

Post Graduate Diploma for Practitioners with a Special Interest in Cardiology

Developed by Bradford & Airedale teaching PCT and accredited by Bradford University and the RCGP.

This is one of a series of non profit making courses, which are clinical competence-based and are specifically tailored to train NHS registered practitioners to an advanced level in collaboration with the local network of care.

The courses offer a university accredited award for those with an extended role of practitioners with a special interest and are deliberately structured to encourage the development of appropriate pathways of care for all participants in their specific areas of work.

Course design

The courses are a combination of taught and work based learning, which are modular in nature to allow for flexibility of learning and offer a variety of academic attainments.

For a Post Graduate Diploma you will gain: 120 masters level credits for three clinical modules and the applied methodologies module

For a Post Graduate Certificate you will gain: 60 or 90 masters level credits for the applied methodologies module and one or two clinical modules

Cardiology clinical modules

- Heart Failure and Valvular Disease
- Ischaemic Heart Disease
- Hypertension, Arrhythmias and Conduction Disorders

Example Learning Outcomes include:

- Interpret clinically a variety of echocardiography reports with an appreciation of the strengths and limitations of echocardiography techniques
- Investigate, diagnose and manage (pharmacological/non-pharmacological/diverse therapy) appropriately patients with suspected or confirmed valvular disease
- Investigate, diagnose and manage (pharmacological/non-pharmacological/diverse therapy) appropriately patients with suspected or confirmed heart failure
- Show competency in the classification and appropriate referral of patients to palliative care
- Investigate and diagnose appropriately patients with cardiomyopathies, including an awareness of other conditions which present in the same way (e.g. pericardial disease)
- Refer patients appropriately for a second opinion in the area of heart failure/valvular disease/pericardial disease
- Show competency in evaluating patients presenting with chest pain, with an appreciation of the variety of clinical presentations of cardiac chest pain
- Investigate, diagnose, and manage patients with chest pain
- Make informed clinical judgments in the selection of patients to be referred for angiography/revascularisation, with an appreciation of the indications, limitations and complications of these interventions
- Manage patients on discharge from acute services who have undergone a cardiac event or cardiac procedure
- Provide secondary prevention (pharmacological/lifestyle/lipid/blood pressure/psychological) management for patients with ischaemic heart disease
- Refer patients appropriately for a second opinion
- Examine, undertake risk assessment, investigate and manage (pharmacological & non-pharmacological i.e. diet/exercise/lifestyle) patients presenting with hypertension
- Interpret 24 hour ambulatory blood pressure readings with an appreciation of the strengths and limitations of this investigation
- Interpret a variety of Electrocardiograms (ECGs) and 24 hr ECGs with an appreciation of the indications, normal variations and limitations of these investigations
- Investigate, diagnose and manage (pharmacological & non-pharmacological) patients with cardiac arrhythmias and conduction disorders
- Refer patients appropriately for a second opinion

Each clinical module lasts 6 months and common to the learning outcomes of all three clinical modules in the diploma is the requirement to investigate, diagnose, treat and refer patients appropriately.

This diploma includes the non clinical module 'Applied Methodologies' which spans the 18 month period of the 3 clinical modules. This encompasses the application of a patient involvement method, mapping a patient journey and critically appraising a research paper.

Entry requirements

To qualify for a place on the course (subject to availability) we require you to:

Be a registered practitioner

Be able to provide written evidence of support from your local PCT

Be able to provide written evidence of support from an NHS consultant appropriate to your speciality who will offer mentor supervision and enable your local clinical work-based placement.

A Post Graduate Diploma costs £4,500 and Post Graduate Certificate of 60 M level credits is £2,250 and has up to two student entry points per calendar year. For further information including detailed learning outcomes, application information, and dates, please email: psi@bradford.nhs.uk