

# **A Competency Based Curriculum for Specialist Training in Psychiatry**

**Specialist  
Module in  
Addictions  
(Substance  
Misuse)  
Psychiatry**



***Royal College of Psychiatrists***

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## **SPECIALIST IN ADDICTIONS (SUBSTANCE MISUSE) PSYCHIATRY**

Specialists in Addictions (Substance Misuse) Psychiatry work with others to assess, manage and treat people of all ages with mental health problems arising from, or complicated by, the misuse of substances such as alcohol, nicotine and other drugs. They also treat people who have gambling addiction. In addition to working with patients and their families, Substance Misuse Psychiatrists also contribute to the development and delivery of effective substance misuse services.

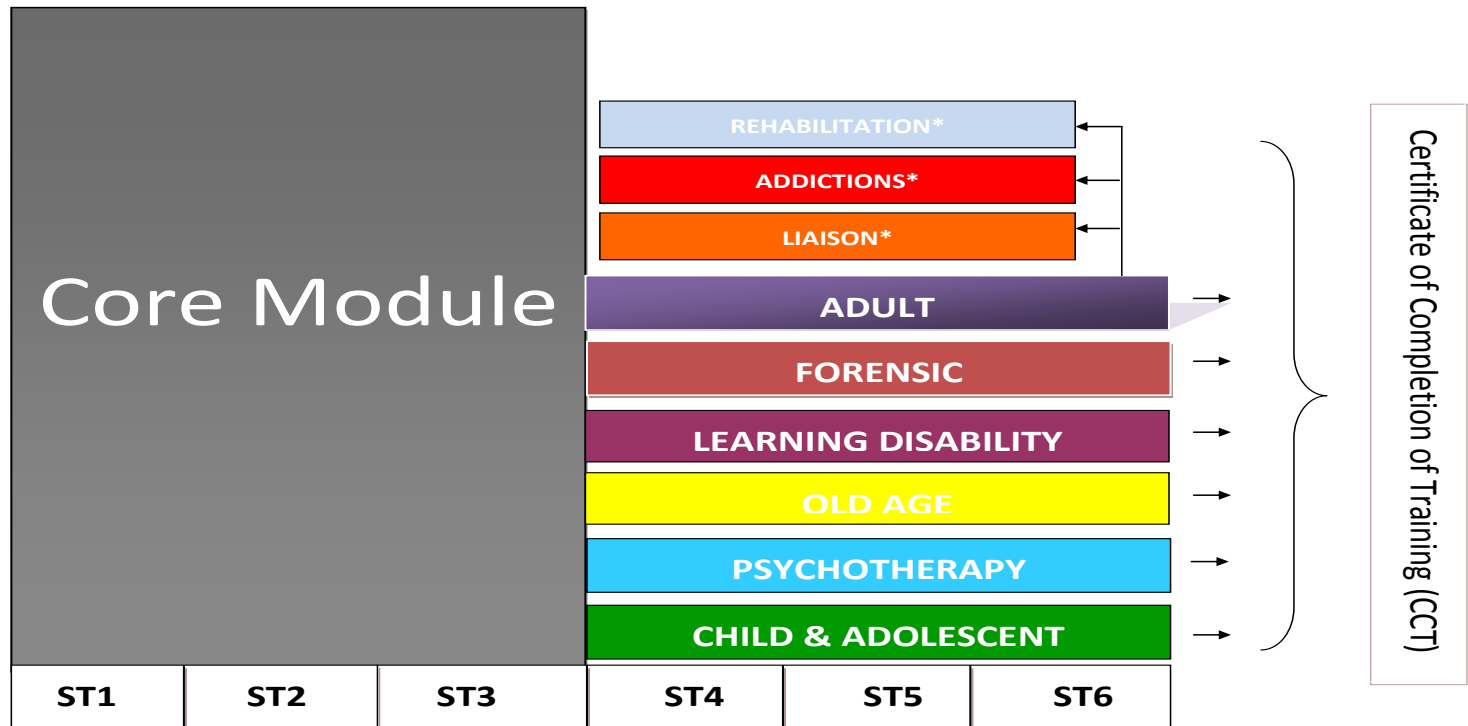
This Curriculum is written for doctors who are following the Specialist Module in Adult (General and Community) Psychiatry Module and wish to have their Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) endorsed with the sub-specialty of Addictions (Substance Misuse) Psychiatry. Doctors pursuing this option should therefore also pursue the Learning Outcomes in the Adult (General and Community) Psychiatry Module.

