



Mr Tony McNamara,
CEO,
Cork University Maternity Hospital,
Wilton,
Co. Cork

Report Letter relating to the inspection of the General Paediatrics and Neonatology department of Cork University Maternity Hospital

Dear Mr McNamara,

The Faculty of Paediatrics last inspected Cork University Maternity Hospital on the 4th of October 2013 regarding its suitability for the General Paediatrics and Neonatology Higher Specialist Training (HST) programme.

The purpose of a hospital inspection is to determine the ability of an institution to deliver Higher Specialist Training in a specialty, according to the requirements as defined by the curriculum of training. The inspection panel advises on the suitability after a detailed interview with consultant trainers, trainees and management representatives, with an inspection of the facilities.

The inspection committee commended Cork University Maternity Hospital on the commitment of the trainers to the Higher Specialist Training programme, the education and training infrastructure, quality of the library and support staff and the support of the management team.

On the basis of the inspectors' recommendations, this unit is approved for Higher Specialist Training in General Paediatrics and Neonatology for:

- Number of Posts – 5 SpR posts
- Length of Approval: **5 years pending receipt of a satisfactory interim report**
- Trainers: Dr Gene Dempsey, Dr Peter Fllan, Dr Liam O'Connell
- Next Inspection Due: 2018
- **Interim Progress Report: due end of June 2014**

Inspection Panel:

- Dr Declan Cody– National Specialty Director
- Dr Pat Sullivan- Inspection Chair

The education and training observations as confirmed by the ICHMT on advice from the Inspection Panel follow. Major issues are those that impact on the accreditation status or are critical for training approval. Minor issues are areas that could be improved but are not critical for training approval.

Educational Opportunities:

- Foetal medicine meeting
- Journal clubs weekly
- Weekly consultant-delivered teaching session
- Weekly grand rounds
- Weekly radiology meeting

Strengths of the Department:

- Excellent clinical exposure: very busy department with significant neonatal medicine exposure with more than 9000 deliveries per year
- SpRs given extra responsibilities compared to registrars in relation to rotas and teaching plans
- All consultants are WTEs to CUMH and easily available and involved in the different areas
- Significant focus on research and audit: SpRs are actively encouraged to be involved in research, audit and teaching
- Training plans agreed at start of attachment between trainer and trainee with regular follow-up meetings to assess progress

Major Issues:

- Insufficient SpRs necessitating less time on NICU and more time spent on post-natal wards with less acuity
- Lack of dedicated work station/ space a significant weakness with only one computer for all SpRs/SHOs etc.
- SpRs not always able to attend the monthly SpR training day
- Lack of weekly protected time for audit-research
- Catering facilities are poor: SpRs have to bring their own meals including milk/bread etc when on call

Recommendations:

- Increase number of SpRs /NCHDs to cover work load
- Need for provision of dedicated office workstation/space for the Paediatric SpRs. A room on the 5th floor should be dedicated to Paediatric SpR office with increased number of computers.
- Ensure attendance at monthly SpR training days
- Ensure structured protected time received on a weekly basis, where possible, to allow for research-teaching preparation
- Improve access to food and catering on-call

Conclusions:

- Excellent training centre with intensive tertiary neonatal training being provided and a significant focus on research, audit and training . Interim progress report due end of **June 2014** addressing issues above.It is recommended to give approval to this unit for 5 SpR posts for a period of 5 years pending receipt of a satisfactory interim report.

Thank you for the hospitality extended to the visiting inspection team and your continuing commitment to the Higher Specialist Training Programme.

Yours sincerely

Dubhfeasa Slattery

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