**UEMS 2022/30**

**Training Requirements for the Specialty of …**

***European Standards of Postgraduate Medical Specialist Training***

*(old chapter 6)*

**Preamble**

The UEMS (Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes, or European Union of Medical Specialists) is a non-governmental organisation representing national associations of medical specialists at the European level. With its current membership of 40 national associations and operating through 43 Specialist Sections and their European Boards, 17 Multidisciplinary Joint Committees and 4 Thematic Federations the UEMS is committed to promote the free movement of medical specialists across Europe while ensuring the professional consensus on the framework for the highest possible level of their training which will pave the way to the improvement of quality of care for the benefit of all European citizens and beyond.

**UEMS and its Postgraduate Medical Specialists Training programmes**. In 1994, the UEMS adopted its Charter on Postgraduate Training aiming at providing the recommendations at the European level for high quality training. This Charter set the basis for the European approach in the field of harmonisation of Postgraduate Specialist Medical Training, most importantly with the ongoing dissemination of its periodically updated Chapter 6’s, specific to each specialty. After the most recent version of the EU Directive on the recognition of Professional Qualifications was introduced in 2011, the UEMS Specialist Sections and other UEMS Bodies have continued working on developing the documents on European Training Requirement(s) (ETRs). They reflect modern medical practice and current scientific findings in each of the specialty fields and particular competencies covered and being represented within the UEMS. In 2012 the UEMS Council adopted the document Template Structure for ETR.

**The linkage between the quality of medical care and quality of training of medical** **professionals**. It is the UEMS' conviction that the quality of medical care and expertise are directly linked to the quality of training, achieved competencies and their continuous update and development provided to the medical professionals. No matter where doctors are trained, they should have the same core competencies. The UEMS ETRs reflect many years (or even decades) of experience on the ground of the UEMS Sections/ Multidisciplinary Joint Committees (MJCs) and Boards developing in close collaboration with the relevant European Scientific Societies training requirements coupled with European Medical Assessments. It is one among the clear aims of the UEMS ETRs to raise standards of training to make sure that European patients find high quality standards of safe specialist care. While professional activity is regulated by national laws in EU Member States, it is the UEMS understanding that it has basically to comply with international treaties and UN declarations on Human Rights as well as the WMA International Code of Medical Ethics.

**UEMS and European legislation facilitating the mobility of medical professionals**. The UEMS Council and its Specialist Sections, first created in 1962, have regularly provided advice and expert opinion to the European Commission. This helped create the framework that informed the drawing up of the Doctors Directives in 1975, which provided for the mutual recognition of medical diplomas and the free movement of doctors throughout the EU. The revised EU Directive on the recognition of Professional Qualifications (2013/55/EU) allows member states to decide on a common set of minimum knowledge, skills and competencies that are needed to pursue a given profession through a Common Training Framework (CTF) which represents the third mechanism that could be used to ensure mobility within the EU. This directive states that “professional qualifications obtained under common training frameworks should automatically be recognised by Member States. Professional organisations which are representative at Union level and, under certain circumstances, national professional organisations or competent authorities should be able to submit suggestions for common training principles to the Commission, in order to allow for an assessment with the national coordinators of the possible consequences of such principles for the national education and training systems, as well as for the national rules governing access to regulated professions”. The UEMS supported CTFs since they encompass the key elements developed in modern educational and training models, i.e. knowledge, skills, professionalism. In addition, the Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare introduced a strong incentive for harmonisation of medical training and achieved competencies among EU/EEA Countries through the requirements to assure good and comparable quality of care to increasingly mobile European citizens.

The UEMS ETR documents aim to provide for each specialty the basic training requirements as well as optional elements, and should be regularly updated by UEMS Specialist Sections and European Boards to reflect scientific and medical progress. The three-part structure of these documents reflects the UEMS approach to have a coherent pragmatic document for each individual specialty, not only for medical specialists but also for decision-makers at the national and European level interested in knowing more about medical specialist training. To foster harmonisation of the ETR by adopting more specific guidelines, the CanMEDS competency framework is recommended which defines the entire set of roles of the professionals which are common across both medicine and surgery. UEMS has an agreement to use an abbreviated version of the competencies within those roles.

**Importance of making a distinction between Knowledge and Competency in ETR documents**. Competency-based education is not oriented towards the period of clinical rotations, but towards trainee, and trainee’s progress in the acquisition of competencies. Having a clear distinction within an ETR’s contents between competencies and knowledge helps define both how that training should be delivered and how it should be assessed. The UEMS considers that the appropriate use of different methods of assessment of knowledge and acquired skills, emphasising the workplace-based assessment, is an essential component of quality postgraduate training, focused on high standards of specialist medical practice. To improve the methods of assessment it is also recommended to use the so-called Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) in all specialties ETRs. In order to recognise common and harmonised standards on the quality assurance in specialist training and specialist practice at a European level some UEMS Specialist Sections and Boards also have, for a long time, organised European examinations (supported and appraised by the UEMS CESMA - Council of European Specialist Medical Assessments).

