

Guidance on Training in Interventional Radiology

1 What is Interventional Radiology training?

In 2010 the RCR gained recognition for Interventional Radiology as a sub-specialty of Clinical Radiology, and subsequently a curriculum was approved by the GMC. When followed as part of a prospectively approved training programme, the curriculum leads to the award of a certificate of completion of training (CCT) in Clinical Radiology with Interventional Radiology sub-specialisation.

2 Why can't I get a CCT in Interventional Radiology?

It is not possible to be awarded a CCT in Interventional Radiology (or any other sub-specialty). In describing the recognition of sub-specialties, the GMC website says: *"To set this in context, a doctor can have sub-specialty training indicated against his/her name in the Specialist Register, along with the main CCT specialty if he/she convinces the GMC that he/she has satisfactorily completed sub-specialty training approved by the GMC."*

3 How long is IR training?

Interventional Radiology training in the new 2010 curriculum extends over six years – three years for core radiology training and three years for sub-specialty training. The first three years focus on acquiring general radiological competencies at the same time as acquiring core interventional skills. The last three years of training concentrate on developing advanced interventional competencies at the same time as maintaining core competencies in general radiology. Trainees nearing the end of training in IR on the 2007 curriculum will not be disadvantaged in employment opportunities during this transition period as they will be able to demonstrate high level competencies resulting from any extended training

4 Do I need a special NTN?

No – all radiology training including IR is done with an NTN in Clinical Radiology. There will be no separate IR NTNs.

5 How do I get into IR training?

In future we hope that training programmes will be able to offer additional jobs specifically leading towards IR recognition. Any trainee following the 2010 CR curriculum can extend their training into IR if this is prospectively planned and agreed before entry to ST4. Trainees and their supervisors/programme directors will need to:

- Ensure that their deanery is able to provide an additional year of training
- Ensure that training opportunities exist to cover the Level 1 and 2 IR sub-specialty competencies in the curriculum.
- Formally transfer to the 2010 curriculum if currently on a previous version
- Notify the RCR Training Team (training@rcr.ac.uk) of this transfer and the intention to formally move to the IR curriculum
- The College will then liaise with the GMC to register this training

6 I'm not on the 2010 CR curriculum – what can I do?

The IR sub-specialty curriculum is built on the 2010 CR curriculum so it is not possible to combine sub-specialty training with earlier versions of CR. The simplest solution is to transfer. For some time the RCR has recommended that all ST4 trainees commencing Level 1 & 2 Special Interest training should transfer to the 2010 curriculum.

7 I've already entered ST4 – is it too late to move to IR?

If you are on the 2010 curriculum and can demonstrate that your sub-specialty training so far is relevant to IR (and you have local support as described above) then the RCR will consider your case. Note that it is important that you have the earliest possible approval – there is a strong risk that retrospective claims for having completed IR training will not be recognised by the GMC.

8 My local training programme can't cover the whole curriculum

The IR curriculum states: *"Higher speciality training in IR will be delivered by collaboration in and between training programmes. Some aspects of level 1 and 2 training will only be available in specialist centres. It is envisaged that IR trainees will need to be supported by their educational supervisors and training programme directors to allow them the opportunity to be trained in areas of the IR curriculum that are not available in their local schemes. In some circumstances this may necessitate out of programme training."*

You will need to discuss possibilities with your supervisors/TPD.

9 Can a UK-based IR Fellowship help?

A number of UK centres offer fellowship training either pre- or post-CCT.

As long as you have followed the guidance above about prospective approval for IR training, then a pre-CCT fellowship can definitely contribute to your sub-specialty recognition. You will need deanery and RCR approval for this, as for any out-of-programme training. The RCR does not maintain a separate list of approved centres for IR training – any radiology training centre is acceptable.

Post-CCT training can be a valuable addition to your CV but cannot be used as the basis for adding sub-specialty recognition to your entry on the Specialist Register.

The British Society of Interventional Radiology has a list of fellowships on their website.

10 Can an IR Fellowship abroad help?

There is now clear guidance from the GMC that fellowships/OOPT outside UK may form part of sub-specialty training. As long as you have followed the guidance above about prospective approval for IR training, then a pre-CCT fellowship can contribute to your sub-specialty recognition. You will need deanery and RCR approval for this, as for any out-of-programme training.

11 When will I get my CCT

The College recommends, subject to any future requirements by the GMC, that both your CCT and your sub-specialty recognition are applied for at the end of your 6th year of training. The College will extend your CCT date once agreement for funding of your final year has been reached with your deanery.

12 Will I need an IR entry on the Specialist Register in order to get an IR consultant post?

Definitely not in the short term and not necessarily in future, but we hope it will be an increasingly important way of demonstrating expertise in, and commitment to, the sub-speciality.