

# ADVANCED CRITICAL CARE PRACTITIONERS (ACCP) PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document provides information from selection through to qualification for Advanced Critical Care Practitioners (ACCPs) leading towards FICM ACCP Membership. It is intended as a quick checklist and guide to creating and running an ACCP programme. Some of the sections have more detailed notes, which can be found on page 7.

For more detailed information, please visit the ACCP section of the FICM website:

<https://www.ficm.ac.uk/accps/faqs>

The ACCP FAQs can also be found as an appendix to this checklist from page 7 onwards.

## 1. TRAINEE ACCP SELECTION REQUIREMENTS:

Reference	Requirement	Yes	No
1.1	Trainees must be a NMC or HCPC registered professional, eligible to undertake Non-Medical Prescribing qualification* <i>*As current legislation stands, this would not include ODPs</i>		
1.2	Trainees must have appropriate recent Critical Care experience		
1.3	Trainees must be able to demonstrate evidence of continuing professional development in Critical Care		
1.4	Trainees must have a bachelor-level degree or be able to demonstrate academic ability at degree level		
1.5	Trainees must have successfully completed a robust selection process which includes a clinical and academic assessment		
1.6	Trainees must be in a substantive, recognised ACCP post, having successfully met individual trust selection procedure in terms of skills and relevant experience		
1.7	Trainees must be entered into a programme leading to an appropriate Postgraduate Diploma/Masters degree with a Higher Education Institution. This programme must include Non-Medical Prescribing		
1.8	It is recommended the interview and selection process include the following : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Clinical interview</li> <li>b) HEI academic interview</li> <li>c) SIM / OSCE based selection</li> </ul>		

## 2. UNIT REQUIREMENTS

Reference	Requirement	Yes	No
2.1	Trainees must be employed as an ACCP in a unit with the capacity and ability to provide ACCP training.		
2.2	Trainees must be supernumerary for the duration of their training. The Consultant retains overarching responsibility for the patient in this time.		
2.3	It is strongly recommended ACCP trainees apply for FICM ACCP Membership upon successful completion of the academic and clinical aspects of ACCP training . <i>(see notes on page 7 for more information)</i>		
2.4	The unit should have a clear workforce plan in place to include ACCPs as part of the medical rota. This plan should be in place when the ACCP completes training. <i>(see notes on page 7 for more information)</i>		
2.5	Trainees should be supervised and trained in clinical practice by ICM consultants who espouse the principles and values on which good practice is founded as derived from the GMC's Good Medical Practice (2013) standards. <i>(see notes on page 7 for more information)</i>		
2.6	Trainees will be trained in existing UK training centres approved for, at a minimum, Stage 1 and Stage 2 ICM CCT training. <i>(see notes on page 7 for more information)</i>		
2.7	The unit must have an ACCP Clinical Lead in place who has a contract with the relevant Higher Education Institution.		
2.8	Trainees should have an Educational Supervisor (ES) who will follow them through their training period and assist in monitoring and defining the trainees' educational requirements.		
2.9	Trainees should have a Clinical Supervisor (CS) for each clinical attachment who will be responsible for monitoring and guiding their progress in each clinical area.		
2.10	The ES will provide an end of placement assessment based on WPBAs and multi-source feedback (MSF) from members of the multi-disciplinary team. It may be appropriate for the ES and CS roles to be undertaken by the same person.		
2.11	Trainees should meet with the ACCP local Clinical Lead (or nominated deputy) on a quarterly basis as per the curriculum requirements.		
2.12	Trainees will undergo a formal Annual Review of Competency Progression (ARCP) in order to examine their overall performance and progress.		

### 3. SUPERVISION

Overall supervision (direct or indirect) will be provided by a consultant in intensive care medicine but elements of supervision could be provided by other senior medical practitioners where deemed appropriate by the LCL. Where the supervising consultant in Intensive Care Medicine is not physically present they must always be readily available for consultation and it is identified that ultimate responsibility for standards of patient care lies with the consultant in Intensive Care Medicine

Every trainee must, at all times, be responsible to a nominated consultant.

### 4. ESSENTIAL TRAINING CRITERIA OF ACCP TRAINERS

Reference	Requirement	Yes	No
4.1	The trainer must have a willingness to teach and commitment to delivery 'hands on' teaching and training including preoperative and postoperative care		
4.2	The trainer must have a regular clinical commitment (e.g. in operating theatres or ICU)		
4.3	The trainer must have robust evidence of recent CPD normally based on the previous two years		
4.4	The trainer must be up to date and supported in a post with protected time for further CPD		
4.5	The trainer must have familiarity with the assessment procedures and documentation of the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour components of competency based training		
4.6	The trainer must be willing to continuously assess the trainee throughout the appointment and to complete trainees' assessment forms of a regular basis as necessary		
4.7	The trainer must be willing to liaise with the HEI on all aspects of the ACCPs' training		

### 5. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME RESPONSIBILITIES

**The HEI is responsible for:**

- Producing and delivering a suitable academic programme.
- Assessment of academic competence.
- Ensuring clinical and educational supervisors are competent to supervise and assess clinical skills acquisition and clinical competence.

