

A Competency Based Curriculum for Specialist Training in Psychiatry

**Specialist
Module in
Liaison
Psychiatry**



Royal College of Psychiatrists

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SPECIALIST IN LIAISON PSYCHIATRY

Specialists in Liaison Psychiatry work with others to assess, manage and treat people with mental health problems in conjunction with physical (medical or surgical) illness. They have particular expertise in the relationship between physical illness and psychological distress and contribute to the development and delivery of effective services.

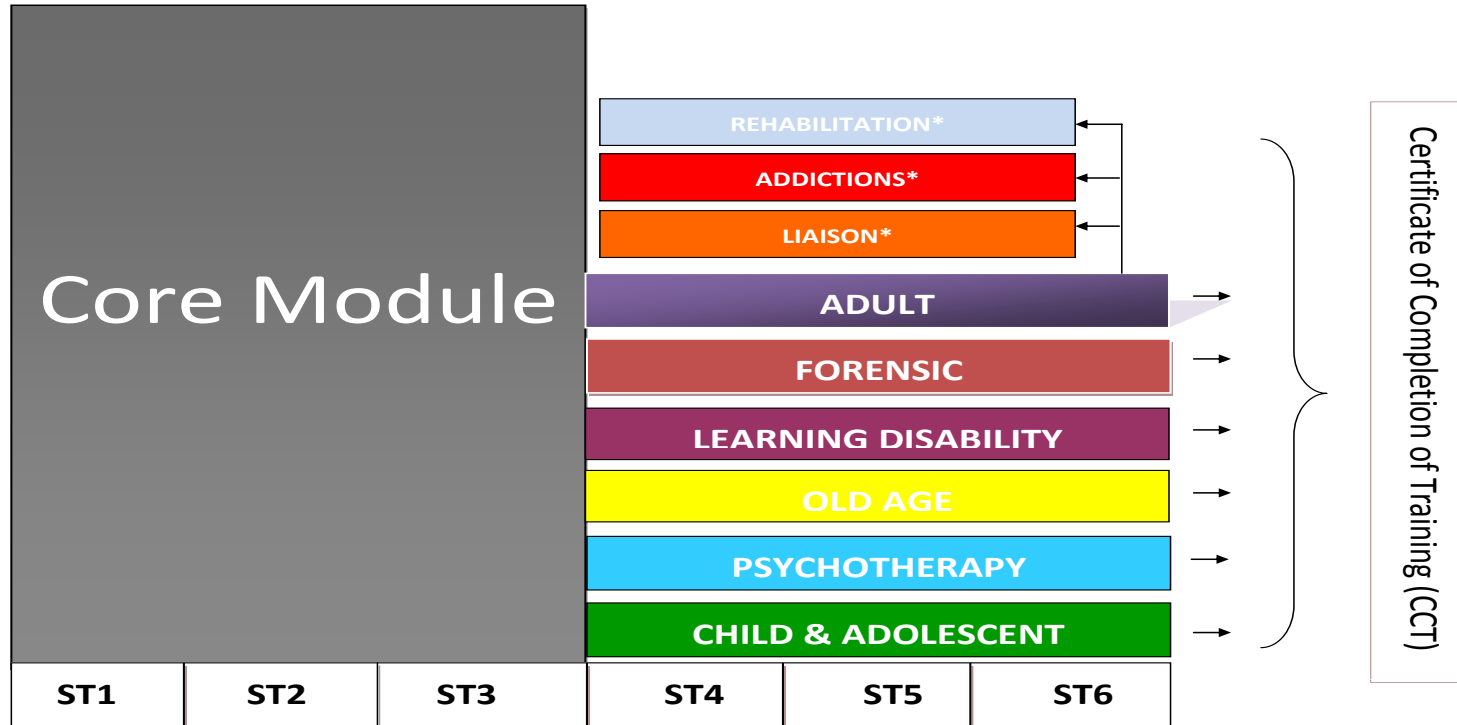
This Curriculum is written for doctors who are following the Specialist Module in Adult (General and Community) Psychiatry Module and wish to have their Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) endorsed with the sub-specialty of Liaison Psychiatry. Doctors pursuing this option should therefore also 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 2

The doctor will demonstrate the ability to construct formulations of patients' problems that include appropriate differential diagnoses

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 12

To develop the ability to conduct and complete audit in clinical practice

Intended learning outcome 15

To develop the ability to teach, assess and appraise

Intended learning outcome 17

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

Competencies shown in BLUE can be achieved in CT1 – 3 if the trainee has the opportunity to have a Liaison Psychiatry placement.