The Specialist modules of the College curriculum, including this one, build on the Core Module in two ways.

Firstly, Specialty Registrars in Psychiatry all continue to achieve the competencies set out in the Core Module throughout training, irrespective of their psychiatric specialty. This involves both acquiring new competencies, particularly in aspects such as leadership, management, teaching and appraising, and developing core competencies such as examination and diagnosis to a high level and, as an expert, serving as a teacher and role model.

Secondly, the specialist modules set out those competencies that are a particular feature of each specialty. These include competencies that are specific to that specialty, or that feature more prominently in the specialty than they do elsewhere, or that need to be developed to a particularly high level (mastery level) in specialty practice.

**TRAINEES' PROGRESSION FROM ST1 TO CCT IN PSYCHIATRIC SPECIALTIES**



\*Please use the relevant subspecialty curricula in conjunction with Adult (General and Community) Psychiatry curriculum.

## **The Intended Learning Outcomes**

Some of the intended learning outcomes set out in the Core Curriculum are not included in this specialty module. However, for consistency, the numbering system for the intended learning outcomes has been left unchanged here. Therefore, there are gaps in the sequence below.

### ***Intended learning outcome 1***

***The doctor will be able to perform specialist assessment of patients and document relevant history and examination on culturally diverse patients to include:***

- ***Presenting or main complaint***
- ***History of present illness***
- ***Past medical and psychiatric history***
- ***Systemic review***
- ***Family history***
- ***Socio-cultural history***
- ***Developmental history***

### ***Intended learning outcome 3***

***The doctor will demonstrate the ability to recommend relevant investigation and treatment in the context of the clinical management plan. This will include the ability to develop and document an investigation plan including appropriate medical, laboratory, radiological and psychological investigations and then to construct a comprehensive treatment plan addressing biological, psychological and socio-cultural domains***

### ***Intended learning outcome 4***

***Based on a comprehensive psychiatric assessment, the doctor will demonstrate the ability to comprehensively assess and document patient's potential for self-harm or harm to others. This would include an assessment of risk, knowledge of involuntary treatment standards and procedures, the ability to intervene effectively to minimise risk and the ability to implement prevention methods***

***against self-harm and harm to others. This will be displayed whenever appropriate, including in emergencies***

***Intended learning outcome 5***

***Based on the full psychiatric assessment, the doctor will demonstrate the ability to conduct therapeutic interviews; that is to collect and use clinically relevant material. The doctor will also demonstrate the ability to conduct a range of individual, group and family therapies using standard accepted models and to integrate these psychotherapies into everyday treatment, including biological and socio-cultural interventions***

***Intended learning outcome 7***

***To be able to carry out specialist assessment and treatment of patients with chronic and severe mental disorders and to demonstrate effective management of these disease states***

***Intended learning outcome 8***

***Demonstrate effective communication with patients, relatives and colleagues. This includes the ability of the doctor to conduct interviews in a manner that facilitates information gathering and the formation of therapeutic alliances***

***Intended learning outcome 9***

***To demonstrate the ability to work effectively with colleagues, including team working***

***Intended learning outcome 10***

***Develop appropriate leadership skills***

***Intended learning outcome 16***

***To develop an understanding of research methodology and critical appraisal of the research literature***

***Intended learning outcome 17***

***To ensure that the doctor acts in a professional manner at all times***

**Intended learning outcome 1**

**The doctor will be able to perform specialist assessment of patients and document relevant history and examination on culturally diverse patients to include:**

- **Presenting or main complaint**
- **History of present illness**
- **Past medical and psychiatric history**
- **Systemic review**
- **Family history**
- **Socio-cultural history**
- **Developmental history**

Knowledge	Skills	Behaviours
	<p>Demonstrate ability to make a detailed assessment of cognitive function and detect presence of substance misuse related brain disorder</p> <p>Make assessments of substance misuse disorder in criminal justice settings</p> <p>Make assessments of substance misuse disorder in in-patient settings</p> <p>Assess gambling disorders</p> <p>Understand and apply specific assessment skills required for pregnant women</p> <p>Understand and apply specific assessment skills required for special groups e.g. LD, adolescents, older adults</p> <p>Make assessments of mental capacity especially with reference to intoxication</p>	

