

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN DIAGNOSIS
AND THERAPEUTICS IN INTERNAL MEDICINE
(PDipIntMed&Therapeutic)**

(See also General Regulations)

Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the programme leading to the Postgraduate Diploma in Diagnosis and Therapeutics in Internal Medicine, a candidate shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations; and
 - (b) hold the degrees of MBBS of this University, or another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose and which is registerable by the Medical Council of Hong Kong; and
 - (c) possess post registration experience of not less than one year; and
 - (d) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.
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Qualifying examination

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidate's academic ability or his/her ability to follow the courses of study prescribed.
 - (b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he/she has satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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Award of diploma

To be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Diagnosis and Therapeutics in Internal Medicine, a candidate shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations; and
 - (b) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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Length of curriculum

The curriculum shall extend over not more than two academic years of part-time study with approximately 200 hours of prescribed work.

Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall

- (a) follow courses of instruction as prescribed in the syllabus and complete satisfactorily all required written, practical and/or clinical work;
- (b) satisfy the attendance requirements, if any;
- (c) satisfy the examiners in each module by continuous assessment and/or by clinical and/or written examination at the end of the module; and
- (d) complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on an approved topic.

A candidate who fails to fulfil the requirements within the prescribed maximum period of study shall be recommended for discontinuation under the provisions of General Regulation G12, except that a candidate who is unable because of illness or circumstances beyond his/her control to complete the requirements within the prescribed maximum period of study, may apply to the Board of Studies for permission to extend his/her period of study.

Examinations

- (a) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in a module may be permitted
 - (i) to attend a supplementary examination of the module; or
 - (ii) to repeat the module in the following academic year that the module is offered and to re-take the prescribed assessment(s); or
 - (iii) to re-take the prescribed assessment(s) in the following academic year that the module is offered without repeating the module.
 - (b) A candidate who has presented an unsatisfactory dissertation but has satisfied the examiners in the modules may be permitted to revise the dissertation and to re-present it within a specified period of not more than four months after receipt of a notice that it is unsatisfactory.
 - (c) A candidate who is not permitted to present himself/herself for re-examination in any module(s) in which he/she has failed to satisfy the examiners or to revise and re-present the dissertation shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under General Regulation G12.
 - (d) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in a second attempt in any module(s) or the dissertation shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.
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Examination results

At the conclusion of the examination a pass list shall be published. A candidate who has shown exceptional merit in all the assessments may be awarded a mark of distinction and this mark shall be recorded in the candidate's transcript.

**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF
POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN DIAGNOSIS
AND THERAPEUTICS IN INTERNAL MEDICINE**

The Postgraduate Diploma in Diagnosis and Therapeutics comprises 12 modules. Completion of all the modules with at least 90% attendance of lectures and 100% attendance of clinical attachment within the 2-year period of study is required. In addition, a candidate is required to complete and present a dissertation of about 3,000 to 3,500 words on an approved topic, from one of the 12 modules as listed below, not later than August 31 of the final year of study.

Modules (14 hours each)

- I. Respiratory Medicine
- II. Haematology
- III. Geriatrics
- IV. Medical Oncology
- V. Clinical Pharmacology
- VI. Cardiology
- VII. Endocrinology and Diabetes
- VIII. Infectious Disease and Dermatology
- IX. Rheumatology
- X. Neurology
- XI. Nephrology
- XII. Hepatology and Gastroenterology

Module I - Respiratory Medicine

- Clinical approach to common symptoms of respiratory diseases
 - Introduction to Investigations in diseases of the respiratory system
 - Respiratory infections (I): influenza, pneumonias (including Legionnaire's Disease, melioidosis, SARS)
 - Respiratory infections (II): lung abscess, bronchial sepsis: bronchiectasis, panbronchiolitis,
 - Chest Imagings: plain CXRs, CT thorax, MRI, PET
 - Approach to a solitary pulmonary nodule
 - Modern treatment of tuberculosis
 - Practical approach to treatment of asthma
 - Update on treatment of COPD and critical appraisal of GOLD guideline
 - Approach to patients with interstitial lung disease (including idiopathic, vasculitis-associated, drug- induced, occupational, BOOP, sarcoidosis)
 - Interpretations of basic lung function tests
 - Inhalation therapy for airflow obstruction: use of nebulization, MDI, CFC-free MDI, turbuhaler, accuhaler, handihaler, spacers
 - Oxygen therapy and devices, pulse oximeter
 - Recent advances in the treatment of carcinoma of lung (including LELC)
 - Practical approach to obstructive sleep apnoea
 - Management of respiratory failure and cor pulmonale
 - Management of diseases of the pleura and pulmonary embolism
 - Interpretations of arterial blood gases, pleural fluid tests, serology/disease markers (e.g. ANCA's, TTF-1, anti-Jo-1), and polysomnogram tracings.
 - CPAP and non-invasive ventilation
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Module II - Haematology

