee in Structured Training modules
 - passed the exit assessment
- 6.2 Trainees who have successfully completed higher specialist training shall be nominated by the College to Fellowship of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine.

IV. AUDIT OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE AND EXPERIENCE

1. Structured Training Log Book

- 1.1 This log book is a record of competence achieved, and its main purpose is to document the trainees' attainment of the required competence for a specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.
- 1.2 Trainees are required to complete the skill targets in the various modules of the log book up to the level appropriate to their stage of training.
- 1.3 Trainees should arrange with their trainers for certification when the Exit Assessment competence level is achieved.

2. Quantitative Log Book

- 2.1 This log book is a record of experience, and its main purpose is to document the trainee's involvement in clinical and other activities required for training to be a specialist.
- 2.2 Trainees are required to record the various activities and experiences as stipulated, and to make detailed reports on 10 obstetric and 10 gynaecological cases which are unusual or complicated.
- 2.3 The following serves as guidelines for the minimum amount of logged experience for 6 years of specialist training.

<u>Procedure</u>	<u>Number</u>
casearean section	100
operative vaginal deliveries	100
major abdominal surgical procedures	60
laparoscopic procedures which must include more than 30 cases in level 2 and more than 10 cases in level 3 (as defined by the College)	50
major vaginal surgical procedures	10
evacuation of uterus/termination of pregnancy	50
Hysteroscopy and/or dilatation & curettage (at least 1/3 should be hysteroscopic examinations or procedures)	100
colposcopic examination/procedure (at least 50 cases must be either performed by the trainee himself, or involve cases with pathology of the lower genital tract)	100

V. ASSESSMENT

1. Part I Assessment

- 1.1 The subjects of the Part I assessment shall be the basic sciences required for the practice of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.
- 1.2 The form of the Part I assessment shall be determined by the College from time to time.
- 1.3 Candidates may undergo Part I assessment if the following criteria are satisfied.
 - 1.3.1 Candidates must have registered with the Hong Kong Medical Council at the time of assessment.
 - 1.3.2 Candidates must have successfully applied to be assessed and paid the appropriate assessment fees.
- 1.4 The Part I assessment may be taken at any time either before or during the period of training.

2. Intermediate Assessment

- 2.1 The Intermediate Assessment assesses the following:
 - 2.1.1 That the candidate has acquired supervised clinical training as required by the College.
 - 2.1.2 That the candidate has acquired the basic clinical knowledge and skills in General Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and its related disciplines.
 - 2.1.3 That the candidate has acquired the appropriate problem solving and decision making skills in General Obstetrics and Gynaecology.
- 2.2 The form of the Intermediate Assessment shall be as follows:
 - 2.2.1 There shall be one or more written examinations on obstetrics, gynaecology, and related subjects.
 - 2.2.2 There shall be one or more viva voce examinations. The format would be stipulated by the College from time to time.
- 2.3 Candidates may undertake the Intermediate Assessment if the following conditions are satisfied.
 - 2.3.1 The candidate must be a registered trainee, and must have satisfactorily completed the required periods of training.
 - 2.3.2 The candidate must have passed the Part I Assessment at least 6 months before the Intermediate Assessment.

- 2.3.3 Candidates must have completed at least 2 years of basic obstetrical and gynaecological training prior to sitting the Structured Oral Examination component of the Intermediate Assessment.
- 2.3.4 To sit the other components of the Intermediate Assessment, candidates must have completed at least 4 years of obstetrical and gynaecological training.
- 2.3.5 The candidate must have successfully applied to the College to be assessed and have paid the assessment fees.

3. Exit Assessment

- 3.1 The aim of the Exit Assessment is to assess the capability and suitability of a candidate to be a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology.
- 3.2 The Assessment shall be a review of the logged experience and competence over the whole training period and in the form of a viva voce assessment of the candidate. The duration of the assessment shall be that required for a satisfactory assessment of the candidate. In any case, it shall not be less than 30 minutes.
- 3.3 Candidates may undertake the Exit Assessment if the following conditions are satisfied.
 - 3.3.1 The candidate must have passed all components of the Intermediate Assessment.
 - 3.3.2 The candidate must have completed at least 2 years of Higher Specialist training by the preceding 31st December for the January/February assessment, or by the preceding 30th June for the July/August assessment.
 - 3.3.3 The candidate must have successfully applied to the College to be assessed and have paid the assessment fees.

4. Formative and Summative Assessment

- 4.1 Designated forms for formative and summative assessment shall be completed by trainer and submitted to College periodically.