



DUAL TRAINING IN PSYCHIATRY

Although the concept of dual training (within which an ST4-6 trainee is provided with training to acquire the CCT knowledge and competencies involved in two recognised psychiatric specialties) is supported within the Gold Guide, the general tide of change associated with the introduction of run through, fixed length, specialist training has seen a reduction in the availability of opportunities to follow this route.

The College supports the provision of dual training for all trainees who:

- (i) Have chosen to specialise in an area of practise within which the knowledge and competencies associated with acquisition of a CCT in more than one recognised speciality would be essential. Among good examples of this would be consultant posts in Forensic Psychotherapy or Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychiatry.
- (ii) Have indicated to their training deanery at an early stage in their higher training (within 18 months of entering ST4) that they are seeking dual training.
- (iii) Can realistically access the training that would be involved in the acquisition of a chosen dual CCT within their deanery.

The College would not support the provision of dual training to trainees on the basis of their having not decided by ST4 or later which specialty they wish to make their career choice. In the past, for example, a number of trainees followed dual training in Old Age and General Adult Psychiatry largely for this reason.

The College would also not support the provision of dual training as a means of delaying acquisition of a CCT for a trainee who was concerned that they were "not ready" for a consultant post or anxious that no suitable consultant posts were likely to be immediately advertised within their preferred geographical working area.

The College would want to support deaneries in the design of dual training programmes for individual trainees and particular combinations of recognised specialties, the length and content of which would be determined by measured acquisition of relevant competencies and knowledge, rather than by absolute length of training. Thus, it should be possible for trainees to acquire dual CCT competencies and knowledge in less than five years of higher (post ST3) training.

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