- Approach to patients with anemia
 - Update on myeloproliferative disease
 - Treatment of myelodysplastic syndrome
 - Latest advance on therapy for acute leukaemia
 - Cases discussion - patients with abnormal blood counts
 - Approach and treatment of bleeding tendency I- Platelet
 - Approach and treatment of bleeding tendency II- Coagulation
 - Update on treatment of thrombophilia
 - Practical Management of anti-thrombotic therapy
 - Cases discussion - patients with bleeding and clotting problems
 - Recent advance on treatment of lymphoma
 - Treatment of myeloma
 - Updates on immunoglobulin and plasma exchange therapy
 - Issues with blood products transfusion
 - Approach to patients with lymphadenopathy
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Module III - Geriatrics

- Introduction: ageing and geriatric services in Hong Kong
- Clinical approach: application of geriatric assessment in the frail elderly
- Rehabilitation of the elderly
- Dementia: diagnosis, differential diagnosis and management
Functional assessment of gait, balance, ADL

- Cognitive assessment: AMT, MMSE
- Approach to manage falls and instability in the elderly
- Malnutrition: diagnosis and management in the elderly
- Management of constipation in the elderly
- Treatment of dysphagia in the elderly
- Dysphagia assessment with VFSS and/or FEES
- Drug use in the elderly
- Pressure ulcer management
- Medical management for elderly living in old aged homes - infections and non-infectious diseases
- Treatment of urinary incontinence in the elderly
- Urodynamics: illustration of common causes of urinary incontinence

Clinical attachment of day rehabilitation settings in day hospital - One Thursday pm

Module IV - Medical Oncology

- Pathogenesis and primary prevention of cancer: overview
 - Screening and early detection of breast cancer
 - Screening for colorectal cancer
 - Screening and management of early prostate cancer
 - Screening and management of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia
 - Recent advances in the molecular pathology of cancer
 - Familial cancer syndromes, gene testing and chemoprevention
 - Pathogenesis and management of infection-related cancers
 - Clinical use of serum tumour markers
 - Clinical approach to the patient with a breast lump
 - Recent advances in radiologic imaging and diagnosis of cancer
 - Clinical utility of nuclear medicine and PET scanning in cancer
 - Managing cancer patients who are receiving cytotoxic drug therapy
 - Avoiding short- and long-term toxicities of cytotoxic drugs
 - Long term follow-up, monitoring and support of cancer patients
 - Managing cancer patients who are receiving: hormone therapies, antibody therapies, enzyme inhibitor therapies
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Module V - Clinical Pharmacology

- Introduction: role of Clinical Pharmacology in modern therapeutics
- When do drug levels matter and why?
- What role for therapeutic drug monitoring?
- Deliberate drug overdose - modern management
- Drug adverse effects and interactions that matter
- Case scenarios and tracking down drug information
- Coping with new therapeutic claims - a common sense approach to evaluating clinical trial results
- What good is a meta-analysis? Why and how should we think about Number Needed to Treat (NNT)
- Recent clinical studies that have changed medical practice
- New drugs about which primary care physicians should become aware
- Discussion and interpretation of some published clinical drug trial findings
- Drug usage in pregnancy
- Optimizing corticosteroid therapy
- Challenge of antibiotic prescribing for primary care physicians
- Therapeutic conference on antibiotics:

Module VI - Cardiology

- Clinical approach to common cardiovascular symptoms
- Practical guide for ECG interpretation
- Current role of non-invasive and invasive cardiac imaging techniques
- Practical approach on evaluation and management of cardiovascular risk factors
- ECG workshop
- Hypertension guideline in practice
- Recent advances in management of acute and chronic heart failure
- Current management issues in stable angina.
- Heart murmur in adult: when would you like to take action?
- Case based discussion on the management of hypertension and shortness of breath
- Latest advances on treatment of acute coronary syndrome
- Managing cardiac arrhythmias: general principles of investigation and management
- Management strategies for atrial fibrillation
- Cardiac emergencies: acute pulmonary embolism, acute aortic diseases and hypertensive crisis
- Case based discussion on the cardiac emergencies

Clinical Attachment

- Echocardiography and treadmill session
 - CCU session - external cardioversion, IABP, temporary pacing
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Module VII - Endocrinology and Diabetes

