

Joint Statement by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and the Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) on the Provision of Training in Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare

The RCGP is the professional membership body for family doctors in the UK and abroad. Its objective is to encourage, foster and maintain the highest possible standards in general medical practice and for that purpose to take or join with others in taking any steps consistent with the charitable nature of that object which may assist towards the same.

The FSRH is a Faculty with a large membership that crosses specialty boundaries whose aims are to develop and maintain standards of care and training and ensure that a high quality of practice is maintained by all providers of sexual and reproductive healthcare.

Statement of purpose

The RCGP and FSRH share a common interest in ensuring the provision of high quality sexual & reproductive healthcare in the UK. This common interest extends from government policy, through training, clinical and service standards to ensuring patient involvement and equity of access to care.

The purpose of this joint statement is therefore to promote joint working at national and local levels between the College and the Faculty in order to enhance access to high quality training for GPs and thus enhance access to high quality care for patients.

Shared principles

The following shared principles will inform joint working at the national and local levels:

- protection of patients
- achievement and maintenance of high clinical standards
- improving patient choice and experience
- a consistent evidence-based approach
- respect for each other's members professional roles and contribution

Joint aims

The intended outcomes are:

- to increase access to high quality SRH including Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC)
- to enhance access to training in SRH (in particular to LARC training) for GPs
- to develop joint pathways to training which may be accessed through either organisation, involving trainers from both organisations

- to ensure that previous training is appropriately recognised.
- to streamline the SRH training pathway post RCGP Specialty training, through the RCGP Introductory Certificate in Sexual Health to training options such as the LARC Letters of Competence and to the Faculty's Diploma (DFSRH).

Areas of work

The RCGP Specialty training programme covers required core aspects of SRH care as do various components of the FSRH training programmes and the RCGP Introductory Certificate in Sexual Health. The FSRH commissioned an independent external educational review of its Diploma and LARC training programmes which reported in 2012, the Peile Report, which made a number of key recommendations to further develop training for clinicians providing SRH care. The agreement to joint working between the College and the Faculty brings an opportunity to consider the GP post CCT training pathways in SRH, in particular the Introductory Certificate and LARC training. Since the publication of the NICE CG30 on LARC in 2005, the role of these contraceptive options in the prevention of unplanned pregnancy and other aspects of healthcare have been clearly demonstrated and understood at all levels within the NHS. We recognise that to further improve access for women to LARC methods there needs to be improved access to LARC training for General Practitioners who wish to provide LARC to registered patients in their practices. FSRH Council acknowledges the potential benefits of enabling LARC training to be completed prior to, or without, completion of the full Diploma and this was also implicit in the recommendations of the Peile Report. A programme of work with representation from all relevant medical specialties and professions is being established to plan and implement a series of developments to SRH training including those agreed jointly between the College and the Faculty. This work which is being managed by MedFASH will complete in late 2013.

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The Medical Foundation for AIDS & Sexual Health (MedFASH) is a charity dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the healthcare of people affected by HIV, sexually transmitted infections and related conditions. It undertakes a range of projects to support health professionals and policy-makers particularly in the UK. It is not affiliated to any one medical speciality and is well positioned to encourage joint working between specialties to address HIV and sexual health issues. It is supported by the British Medical Association.

The DFSRH and LoC Evaluation of Training Programs report recommendations by Professor Ed Peile can be accessed on the FSRH website, www.fsrh.org
http://www.fsrh.org/pdfs/DFSRH_EvaluationRecommendations.pdf