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	Attitudes demonstrated through behaviours
Demonstrate a basic understanding of medically unexplained symptoms	Carry out a basic MSE identifying specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mood• Psychosis• Delirium• Insight• Understanding Identify and diagnose anxiety, depression, psychosis and delirium Carry out a full biopsychosocial assessment of patients, in medical and surgical settings, with physical health problems, physical	

	<p>symptoms and mental health symptoms, impaired mental wellbeing, or psychological distress, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic documentation of chronology of patient's medical history including use of time lines • Working with other clinical members of the liaison team and understand their roles • Learning from other members of a liaison team • Understand the responsibilities and limits of a liaison team • Know the epidemiology and common presentations of psychological problems in medical and surgical settings • Use of appropriate questionnaires to use in medical & surgical settings and their limitations • Knowledge of questionnaires used by medical and surgical staff e.g. SAD persons' scale <p>Using one's own authority to optimise medical and surgical management plans</p>	
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Intended learning outcome 2
The doctor will demonstrate the ability to construct formulations of patients' problems that include appropriate differential diagnoses

Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes demonstrated through behaviours
	Be able to determine capacity, based on an understanding of the concepts	

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

Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes demonstrated through behaviours
<p>An awareness of the administrative aspects of MHA and MCA legislation influencing management in non-mental health settings</p> <p>Understanding of the current national standards, policies and guidelines in relation to the mental health and social care needs of patients in medical and surgical settings</p> <p>Experience of joint working with General hospital colleagues in implementing the above standards and guidelines</p>	<p>Safely use and manage psychotropic medication</p> <p>Employ basic management and referral skills</p> <p>Be able to undertake the basic management of drug/alcohol problems, including identification and immediate treatment</p> <p>Confidently diagnose, manage and coordinate complex liaison cases in both in-patient and out-patient settings, including the use of a broad range of psychological, social, environmental and biological interventions</p>	

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

Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes demonstrated through behaviours
<p>Have a good knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the MHA, civil provisions• the MCA in respect of hospital and community• relevant Case Law <p>Have knowledge of all relevant and current guidance for the management of self-harm, including that published by the National Institute for Clinical Effectiveness (NICE) and the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)</p>	<p>Carry out an assessment of risk including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suicide/disturbance• Exploitation and neglect• Environmental risk <p>Manage psychiatric emergencies including pharmacological and environmental aspects</p> <p>Contribute to the development of clinical risk management plans in medical and surgical settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For individual patients (generic competence)• Developing policies	

	Demonstrate an understanding of emergency, consultation, and liaison styles of working (generic competence)	
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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

Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes demonstrated through behaviours
	<p>Develop psychotherapeutic skills within the liaison psychiatry setting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the use of psychotherapeutic skills with physically ill patients and patients with medically unexplained symptoms • Demonstrate the ability to utilise psychotherapeutic skills in assisting staff groups, in the acute hospital, in the management of complex situations <p>Manage at least one supervised psychotherapy case, using an appropriate psychotherapy, drawn from the liaison psychiatry setting</p>	

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

Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes demonstrated through behaviours
	Conduct complex mental health and capacity assessments (under the relevant legislation) and continuing management of detained patients in the acute hospital, including an awareness of the legal complexity relating to the interaction of physical and mental health problems	

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

Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes demonstrated through behaviours
Understand the relationship between physical illness and psychological distress	Discuss mental health issues with medical and surgical patients Discuss basic management plan	

	with patients	
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Intended learning outcome 9
To demonstrate the ability to work effectively with colleagues, including team working

Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes demonstrated through behaviours
<p>Show an awareness of access to and delivery of mental health systems</p> <p>Understand models of consultation – liaison psychiatry and emergency working sufficiently to explain and negotiate with general hospital and mental health Trust colleagues and managers</p>	<p>Collaborate effectively and actively and develop negotiating skills, with medical and surgical colleagues</p> <p>Work with and support Primary Care in managing complex cases involving Multiple Undiagnosed Symptoms and/or chronic physical illness</p>	<p>Contribute to Mental Health promotion in the acute hospital</p>

Intended learning outcome 10
Develop appropriate leadership skills

Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes demonstrated through behaviours
<p>Understand current business models in</p>	<p>Contribute to the development of care packages</p>	

<p>relation to medical and surgical care</p> <p>Use knowledge of the epidemiology of mental illness within medical and surgical settings to inform service planning, taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local circumstances • The hospital as customer • Low prevalence complex needs • Business plan development 	<p>for patients with long term physical health problems, working with health care staff and social services staff</p> <p>Active co-ordination and management of patients with specific psychiatric disorders associated with medical & surgical settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic Fatigue • Fibromyalgia • Irritable Bowel Syndrome • Atypical chest pain • Atypical pelvic pain • Atypical facial pain • Eating disorders <p>(Doctors doing experience in Liaison Psychiatry should see these disorders, anyone taking the full sub-specialty module should gain experience with them all)</p> <p>Competently manage problems across the age range and the co-ordination of relevant other services</p>	
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Intended learning outcome 12

Develop the ability to conduct and complete audit in clinical practice

4-12a Audit

Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes demonstrated through behaviours
	Be able to identify where clinical audit requires collaboration with general hospital colleagues Conduct a joint clinical audit with medical and surgical colleagues	

Intended learning outcome 15

To develop the ability to teach, assess and appraise

Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes demonstrated through behaviours
	Teach psychiatric colleagues and other allied healthcare	

	professionals including students about liaison psychiatry Impart specialist skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in teaching colleagues in all disciplines in medical and surgical settings Engage user and/or carer groups in teaching processes	
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Intended learning outcome 17

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

Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes demonstrated through behaviours
	Appropriately assess level of help required	Advise, signpost and demonstrate an understanding of the issues relating to colleagues with mental health problems