

Syllabus for Higher Training in Neuropsychiatry

A. Assessment:

i. The specialist assessment of patients including:

- Presenting or main complaint
- History of present illness
- Past medical and psychiatric history
- Systemic review
- Family history
- Socio-cultural history
- Developmental history
- Drug and alcohol history
- Forensic history
- Premorbid personality
- Mental State Examination
- Cognitive examination
- Physical and Neurological Examination

ii. Relevant and current guidance for the assessment of risk and management of self-harm

iii. Neuropsychiatric presentations in specific contexts including intellectual disability, autism, addiction and forensic settings

iv. The difference in presentation in culturally diverse settings

B. Treatments

Knowledge and applicability of:

i. Psychotropic medication use in patients with neurological disorders

ii. Evidence-based psychological interventions for neuropsychiatric disorders

iii. Physical treatments including ECT, neurosurgical ablation, rTMS, tDCS, deep brain stimulation and vagus nerve stimulation

iv. Immune therapy

v. Neurorehabilitation

vi. NICE and other guidelines for psychiatric treatments in neurological settings

C. The neuropsychiatric presentation of the following disorders:

i. Neurodevelopmental disorders

- Disorders of intellectual development
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

ii. Functional Neurological Disorder (Conversion Disorder; Dissociative Disorders)

iii. Secondary mental or behavioural syndromes associated with neurological disorders:

- neurodevelopmental syndrome e.g. autistic-like features in Rett syndrome; aggression and self-mutilation in Lesch-Nyhan syndrome, abnormalities in language development in Williams syndrome
- psychotic syndrome
- mood syndrome
- anxiety syndrome
- obsessive-compulsive or related syndrome
- dissociative syndrome
- impulse control syndrome
- neurocognitive syndrome
- personality change
- apathy

iii. Neurocognitive disorders

- Delirium due to
 - medical disease
 - psychoactive substances including medications
- Mild neurocognitive disorder
- Amnesic disorder due to
 - medical disease
 - psychoactive substances including medications
- Dementia due to
 - Alzheimer disease
 - cerebrovascular disease
 - Lewy body disease
 - Parkinson's disease
 - Huntington's disease
 - frontotemporal dementia
 - human immunodeficiency virus
 - multiple sclerosis
 - prion disease
 - heavy metals and other toxins
 - psychoactive substances including medications
 - brain injury

- Down's syndrome

iv. Chronic fatigue syndrome (Post viral fatigue syndrome, benign myalgic encephalomyelitis)

v. Acquired Brain Injury due to:

- Trauma
- Encephalitis
- Stroke
- Hypoxia and hypoglycaemia

vi. Specific Movement Disorders

- Tic disorders
- Stereotypies
- Catatonia
- Neurological adverse effects of psychotropic medication

vii. Psychiatric symptoms in epilepsy:

- Psychotic symptoms
- Mood symptoms
- Cognitive symptoms

viii. Sleep-wake disorders

- Insomnia
- Hypersomnia of central origin
- Sleep apnoea
- Circadian rhythm sleep-wake disorder
- Sleep-related movement disorders
- Parasomnias
 - Disorders of arousal from non-REM sleep
 - Parasomnias related to REM sleep
 - Other parasomnias

D. Investigations

Advanced knowledge and applicability of investigations and understanding of how the results can be used to inform diagnosis and guide treatment of neuropsychiatric disorders

i. Specific blood and CSF tests in the diagnosis of inherited, degenerative, infectious, inflammatory, paraneoplastic, metabolic, deficiency-related and toxic disorders

ii. Neuropsychological assessments

iii. Neuroimaging including structural CT, structural and functional MRI, metabolic and ligand-based PET

iv. Electrophysiology: cranial and intracranial EEG; evoked potentials; sleep studies including video telemetry and EMG

E. Context, Policy and Legislation

i. Understanding of the current national standards, policies and guidelines in relation to the mental health and social care needs of patients

ii. Knowledge and appropriate application of adult safeguarding processes

iii. Knowledge of

- The relevant mental health legislation and the core principles consistent with UK national legislation relating to the detention and treatment of patients with a mental disorder
- The relevant UK national legislation relating to mental capacity
- Relevant Case Law