



Faculty roles for SITMs and SIPMs

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SITMs

Introduction

In the last years of training, specialist trainees are asked to choose an area of special interest. This is special interest training and the curriculum is represented in the Special Interest Training Modules (SITMs) 2024.

For those in a Specialty Training Programme, SITM training will begin at ST5.

Obstetrics and gynaecology cover wide areas of women's health and it is not possible for an individual to gain sufficient knowledge and experience in everything to the standard needed to provide high quality care.

Therefore, the Core Curriculum 2024 sets the standard required of every O&G trainee, the Special Interest Curriculum 2024 describes the areas where trainees may choose to expand their knowledge.

Who are the SITMs aimed at?

- Specialty trainees who are required to complete at least two SITMs before being awarded the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT).
- Doctors in O&G working towards specialist registration through the Portfolio Pathway (KSESP-UK Knowledge, Skills and Experience for Specialist Practice in the UK) who are also required to have at least two completed SITMs.
- SAS doctors, locally employed doctors (LEDs) and consultants can focus or enhance their area of practice.

Selection process for SITMs

- Training places for SITMs will necessarily be limited by the number of units able to provide the training. It is expected that specialty trainees, whose training time is limited, will have the first call on these training places. For fair allocation, it might be necessary to have a competitive selection process for those SITMs with limited places.
- Doctors working towards KSESP-UK via the Portfolio Pathway should expect to have the next call on available places.
- Consultants, SAS grades and LEDs can take up any training places that remain.



Training supervision

High quality special interest training requires committed supervision of training to enable a learner to make the most of their special interest training.

For SITMs this has three levels:

- The SITM educational supervisor
- The SITM preceptor
- The SITM director

The educational supervisor (ES)

- The ES should be someone with knowledge of the SITM material and practising in that area of O&G. They should be enthusiastic about training.
- The ES for the SITM may, or may not be the trainee's ES for the core curriculum.
- They would normally be from O&G, but there are some occasions, e.g. menopause, where an appropriately qualified doctor from another specialty may take on that role
- If a learner is placed in more than one unit throughout their SITM training, they may wish to keep the same ES, or nominate an additional ES for each placement.

[View the SITM and SIPM Educators – Recommended Job Descriptions](#)

[View educational supervisors toolkit](#)

The SITM preceptor

- A SITM preceptor should be someone with knowledge of the SITM material and practising in that area of O&G.
- They take responsibility for the learners and training places in the deanery for their SITM of responsibility. They ensure that placements provide suitable training opportunities and that the SITM learners can make adequate progress.
- They will also ensure that learners who are struggling to complete certain areas of their SITM are given the opportunities they need to gain this experience.
- It is the SITM preceptor who ensures that the quality of training is maintained across the SITM and that all learners completing that SITM have reached a similar standard.
- For most SITMs, this will be one person, but for some SITMs, the number of learners undertaking this training will mean the work needs to be divided between two or



more preceptors. Where this is the case, the joint preceptors should ensure that they maintain a consistent standard.

[View the SITM and SIPM Educators – Recommended Job Descriptions](#)

The SITM director

- The SITM director takes responsibility for defining the training places available in their deanery, for placing learners in suitable training places and assuring quality across all the SITMs.

[View the SITM and SIPM Educators – Recommended Job Descriptions](#)

SIPMs

Special interest professional modules

- The three SIPMs cover areas of non-clinical practice essential to working in O&G – that is the roles of the educationalist, the leader and manager, and the clinical researcher.
- These are roles that are important at all stages of training, and, unlike the SITMs, are not limited to the final years.

Supervision of training

Supervision of learners undertaking the SIPMs is similar in structure to that of the SITMs:

- SIPM educational supervisor (ES) – the trainee will identify an ES who has the necessary expertise to support their project. This ES may be based on the same site or at a distance from the learner, but they will take responsibility for supporting the learner through the project.
- SIPM preceptor ensures quality for the SIPM and that the requirements for educational supervision are met.
- SITM director oversees the SIPMs in the same way as the SITMs.

Find out more at
rcog.org.uk/curriculum2024



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