**The ACCP Local Clinical Lead is responsible:**

- To the HEI for the quality management of the training programme.
- For the overall training arrangements in each Trust through the education and training structures in place locally.
- For ensuring that the ARCP process is organised correctly.

## 6. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES

ACCP training is to PGDip level with an option to continue to an MSc.

Reference	Requirement	Yes	No
6.1	HEIs should provide a specific PGDip programme in Advanced Critical Care Practice; this programme should run for two years, full time with an option to progress to MSc		
6.2	It is strongly recommended trainee ACCPs register with the FICM at the start of their training (see notes on page 7 for more information)		

HEI programmes should be meticulously aligned to the FICM ACCP curriculum (see notes on page 7 for more information). Modules should include:

Requirement	Yes	No
Programme title: PGDip Advanced Critical Care Practitioner		
Final award title: PGDip Advanced Critical Care Practitioner		
Two year full time programme at Level 7		
Clinical practice delivered in a named ICU		
Clinical academic partnership		
Competencies as defined by the FICM ACCP Curriculum (2015)		
Completion of a portfolio of evidence of learning and practice as per FICM ACCP curriculum requirements		
Integrated approach with unit based ACCP Clinical Lead		

The first year in Advanced Critical Care Practice should include 40 credits at Level 7. Theory weeks should, ideally, be undertaken in the clinical setting delivered by subject experts.

The core modules should include:

Practice placements		
Research module as per Level 7 pathway requirements		
Clinical examination and history taking		
Completion of a portfolio of evidence of learning and practice as per FICM ACCP Curriculum requirements		
Initiate and interpret patient investigations to determine a diagnosis, treatment option/s and formulate and/or implement a management plan that accurately identifies patient needs		
Management of organ failure, including physiology and anatomy		

Practical skills as per the competency document taught and assessed in clinical setting		
Assessment:		
ACCP portfolio to include competency sign off		
Written / OSCE examination/ Viva/ Patient assessment		

**The second year in Advance Critical Care Practice should include:**

Extended skills for advanced critical care practice		
Management of the more complex ICU patient		
Formulating management plans		
Advanced organ support		
Ethics		
Professional behaviour		
Non-medical prescribing module		

**ALS should be successfully completed to at least provider status by the end of year two.**

**Exit exam:** this is currently likely to be held in the clinical setting, in partnership with the hosting HEI.

**APEL** arrangements may apply but **should** relate to NMP, research, clinical history taking and examination. APEL arrangements **should not** relate to advanced practice modules exploring the theoretical aspects of advanced practice as this will not meet the clinical knowledge, skills and competency arrangements required.

## 7. TRAINEE REGISTRATION

All ACCP trainees are strongly recommended to register with the FICM as soon as possible after starting their ACCP training, via submission of an ACCP Trainee Registration Form to the Faculty. **There is no fee for registration** but it is considered vital that ACCP trainees register to inform future training and workforce planning.

The form can be found here: <https://www.ficm.ac.uk/accps/training>

## 8. LOCAL ORGANISATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

**In units new to the role it is suggested that:**

Reference	Requirement	Yes	No
8.1	The unit prepares adequately for the role with a multi-disciplinary team; this is key in supporting the ACCP trainees and ensuring clarity		

8.2	A different uniform helps identify both the role and a change in role for unit staff undertaking training		
8.3	A patient information leaflet (available on the FICM website) should be used to ensure patients and their families are aware there is a new role on the unit and clearly sets out the scope of practice and supervision requirements		
8.4	Local governance/legal department policy and guidance should be sought to ensure the Trust/Hospital organisation structures are very clear about the role and how this is affected by NHS indemnification		
8.5	The title trainee ACCP should be used to reflect the identity of the role. This should be reflected in all documentation and communication. Titles such as ANP should be avoided and all qualifying ACCPs will be asked to change their titles when they apply for ACCP Membership with the FICM		

#### Additional information on the checklist:

**2.3** To apply for FICM ACCP Membership, please visit the FICM website for the criteria and application documents: <https://www.ficm.ac.uk/membership/advanced-critical-care-practitioner-membership>

**2.4** It is anticipated that all trained ACCPs will be employed on the medical rota as part of the medical workforce.

**2.5** GMC Good Medical Practice and Explanatory notes: <http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/>

**2.6** The FICM considers that units who do not train this level of trainee would not be able to deliver the level of training required by the ACCP curriculum. For more information on becoming approved for Higher Specialty Training, please follow this link: <https://www.ficm.ac.uk/quality/programme-approvals>

#### Section 6

FICM ACCP Curriculum 2015: <https://www.ficm.ac.uk/accps/curriculum>

FICM ACCP CPD and Appraisal Pathway: <https://www.ficm.ac.uk/accps/cpd-and-appraisal>

FICM ACCP CPD and Appraisal Assessment Forms. These can also be used for trainee ACCP assessments: <https://www.ficm.ac.uk/accps/cpd-and-appraisal>

**6.2** To register with the Faculty as a Trainee ACCP please visit the FICM website here: <https://www.ficm.ac.uk/accps/training>

**8.3** The ACCP leaflet is under review and will be published on the FICM website shortly.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The list below contains the questions most frequently answered by the FICM regarding ACCP training, qualification, registration and employment. If your query is not answered, visit the ACCP section of the FICM website or contact the Faculty at [contact@ficm.ac.uk](mailto:contact@ficm.ac.uk)

### What is an ACCP?

The Advanced Critical Care Practitioner role is a new way of working for health professionals working in critical care. It is acknowledged that the role described crosses the professional boundaries of many functions within critical care, including medicine, nursing, technical, physiotherapy and clinical pharmacology.

