



Guidance on training in interventional radiology (IR)

What is IR training?

Interventional radiology is the only formally recognised subspecialty of clinical radiology with a curriculum approved by the General Medical Council (GMC). When followed as part of a prospectively approved training programme, the curriculum leads to the award of a certificate of completion of training (CCT) in clinical radiology with interventional radiology subspecialisation. The IR curriculum includes a pathway for training in interventional neuroradiology (INR) and this guidance applies to both strands of the subspecialty.

Why can't I get a CCT in interventional radiology?

Under the current GMC framework, it is not possible to be awarded a CCT in interventional radiology (or any other subspecialty). In describing the recognition of subspecialties, the GMC states: "A doctor can have sub-specialty training indicated against their name in the Specialist Register along with the main CCT specialty if they can satisfy us that they have satisfactorily completed a sub-specialty training that we've approved."

How long is IR training?

Interventional radiology training takes an indicative period of six years. For the first three years IR trainees will follow the clinical radiology curriculum, working towards achieving general radiology capabilities in practice (CiPs). In the following three years they will maintain and build on these general radiology capabilities while developing the advanced interventional radiology skills to meet the interventional radiology-specific CiPs described in the IR curriculum.

Do I need a special national training number (NTN)?

No. All radiology training, including IR, is done with an NTN in clinical radiology. There are no separate IR NTNs.

How do I get into IR training?

The interventional radiology curriculum builds on the clinical radiology curriculum and entry to training requires recruitment into clinical radiology training following completion of the foundation training programme (FY1 and FY2) or equivalent. Trainees must complete an indicative three years of clinical radiology training as a minimum, before commencing IR training.

Clinical radiology trainees wishing to train in IR must apply for sub-specialty training and are appointed to sub-specialty training posts in open competition.

The GMC hold a [list](#) of approved centres for IR training

Clinical Radiology

Curriculum 2021



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Can post CCT training lead to IR subspecialty recognition?

Post CCT training can be a valuable addition to your CV but cannot be used as the basis for adding subspecialty recognition to your entry on the specialist register.

When will I get my CCT?

The RCR recommends, subject to GMC requirements, that both your CCT and your subspecialty recognition are applied for at the end of ST6. Your CCT date will be extended when you enter into IR subspecialty.

Will I need an IR entry on the Specialist Register in order to get an IR consultant post?

You do not need an IR entry on the Specialist Register to take an IR consultant post, however it is an important way of demonstrating expertise in, and commitment to, the subspecialty.