

HONG KONG COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGISTS

Guidelines on General Nuclear Medicine Training

[This document should be read in conjunction with Training Regulations, Working Principles for Accreditation of Training Centres and Conduction of Training Programmes, and the Guidelines on Higher Specialist Training (Nuclear Medicine)]

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The programme needs to be structured and in accordance with the requirements in this guideline.
- 1.2 At least 9 months of the Higher Specialist Training period should be dedicated to structured training in General Nuclear Medicine. Outside these 9 months, General Nuclear Medicine training can be either full time or combined with other subspecialty training.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 Training of Nuclear Medicine physicians towards independent practice with improved competency in Nuclear Medicine examinations.
- 2.2 Further development in breadth of Nuclear Medicine knowledge, including recent advances in new imaging technology, new development of radiopharmaceuticals and new applications of imaging in various disease entities.

3. Training Requirements

3.1 TRAINING CENTRE REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1.1 The training should be conducted in a training centre accredited by the College.

3.2 TRAINER REQUIREMENTS

- 3.2.1 The trainer in General Nuclear Medicine can at the same time be a Subspecialty Trainer.
- 3.2.2 Trainer to trainee ratio should not be less than 1:2, preferably at least 1:1.

3.3 DURATION OF TRAINING

- 3.3.1 The programme should be structured.
- 3.3.2 Flexibility should be given in counting the training period to facilitate administrative convenience, e.g. separate 3-month periods of General Nuclear Medicine training are acceptable.
- 3.3.3 Rotation to other recognised training centers would be encouraged, aiming at broadening the exposure of the trainee. The training facilities involved under such

arrangement should satisfy the basic requirements for training purpose. The training should at all-time be conducted under supervision by accredited trainer(s) or co-trainer(s). The principles of training supervision is delineated in Working Principles for Accreditation of Training Centres and Conduction of Training Programmes.

3.4 MINIMUM NUMBER OF EXAMINATIONS REQUIRED

It is recommended that at least 1200 procedures must be supervised and performed/reported by the trainee during a 9-month-training period of General Nuclear Medicine, and the quality of these audited. These should include a wide range of pathology, and include paediatric studies. The minimum workload requirement of each individual examination category is listed in the following table. For training period longer than 9 months, the minimum total number and in each examination category will be increased pro rata, rounded up on monthly basis.

Examination Category	RIS Coding	Requirement*
Central nervous system	9010-9099	10
Cardiovascular system	9110-9170, 9180-9199	180
Endocrine system	9220-9299	60
Gastrointestinal & Hepatobiliary systems	9301-9350, 9370-9399	15
Urogenital system	9420-9499	80
Haematopoietic & lymphatic systems	9351-9360, 9510-9599, 9171	10
Infection, inflammation & Oncology	9610-9799	60
Pulmonary system	9810-9899	15
Musculoskeletal system	9910-9950, 9999	250
Radionuclide therapy	9T21-9T91	20
PET/CT	9P13-9P59	250
* Including at least 50 procedures performed in paediatric patients		

Training centres are reminded that the minimum number of performance of examinations under supervision serves only as reference in evaluating whether the trainees are considered competent of performing that particular examination. In light of wide spectrum of diversified complexity of Nuclear Medicine examinations in clinical situations, the training centres should exercise stringent monitoring of performance of their trainees and ensure that they can have ready access to trainers or co-trainers for consultation whenever needed.

3.5 CLINICAL NUCLEAR MEDICINE MEETINGS

The trainee should chair or present cases in at least 6 clinical meetings in the period of Higher General Nuclear Medicine Training.

3.6 PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

As specified in the Guidelines on Higher Specialist Training (Nuclear Medicine).

3.7 OTHER REQUIREMENTS

It is expected that arrangement will be made for the trainee to receive management training, to assist in administration of the department, and to be involved in quality assurance and medical audit activities.

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