- Diagnosis and monitoring of diabetes
- Treatment modalities in diabetes
- Management of diabetic complications
- Special issues in diabetes management (e.g. sick day management, pregnancy)
- Practical aspects of insulin therapy
- Assessment of diabetes complications
- Biochemical and radiological evaluation of thyroid disorders
- Diagnosis and management of common thyroid disorders (including thyroid nodules)
- Complications of thyroid disease and Graves' ophthalmopathy
- Management of thyroid disorders during pregnancy
- Interpretations of thyroid function tests
- Effects of non-thyroidal drugs on thyroid function
- Recent advances on treatment of osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease
- Approach to manage male infertility and erectile dysfunction
- Approach to a patient with menstrual disorders
- Secondary hypertension: diagnosis and treatment
- Interpretation of bone mineral density tests

Clinical attachment

- Diabetes Centre
 - Osteoporosis Centre
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Module VIII - Infectious Diseases and Dermatology

Infectious diseases

- Diagnostic and therapeutic principles of Infectious Disease
- Infectious diseases after international travel: diagnosis and treatment

- Clinical approach to fever of unknown origin
- Therapeutic approach to common Infections of respiratory system
- Case based discussion
- Treatment of infection of the GI tract: acute and chronic diarrhoea
- Update on treatment of endocarditis and intravascular infections
- Current therapy for urinary tract infection
- Treatment of meningitis and central nervous system infection

Dermatology

- Approach to manage drug eruptions
 - Treatment of infection of the skin and soft tissues
 - Cutaneous manifestations of medical diseases: implication on treatment
 - Management of life threatening dermatoses
 - Pictorial tour of common dermatoses
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Module IX - Rheumatology

- Approach to patients with rheumatic complaints
 - Investigation of patients with rheumatic complaints
 - Principles of drug treatment of rheumatic disorders
 - Non-drug treatment of rheumatic disorders
 - Update on treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus
 - Management of other connective tissue disorders
 - Approach to unsuspected rheumatic disorders
 - Treatment of emergency rheumatic disorders
 - Update on gout and pseudo-gout
 - Update on therapy for rheumatoid arthritis
 - Approach to treatment of patients with ankylosing spondylitis and other sero-negative arthritis
 - Treatment of osteoarthritis
 - Serology tests and their clinical interpretation
 - Case based discussion on the management of soft tissue rheumatism and regional pain syndromes
 - Musculoskeletal imaging
 - Case based discussion on the management of rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis
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Module X - Neurology

- Approach to neurological diagnosis
- Neurological investigations: EEG, EMG, NCV, imaging studies
- Headaches & trigeminal neuralgia: diagnosis and management
- Common movement disorders: diagnosis and management
- Stroke 1: diagnosis, risk factors, neuro-imaging
- Stroke 2: acute therapy, prevention
- Dizziness and impaired consciousness: diagnosis & management
- Diagnosis & management of epilepsy
- Common CNS infections: diagnosis and management
- Update on treatment of multiple sclerosis & demyelinating disorders
- Approach to patients with myasthenia gravis, common neuropathies & myopathies
- Neuro-rehabilitation
- Case-based discussion of approach to neurological diagnosis and Parkinson's disease
- Introduction to NIH Stroke Scale
- 2 case-based discussion on the management of neuro-rehabilitation

Module XI - Nephrology

- Presenting features and investigations in renal medicine
 - Interpretation of renal investigations
 - Electrolytes and acid-base disorders
 - Specific renal diseases (I) – minimal change disease, membranous nephropathy, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis
 - Treatment of specific renal diseases (II) – IgA nephropathy, renal vasculitis, anti-GBM disease
 - Treatment of specific renal diseases (III) – lupus nephritis, renal diseases in Sjogren's syndrome, multiple myeloma, HUS/TTP
 - Acute renal failure – important causes, diagnosis, and management
 - Chronic renal failure – complications and management
 - Dialysis as long-term renal replacement therapy
 - Kidney transplantation – the basics
 - Management of the kidney transplant recipient
 - Drugs and the kidney
 - Case discussions – acute renal failure / glomerular diseases
 - Case discussions – dialysis / renal transplantation
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Module XII - Hepatology and Gastroenterology

- Interpretation of liver function test
- Treatment of complications of cirrhosis
- Treatment of chronic hepatitis B
- Case discussion - liver
- Screening and treatment for hepatocellular carcinoma
- Treatment of miscellaneous liver diseases: alcohol, Wilson's disease, primary biliary cirrhosis and autoimmune hepatitis
- Advances in therapeutic endoscopy procedures and imaging in GI tract
- Case scenario: capsule endoscopy, double balloon enteroscopy, CT colonoscopy
- When, why and how?
- Treatment of Helicobacter pylori and dyspepsia
- Treatment of GI mobility problems: constipation and diarrhoea
- Gastric and colon cancer: screening, diagnosis and management
- Update on management of gastro-esophageal reflux disease
- Case discussion
- Case history of patients with dyspepsia, GERD, resistant Helicobacter pylori infection