

The cost of training in terms of consultant time

Approved by ETSC 25/2/2009

Good postgraduate training in psychiatry has always been expensive in terms of the trainer time involved. Recent changes to the ways in which trainers are involved in the recruitment, training and assessment of specialist trainees together with closer definition of the individual elements of the job plans of consultant psychiatrists have led to a situation within which essential face-to-face contact with trainees and necessary supporting training activities have become squeezed into notional fractions of an individual programmed activity or are not included in consultant job plans at all.

This document sets out what the College believes to be the appropriate amount of time that should be set aside within a consultant psychiatrist's job plan in order to deliver specialist training in psychiatry.

PMETB have recently altered their definitions of the role of Clinical Supervisors and Educational Supervisors so that they are now as follows:

Clinical Supervisor "A trainer who is selected and appropriately trained to be responsible for overseeing a specified trainee's clinical work and providing constructive feedback during a training placement. Some training schemes appoint an educational supervisor for each placement. The roles of clinical and educational supervisor may then be merged".

Educational Supervisor "A trainer who is selected and appropriately trained to be responsible for the overall supervision and management of a specified trainee's educational progress during a training placement or series of placements. The educational supervisor is responsible for the trainee's educational agreement".

For Clinical Supervisors of trainees at all stages of specialist training (CT1 to ST6), 0.5 programmed activities per week per trainee should be included in the job plan to reflect time involved in clinical and educational supervision and assessment.

For Educational Supervisors of trainees at CT1 to CT/ST3, 0.5 programmed activities per week for every 4 trainees should be included in the job plan to reflect time involved in recruitment, supervision, progress monitoring and guidance. Educational Supervisors of trainees at ST4 to ST6 are often involved in the management of larger numbers of trainees and the training contact is less intensive than for core trainees. Consequently, 0.5 programmed activities per week per 8 trainees should be included in their job plans to reflect time involved in recruitment, progress monitoring and guidance.

Robert Howard 16th March 2009