**Intended learning outcome 3**

***The doctor will demonstrate the ability to recommend relevant investigation and treatment in the context of the clinical management plan. This will include the ability to develop and document an investigation plan including appropriate medical, laboratory, radiological and psychological investigations and then to construct a comprehensive treatment plan addressing biological, psychological and socio-cultural domains***

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Behaviours</b>
<p>Demonstrate knowledge of investigations available and appropriate use in assessment and diagnosis (including ECG interpretation) with reference to QT interval prolongation</p> <p>Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of psychosocial and pharmacological management and treatment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cannabis use disorders</li><li>• benzodiazepine use disorders</li><li>• stimulant use disorders</li><li>• alcohol use disorders</li><li>• opiate use disorders</li><li>• nicotine use disorders</li></ul> <p>Detailed understanding of range of treatment services (tier 1 – 4) and work effectively in these settings</p> <p>Knowledge of the role of National Treatment Agency (NTA), DOH,</p>	<p>Ability to induct and manage opiate dependent patients on to oral replacement therapy</p> <p>Demonstrate competence in management of in-patient treatment of substance misuse disorders</p> <p>Apply specialist treatments, e.g. injectable medications</p>	

other national bodies, and of local commissioning processes		
Knowledge of the full range of providers of substance misuse services and their role within local and national treatment systems		

**Intended learning outcome 4**  
***Based on a comprehensive psychiatric assessment, the doctor will demonstrate the ability to comprehensively assess and document patient's potential for self-harm or harm to others. This would include an assessment of risk, knowledge of involuntary treatment standards and procedures, the ability to intervene effectively to minimise risk and the ability to implement prevention methods against self-harm and harm to others. This will be displayed whenever appropriate, including in emergencies***

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Behaviours</b>
	<p>Demonstrate an understanding of principles of harm minimisation and apply these in practice</p> <p>Initiate and maintain a care plan, understanding the role of boundaries and the involvement of a broad range of agencies, including the concepts of social inclusion and through-care</p> <p>Correctly apply MHA legislation to patients with Substance Use Disorders (SUDs)</p>	

**Intended learning outcome 5**

**Based on the full psychiatric assessment, the doctor will demonstrate the ability to conduct therapeutic interviews; that is to collect and use clinically relevant material. The doctor will also demonstrate the ability to conduct a range of individual, group and family therapies using standard accepted models and to integrate these psychotherapies into everyday treatment, including biological and socio-cultural interventions**

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Behaviours</b>
Demonstrate understanding and clinical application of specific psychological treatments e.g. Motivational Enhancement Therapy, Relapse Prevention		

**Intended learning outcome 7**

**To be able to carry out specialist assessment and treatment of patients with chronic and severe mental disorders and to demonstrate effective management of these disease states**

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Behaviours</b>
Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of psychosocial and pharmacological management and treatment of severe mental illness and personality disorders in substance misusers  Understand the concepts related to the stages of Change model and tailor interventions accordingly	Demonstrate competence in managing patients with polydrug dependence	

***Intended learning outcome 8***

***Demonstrate effective communication with patients, relatives and colleagues. This includes the ability of the doctor to conduct interviews in a manner that facilitates information gathering and the formation of therapeutic alliances***

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Behaviours</b>
	Ability to conduct motivational interviews	Ability to establish and maintain working relationships and understand the needs of families and carers

***Intended learning outcome 9***

***To demonstrate the ability to work effectively with colleagues, including team working***

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Behaviours</b>
	Ability to work closely with colleagues in the Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) and external statutory/non-statutory agencies	

**Intended learning outcome 10**

**Develop appropriate leadership skills**

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Behaviours</b>
Understand appropriate assumption, delegation and devolvement of responsibility	Review and supervise the implementation of care plans by colleagues in the MDT	
Demonstrate a knowledge of the full range of providers of substance misuse services and their role within local and national treatment systems	Supervise and direct the MDT	
Understand the effective implementation of national guidelines including NICE guidelines and technology appraisals	Apply understanding of relationship between Substance Use Disorder, mental health and social problems in service design	
	Apply knowledge of relationship between clinical services, social services and criminal justice systems in service design	

**Intended learning outcome 16**

**To develop an understanding of research methodology and critical appraisal of the research literature**

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Behaviours</b>
	Supervise audit/research project	

***Intended learning outcome 17***  
***To ensure that the doctor acts in a professional manner at all times***

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Behaviours</b>
		Demonstrate sensitivity to multi-cultural diversity in substance misuse practice