

Training in Intensive Care Medicine

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Abstract

Training in Intensive Care Medicine is currently undergoing extensive changes, with the introduction of a new curriculum and new examinations. This article explains the new pathways for training in Intensive Care, with specific reference to trainees in Acute Medicine.

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Background

For a number of acute medicine trainees, rotation to the Intensive Care Unit has whetted their appetite to train in this specialty, and currently about 20% of all those obtaining CCT in Intensive Care Medicine (ICM) have trained in Medicine as their base specialty. With the development of the Faculty of Intensive Care in 2010, a number of important changes have occurred in ICM training. This article provides clarification of current developments for anyone thinking of training in this specialty.

Existing Joint ICM training programme

Currently medical trainees wishing to obtain a CCT in ICM are required to apply through competitive

interview for appointment to the training programme after they have obtained an NTN in another specialty (for example acute medicine). ICM training as it currently stands consists of a total of 18 months at post ST3 level, together with complementary training in anaesthetics, normally for a period of six months. For most acute medicine trainees 6 months of ICM training can be counted towards a CCT in Acute Medicine, therefore extending the training period by only 18 months (Figure 1). This pathway to ICM training will continue to be available for any eligible applicant who was appointed to the joint CCT program before 31st July 2013, regardless of when ICM training occurs.

New pathways for ICM training

From August 2012 applicants will start to be appointed to the new ICM training pathways, which can lead to a CCT in ICM as a single specialty, or to a dual CCT with another specialty. Recruitment will take place nationally and appointment to ST3 in ICM will be conditional upon completion of MRCP (for medical trainees) in line with recruitment to

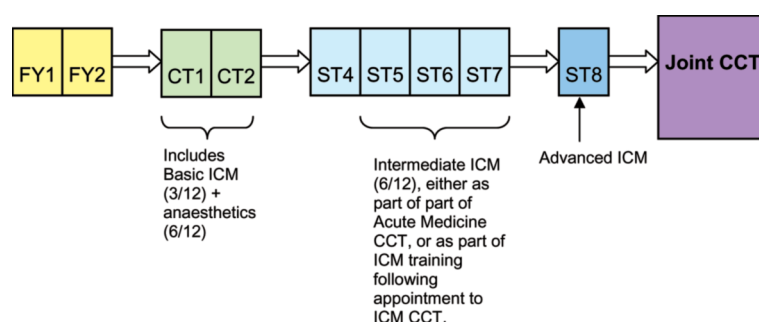


Figure 1. Existing joint ICM training programme.

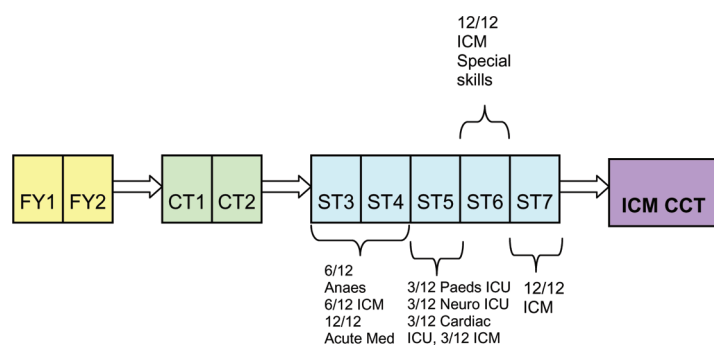


Figure 2. Single CCT ICM training from ACCS.

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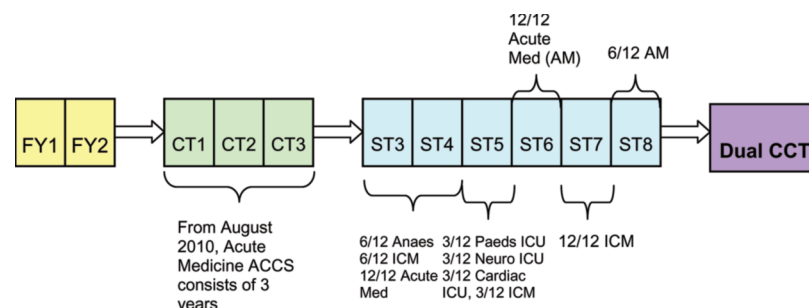


Figure 3. Dual CCT ICM/AM training.

Level of training at August 2011	Eligibility for program	
	New ICM program (single/dual)	Old (current) ICM program (joint) 2011
FY1	Eligible to start August 2015	Not available
FY2	Eligible to start August 2014	Not available
ST1/CT1	Eligible to start August 2013	Not available
ST2/CT2	Eligible to start August 2012	Possible if appointed during ST3 year in parent specialty
ST3	Eligible to start August 2012	Possible if appointed during ST3/4 year in parent specialty
ST4	Eligible to start August 2012	Possible if appointed during ST3/4/5 year in parent specialty
ST5	Eligible to start August 2012	Possible if appointed during ST3/4/5/6 year in parent specialty

Table 1.

other medical specialties. Those wishing to train in two specialties will need to be successful at ST3/ST4 interviews for both ICM and Acute Medicine.

If appointed to ICM as a single specialty, training will take five years from ST3 and will follow the new ICM curriculum (see Figure 2), while training in Acute Medicine and ICM will take 5.5 years minimum from ST3 (see Figure 3).

For trainees currently considering ICM as their special skill, the development of ICM as a stand-alone specialty will make this more difficult to achieve. Table 1 above illustrates the options available to trainees according to current grade.

Summary

These are exciting times for the specialty of Intensive Care Medicine, with changes occurring rapidly to allow implementation of the new ICM curriculum. Further information can be found on the Intensive Care Society trainee website. Due to the rapidly changing situation, it is worth keeping an eye on the website of the Faculty of Intensive Care medicine for further information.

Competing Interests

Anne Whiteside and Chris Booth are members of the Intensive Care Society trainee committee.

References

1. Intensive care society. Update on current training plans 2012. Available at www.ics.ac.uk/education/update_on_current_training_plans_2012. Accessed on 30th July 2011.