Programme Objectives

The successful candidate completing the Diploma in Haematology (Transfusion Medicine) will equip doctors with the necessary knowledge and skills in Transfusion Medicine. The trainees who have successfully completed the training will only be allowed to practice in Blood Services Group, HSA or equivalent health care institutions with a comprehensive blood transfusion service under the supervision of Consultants.

Programme Director

Dr Ang Ai Leen
Consultant, Department of Haematology
Singapore General Hospital

Fee structure

*Registration fee: $500 (non-refundable one-time payment)
*Course fee: $7,250 per year
*Examination fee: $500 (academic year 1&2)

*Prevailing rate of Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not inclusive in the fees and is collected on top of the above fees. All fees are non-refundable upon commencement of training.

Contact details

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All information published in this brochure is accurate on the date of publication and is subject to change thereafter. Publication Date: 13 October 2015
Admission Criteria
Applicants must satisfy the following criteria for admission into this programme:

• Possess Temporary registration (Service), Conditional registration or Full registration with the Singapore Medical Council (SMC);
• Recommended by the head of department or Director of the sponsoring institution on the basis of merit; and
• Have worked at least 1 year in the blood transfusion service of a public institution or restructured hospital in Singapore; and
• Possess a local sponsoring institution with centres that are licensed for full range of blood services including collecting and processing of blood and blood components.

Programme Duration
This is a structured training programme which will be carried out under supervision over a 2-year period.

Assessment Criteria
• Logbook and Formative Assessment - Log books must be properly maintained and updated by the Trainees for the entire period of training and must be produced at the quarterly and semi-annual assessment and at the final exit assessment.
• Interval Objective Assessment - This will take the form of MCQs or structured questions assessment at months 12 of the 2-year course;
• Case-studies - Two written case reports at 9 and 18 months respectively after the start of their training. One has to be a donor-related and the other a patient-related case study.
• Exit Examination - The exit examination will comprise of MCQs, structured questions and viva.

Training Curriculum
The Diploma Course will be conducted over 2 years with on-the-job training under the supervision of the senior doctors at sponsoring institutions. This is supplemented by tutorials, journal clubs, laboratory attachments, short clinical attachments at hospitals/clinics and regular assessments to ensure that the training objectives are promptly met. Trainees are also required to assist in organizing at least 1 mobile session within a blood donor recruitment program. They may also be involved in quality improvement or research projects relevant for their training and attend transfusion medicine-related congresses to enhance and update their knowledge base.

During this period, candidates need to undertake a 3 to 4 months rotation at a JCST-accredited adult haematology unit for exposure to clinical transfusion and hospital blood bank laboratories. This is to enhance clinical training exposure for candidate.

In addition, they should also be attached for 3 days at the MOH Communicable Disease Division and HIV Reference Laboratory (or equivalent laboratory) for better understanding of the legislation and look back programme on HIV in Singapore, and the limitations and interpretations of HIV diagnostic tests which are important in blood donor deferral and counselling. There should also be a 2 weeks clinical attachment (including inpatients / outpatient / special attachment to MSWs) at the Communicable Disease Centre at Tan Tock Seng Hospital (or equivalent department) to learn about transfusion transmitted infections.

Syllabus
Trainees will undergo training in Transfusion Medicine. Topics covered under this programme include:

1. Blood donation management
2. Blood components
3. Red cell Immunohaematology
4. Histocompatibility and immunogenetics
5. Clinical services
6. Blood and transfusion safety and Risk management
7. Quality management system
8. Haematopoietic stem cell transplant

Yearly Commencement date:
March

Yearly Application period:
From November - December