



26th March, 2014

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

Report Letter relating to the inspection of the Nephrology department of Cork University Hospital

Dear Mr McNamara, Dr Plant, Dr Eustace, Dr Clarkson

The Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training (ICHMT) last inspected Cork University Hospital on the 24th of January regarding its suitability for the Nephrology 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 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 Nephrology for:

- Number of Posts –2 SpR posts
- Length of Approval: 5 years
- Trainers: Dr Plant, Dr Eustace, Dr Clarkson
- Next Inspection Due: Early 2019
- **Interim Progress Report: N/A**

Inspection Panel:

- Dr Conall O'Seaghda – Acting 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:

- Didactic teaching
- Teaching on ward rounds
- Journal club
- Study days

Strengths of the Department:

- Integrated service delivery model; all SpRs get exposure to all Nephrology
- Full range of Nephrology exposure, except for acute transplant
- Enthusiastic, collaborative consultant body
- Ample research opportunities
- Excellent office for trainees with ample computer access

Minor Issues:

- Lack of management involvement for SpRs, eg. committees

Recommendations:

- Involve SpRs in management e.g. policies, committees etc

Conclusions:

This is an excellent training institution. There are no major weaknesses.

This site is approved for 2 SpR posts for a period of 5 years with Dr Plant, Dr Eustace and Dr Clarkson.

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

Yours sincerely


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Cc Dr. Plant, Consultant Nephrologist, Cork University Hospital
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