

# DERMATOLOGY – eligibility guidance for candidates holding MRCPCH or MRCS, who do not also have the full IMT capabilities required of a physician applicant

Reviewed October 2021

---

## Introduction

Most applicants to **Dermatology** will be physicians undertaking core internal medicine training programmes or equivalent.

However, the specialty welcomes applicants who have trained in **paediatrics to level 1** with acquisition of full **MRCPCH(UK)**, and those completing **core surgical training** or equivalent with acquisition of full **MRCS**, who have also achieved internal medicine capabilities to a required level.

These applicants must have attained the capabilities that could be achieved via 12 months of full-time equivalent experience in acute medical specialties, including 6 months managing patients on unselected medical take or equivalent. The [person specification](#) states the minimum requirements to be considered, this document clarifies the medical specialty experience and competences required of trainees applying from a paediatric or surgical background.

---

## Medical specialty requirements

The dermatology curriculum states:

*Doctors must be able to manage concurrent general medical problems in adult patients, within the context of dermatological disease, without immediate recourse to other specialists and in isolated units.*

This requires at least 12 months' full-time equivalent post-foundation level experience in medicine and competence in some practical procedures.

### Clinical experience

In addition to their level 1 paediatrics or core surgical training, applicants must have at least 12 months' experience in a range of acute hospital medical specialties that admit acutely unwell medical patients, and manage their immediate follow-up.

This includes the following specialties: cardiology, gastroenterology, respiratory medicine, geriatric medicine, renal medicine, infectious diseases, endocrinology & diabetes, general internal medicine and acute internal medicine. Emergency medicine (A&E), without an admissions unit, would not fulfil this requirement.

Experience in a specialty post can be counted regardless of whether or not the post was part of a specialty training programme.

Experience will be assessed by the lead region for the specialty and, where necessary, checked by the clinical lead for the specialty. You may be asked to clarify your experience if it is unclear whether you meet the criteria.

### Medicine capability requirements

The person specification states that applicants from paediatric or surgical pathways must have ‘Evidence of achievement of at least the same internal medicine capability that would be expected after 12 months’ training in adult medicine posts’.

The capability requirements can be ascertained by reference to the ‘[Alternative Certificate to Enter Group 2 Higher Physician Specialty Training](#)’ and the [IMT decision aid](#). The reduced requirements are as follows, with reference made to the capability detailed in the certificate:

| Section                    | Certificate requirement   | Allowance  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| <b>3.0</b>                 | Managing an acute unselected take including performing without immediate on-site supervision and management of a junior medical team to IMT level 3   | Managing an acute unselected take including performing without immediate on-site supervision and management of a junior medical team to <b>IMT level 2</b>   |
|                            | Providing continuity of care to medical in-patients, including management of comorbidities and cognitive impairment to IMT level 3  | Providing continuity of care to medical in-patients, including management of comorbidities and cognitive impairment to <b>IMT level 2</b>  |
|                            | Delivering effective resuscitation and managing the acutely deteriorating patient to IMT level 3  | Delivering effective resuscitation and managing the acutely deteriorating patient to <b>IMT level 2</b>  |
|                            | Managing end of life and applying palliative care skills to IMT level 2   | Managing end of life and applying palliative care skills to <b>IMT level 1</b>   |
| <b>3.22</b>                | Competently performs the core procedures, to the level indicated in the <a href="#">IMT decision aid</a> for IMY2 and knows the indications and contraindications of each procedure   | Competently performs the core procedures, to the level indicated in the <a href="#">IMT decision aid</a> for <b>IMY1</b> and knows the indications and contraindications of each procedure. <b>In addition must have participated in the CPR team as per the requirement for IMY2 trainees</b> |
| <b>Clinical experience</b> | A minimum of 200 acute medical consultations  | A minimum of <b>100</b> acute medical consultations  |
|                            | Curricular based completed learning outcomes to fulfil IMT defined capabilities to IMY2   | Curricular based completed learning outcomes to fulfil IMT defined capabilities to <b>IMY1</b>   |
|                            | Educational supervisor reports that explicitly ascertain that the trainee has achieved all of the clinical CiPs identified within the IMT curriculum to the appropriate level of IMY2 with specific reference to clinical CiP 1 | Educational supervisor reports that explicitly ascertain that the trainee has achieved all of the clinical CiPs identified within the IMT curriculum to the appropriate level of <b>IMY1</b> with specific reference to clinical CiP 1   |

## Providing evidence of capability

This will be demonstrated via a completed '[Alternative Certificate to Enter Group 2 Higher Physician Specialty Training](#)', with allowances made to account for the reduced medicine experience described above.

The way this is done is by the completing supervisor signing off every capability in the same way as normal using the 'personally witnessed' or 'evidence received' boxes on the right-hand side of the form. Where the supervisor is able to sign off a reduced requirement only, they should annotate and initial the form accordingly; requirement 3.22 must be annotated to indicate that you have participated in the CPR team.

If you have a capability to the level normally required by the form, there is no need to annotate it and your supervisor can sign this off as per any other capability.

The image below demonstrates how this can be done ('SC' are the initials of the signing supervisor):

| Section 3: Clinical care   |   |    |   |  |
|--|---|----|---|--|
| 3.0 Demonstrates all Clinical Capabilities in Practice as outlined in IMT stage 1 curriculum | Managing an acute unselected take including performing without immediate on-site supervision and management of a junior medical team to IMT level 3 | SC | ✓ |  |
|  | Managing the acute care of patients within a medical specialty service to IMT level 2   | 2  | ✓ |  |
|  | Providing continuity of care to medical in-patients, including management of comorbidities and cognitive impairment to IMT level 3                  | 2  | ✓ |  |
|  | Managing patients in an outpatient clinic, ambulatory or community setting, including management of long-term conditions to IMT level 2             | SC | ✓ |  |
|  | Managing medical problems in patients in other specialties and special cases to IMT level 2   |    | ✓ |  |
|  | Managing a multi-disciplinary team including effective discharge planning to IMT level 2  |    | ✓ |  |
|  | Delivering effective resuscitation and managing the acutely deteriorating patient to IMT level 3  | SC | ✓ |  |

## Valid for dermatology only

A certificate signed off with one or more reduced requirements, can only be used for dermatology and will not be acceptable as evidence of internal medicine capability for any other specialty.

## Credit for postgraduate examinations

Please note that possession of the acceptable alternative postgraduate examinations will gain similar credit as the MRCP(UK) at the short-listing stage. Advice on recording this information to your application will be provided within the form itself; as well as on the MRCP(UK) tab of the application scoring of the Physician Higher Specialty Training Recruitment website:

<https://www.PHSTrecruitment.org.uk/recruitment-process/applying/application-scoring>

However, please note that for 2022 recruitment, essential membership examinations will not be scored and points are planned to be reintroduced for 2023 recruitment.