### Who can train as an ACCP?

Any UK registered professional can train as an ACCP i.e. nurses and AHPs. Currently this would exclude ODPs as non-medical prescribing is a fundamental part of the ACCP role; being ineligible to undertake this aspect of the course would at this point preclude them from applying for a FICM recognised ACCP programme.

### Where can you train as an ACCP?

Any HEI providing the appropriate PGDip Advanced Critical Care Practice to include as part of or in addition to the non-medical prescribing module. As the curriculum mandates a parallel of academic and clinical practice training of ACCPs will occur in existing UK training centres approved for, at a minimum, Stage 1 and 2 ICM level training. The FICM considers that units who do not train this level of ICM CCT trainee would be unable to deliver the level of training required by the ACCP curriculum; as such the Faculty would not consider it appropriate for FICM ACCP Membership to be awarded to any ACCPs trained in units who do not receive this level of ICM CCT trainee. Whilst non-training units may be able to partner with a HEI and offer ACCP training to interested nurse and AHP colleagues, those trainees would not be eligible for any official Faculty recognition of that training, nor to apply for FICM ACCP Membership upon completion of their ACCP training programme. Any non-ICM training approved unit seeking to run ACCP training must make this prospectively clear to any applicants for their programme.

### How do I know if the ACCP training programme I am applying for is appropriate?

We know that the term ACCP has been wrongly used to include any practitioner position regardless of the length, depth and quality of training. Ensure that the training programme you are undertaking complies with the tenets laid out within the FICM curriculum. Be proactive and ask the local trainers whether the training programme adheres to the FICM curriculum and whether it will leave you eligible upon completion to apply for FICM ACCP Membership.

### Is there a correct way to term training programmes for ACCPs?

Yes. Training programmes that adhere to the FICM ACCP Curriculum should be designated as 'Advanced Critical Care Practitioner training in line with the FICM Curriculum.' It should be noted in the material that those who complete the full training programme would be eligible for ACCP Membership of the Faculty.

### **Where can you work as an ACCP?**

Although training must occur in units accredited for Stage 1 and Stage 2 ICM CCT training, post-qualification trained ACCPs may work in any ICU. However FICM strongly recommend a robust process of CPD and supervision with clear local clinical governance arrangements

### **How long is training?**

Training is two years, full time.

### **Where can I find the curriculum?**

Please visit the [ACCP Curriculum](#) page.

### **How do I become a FICM ACCP Member?**

Application is via the FICM website. Please visit the [Membership](#) page.

### **Which HEIs [Higher Educational Institutions] have ACCP courses?**

Please visit the [ACCP Training](#) page. Please note that the FICM do not formally assess or endorse HEIs - this list consists of HEIs with courses, which would be comparable with the ACCP curriculum 2013.

### **Can I APEL previous relevant course modules towards my ACCP training?**

Yes in conjunction with the HEI the APEL process where appropriate to the ACCP programme can be used.

### **Can you transfer overseas qualifications?**

There is no formal route for this; currently the ACCP role is very clearly defined by the curriculum, benchmarking against overseas practice given the wide variation would require local ICU / HEI review and UK module and clinical competencies completion. Application for FICM ACCP membership status would be only possible based on successful matching of these.

### **How do I train ACCPs on my unit?**

If you are a unit accepting stage 1 +2 trainees for ICM training ACCPs would involve:

- Engagement with a local HEI to run an ACCP PGDip course.
- Engagement of key stakeholders in our organisation to assess the possibility of the ACCP role being a viable workforce solution for your unit.
- Plan the end point of training - most, if not all, ACCPs take a position on the medical rota. Be clear how this will work including supervision requirements.
- Business case development - early involvement of your divisional managers and repeated "marketing" of the planned ACCP role in your strategic, financial and workforce planning. Getting the Medical and Nursing Directors on board early is key.

### **What about regulation?**

At present ACCPs need to retain their base professional registration with their regulatory bodies, this may alter in the future but currently there is no way to register the ACCP role separately.

### **What about revalidation?**

You are bound by the revalidation rules from your base professional registering body. See advice on the toolkits section on how this may be achieved.

## **What about indemnity?**

Working in a UK Trust you will have NHS indemnity, it is your responsibility to ensure you have appropriate Standard Operating Procedures ratified by your Governance structure - these should be very explicit around the issue of supervision.

Many ACCPs choose to take out additional personal cover via the MDDUS to provide additional insurance. You do not need to have this but as many of us do choose to have it for the additional security and independent legal advice with your interests as the focus.