**Overlapping of learning outcomes and competencies**. Each of the UEMS ETRs defines a syllabus or knowledge base and describes learning outcomes defined for given competencies. Some of these curricula encompass a whole specialty, other focus on areas within or across specialties and define content of the training requirements for specific areas of expertise. By recognising the potential overlapping it creates the opportunity for those writing ETRs to draft overlapping or common goals for learning outcomes. Similar measurement does not necessarily equate to the same targets. Rather, across different specialties the final goal may differ, i.e. there may be clearly defined individual goals for trainees with different expectations.

**UEMS ETRs and national curricula**. The UEMS strongly encourages the National Medical Competent Authorities (NMCAs) to adopt such requirements and believes that this is the most efficient way of implementation of good standards in postgraduate training. We clearly respect and support the vital role of the NMCAs in setting high standards of training and care in their respective Countries and checking through robust quality control mechanisms the qualifications of medical specialists moving across Europe. The UEMS ETRs are developed by professionals for professionals and this adds unique value to them. UEMS aim is to indicate the knowledge and competencies that should be achieved by trainees in EU/EEA countries and also competencies and organisation of the training centres. The training environment and results described in UEMS ETRs may be achieved in adapted ways, depending on local traditions, organisation of healthcare system and of medical specialist training. Adaptation of UEMS ETRs to local conditions assures the highest quality of specialist training and each state may include additional requirements, depending on local needs.

**Importance of collaboration with other representative European medical bodies**. The UEMS always wishes to work with all Colleagues, NMAs, professional and scientific organisations across Europe. In the process of ETRs development, the UEMS recognises the importance of meaningful collaboration with the other European medical representative bodies, the European Junior Doctors (EJD representing doctors in training), the European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO – Union Européenne des Médecins Omnipraticiens), the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME - Comité Permanent des Médecins Européens), the Federation of European Salaried Doctors (FEMS) and the European Association of Senior Hospital Doctors (AEMH - Association Européenne des Médecins Hospitaliers). In addition, UEMS continues to develop closer links with the many European specialist societies. UEMS, in collaboration with its fellow European representative bodies, has constantly been highlighting the importance of coordinated postgraduate specialist medical training programmes always accepting the differing needs of different specialties. In this way quality medical care is delivered by highly qualified medical specialists - essential to ensuring consumer confidence and protection all over Europe.

**Conclusions**. UEMS is very proud for all the hard work that has been done until now in developing the UEMS ETRs as well as that they are increasingly implemented as national curricula. However, we also recognise the need for constant improvement, and we are always open to further suggestions. The UEMS insists that the medical profession remains the driver in defining its own specialist training and continuous professional development needs. On this basis, we sincerely look forward to working with the key European Union responsible bodies, as well as the national stakeholders in implementing the basic common strategies and requirements outlined with this initiative. We are confident that the priorities detailed in UEMS ETR documents developed for individual specialties (and/or competencies) will become evident in national strategies and programmes, as well as action plans for postgraduate medical education and training.

**I. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINEES**

**1. Content of training and learning outcome**

**Competencies required of the trainee**

*Definition of competency: knowledge, skills and professionalism*

*A medical trainee is a doctor who has completed their general professional training as a physician and is in an accredited training programme to become a recognised medical specialist. Variably known in different countries as an intern, fellow or registrar.*

*‘Learning Outcomes’ means statements of what a learner knows, understands and is able to do on completion of a learning process, which are defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competence.*

**a.** **Theoretical knowledge**

*Should include the main domains covered by the specialty with a short description of domains that trainee should master in the specialty*

**b. Practical and clinical skills**

*Key skills to possess in this specialty*

*Number of procedures required*

**c. Competences**

*Description of levels of competencies*

*The European Specialist Curriculum must cover not only knowledge and skills, but also domains of professionalism, as detailed by the UEMS Section.*

**2. Organisation of training**

**a. Schedule of training**

*Minimum duration of training*

*Include required timing*

**b. Curriculum of training**

**c. Assessment and evaluation**

*Definition of assessment, description of formative and summative assessments,*

*Assessment: Process by which information is obtained relative to some known objective or goal. (a broad term that includes testing)*

*Evaluation: Inherent in the idea of evaluation is "value." Process designed to provide information that will help us make a judgment about a given situation*

**d. Governance**

**II. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINERS**

**1. Process for recognition as trainer**

**a. Requested qualification and experience**

**b. Core competencies for trainers**

*Special Qualifications of the trainers when required (if not covered by EU Directive on Professional Qualifications)*

**2. Quality management for trainers**

**III. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINING INSTITUTIONS**

*(if not covered by EU Directive on Professional Qualifications)*

1. **Process for recognition as training centre**

**a. Requirement on staff and clinical activities**

*Minimal number of patients cared for as inpatients and as out patients*

*Range of clinical specialties*

*Composition and availability of faculty, training programme defined, guidelines applies Trainee / trainer ratio*

*Minimal scientific activity*

**b. Requirement on equipment, accommodation**

*Medical-technical equipment, library, opportunities for R&D*

1. **Quality management within training institutions**

*Accreditation*

*Clinical Governance*

*Manpower planning*

*Regular report*

*External auditing*

*Transparency of training programmes*

*Structure for coordination of training*

*Framework of approval – how are they approved*

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