

Guidance on training in interventional radiology (IR)

What is interventional radiology (IR) training?

Interventional radiology is the only formally recognised subspecialty of clinical radiology with a curriculum 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 subspecialisation. The IR curriculum includes a pathway for training in interventional neuroradiology (INR) and this guidance applies to both strands of the sub-specialty.

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 subspecialty). In describing the recognition of subspecialties, the GMC website says: *"To set this in context, a doctor can have subspecialty 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 subspecialty training approved by the GMC."*

How long is IR training?

Interventional radiology training extends over six years – three years for core radiology training and three years for subspecialty 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.

Do I need a special NTN?

No – all radiology training including IR is done with an NTN in clinical radiology. There are no separate IR NTNs.

How do I get into IR training?

You must first be recruited into clinical radiology and complete core training (ST1-ST3). You can then apply and be selected for IR training to start from ST4. Training programmes can offer opportunities to local trainees only or nationally if they wish, but there is no national selection process.

Can UK-based Out of Programme Training (OOPT) help?

A number of UK centres offer IR training.

As long as you have followed the guidance above about prospective approval for IR training, then OOPT can contribute to your subspecialty recognition. You will need training programme, HEE/deanery and RCR approval for this, as for any out-of-programme training. The GMC maintain a separate list of approved centres for IR training (<http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/28373.asp>).

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

Can OOPT abroad help?

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

When will I get my CCT?

The College recommends, subject to any future requirements by the GMC, that both your CCT and your subspecialty recognition are applied for at the end of your sixth year of training. The College will extend your CCT date when notified of your entry onto the IR curriculum.

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

No, but we hope it will be an increasingly important way of demonstrating expertise in, and commitment to, the subspecialty.

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