

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

(See also General Regulations)

M.135 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
 - (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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M.136 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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M.137 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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M.138 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.

M.139 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.

M.140 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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M.141 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
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 80% 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 written work of about 3,000 to 3,500 words on an approved topic, from one of the 12 modules as listed below, not later than June of the final year of study.

Modules (14 hours each)

- MEDI6401 - Cardiology
- MEDI6402 - Clinical Pharmacology
- MEDI6403 - Endocrinology and Diabetes
- MEDI6404 - Geriatrics
- MEDI6405 - Haematology
- MEDI6406 - Hepatology and Gastroenterology
- MEDI6407 - Infectious Disease and Dermatology
- MEDI6408 - Medical Oncology
- MEDI6409 - Nephrology
- MEDI6410 - Neurology
- MEDI6411 - Respiratory Medicine
- MEDI6412 - Rheumatology

MEDI6401 - 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

- Non-invasive assessment: treadmill, Holter, Echocardiogram
 - CCU round and cardiac cath lab visit: grand round in CCU and Cardiac Beds, Invasive procedures in cath lab
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MEDI6402 - Clinical Pharmacology

- Introduction: role of Clinical Pharmacology in modern therapeutics
 - When do drug levels matter and why?
 - What role for therapeutic drug monitoring?
 - Drug Toxicity and Overdose
 - Medication errors: To Err is Human
 - Drug adverse effects and interactions that matter
 - Coping with new therapeutic claims - a common sense approach to evaluating clinical trial results
 - Contemporary drug prescribing and therapeutic strategies about which primary care physicians should become aware
 - What good is a meta-analysis? Why and how should we think about Number Needed to Treat (NNT)
 - Recent clinical studies / guidelines that have changed / challenged medical practice
 - Discussion and interpretation of some published clinical drug trial findings
 - Drug usage in pregnancy (and during lactation)
 - Optimizing corticosteroid therapy
 - Challenge of antibiotic prescribing for primary care physicians (1)
 - Challenge of antibiotic prescribing for primary care physicians (2)
 - Therapeutic conference on antibiotics
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MEDI6403 - 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, etc)
- 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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MEDI6404 - Geriatrics

- Introduction: ageing and geriatric services in Hong Kong
- Clinical approach: application of geriatric assessment in the elderly
- Illustration of cognitive assessment tools, lab. Test results. CT, MRI, PET & SPECT
- Rehabilitation of the elderly
- Dementia: diagnosis, differential diagnosis and management
- Falls in the elderly
- Gait disorder in the elderly
- Dizziness in the elderly
- Rehabilitation of the elderly
- Nutrition in the elderly
- Dysphagia in the elderly with illustrations of VFSS assessment
- Drug use in the elderly
- Pressure ulcer management
- Medical management for elderly living in old aged homes - infections and non-infectious diseases
- Medical management for elderly living in old aged homes - non-infectious diseases
- Urinary incontinence in the elderly
- Urodynamics: illustration of common causes

Clinical Attachment of day rehabilitation settings in day hospital

MEDI6405 - 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
- Workshop on thrombosis
- 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

Clinical Attachment:

- Haematology Grand Round

- Haematology Clinic
 - Visit to J8N Bone Marrow Transplant Unit (BMT)
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MEDI6406 - Hepatology and Gastroenterology

- Interpretation of liver function test
 - Screening and treatment for hepatocellular carcinoma
 - Treatment of chronic hepatitis B (I)
 - Treatment of chronic hepatitis B (II)
 - Case discussion – liver
 - Treatment of GI motility problems: Constipation and diarrhoea
 - Treatment of complications of cirrhosis
 - Treatment of hepatitis C and other liver diseases
 - Fibroscan and liver diseases
 - Screening and treatment for hepatocellular carcinoma
 - Advances in therapeutic endoscopy procedures and imaging in GI tract
 - Case scenario: capsule endoscopy, double balloon enteroscopy, CT colonoscopy, etc. 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 history of patients with dyspepsia, GERD, resistant Helicobacter pylori infection
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MEDI6407 - 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

- Management approach to manage drug eruptions
- Treatment of infections of the skin and soft tissues
- Cutaneous manifestations of medical diseases: implication on treatment
- Management of life threatening dermatoses
- Pictorial tour of common dermatoses

Clinical Attachment – Infectious Diseases:

- Anti-biotic Round

Clinical Attachment - Dermatology:

- Dermatology Grand Round

MEDI6408 - Medical Oncology

- Concepts in targeted anticancer therapy

- Screening and management of early colorectal cancer
 - Advances in the Management of colorectal cancer
 - Breakthroughs in the management of HCC
 - Interesting cases in colon, lung and hepatocellular cancers
 - Familial breast cancer: how much do you need to know?
 - The cutting edge in breast cancer treatment: from hormone, chemo to targeted therapy
 - Fertility issues in cancer patients
 - Recent advances in radiologic imaging and diagnosis of cancer
 - Utility of CT-PET scanning in oncology
 - Radiotherapy: from LINAC, isotopes to radio-immunoconjugate
 - Advances in the treatment of Head & Neck cancer
 - Medical Emergencies in cancer
 - Palliative care
 - Management of side-effect of RT
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MEDI6409 - Nephrology

- Presenting features and investigations in renal medicine
- Interpretation of renal investigations
- Electrolytes and acid-base disorders
- Treatment of specific renal diseases (I) - IgA nephropathy, renal vasculitis, anti-GBM disease
- 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
- Treatment of specific renal diseases (II) – lupus nephritis, renal diseases in Sjogren’s syndrome, multiple myeloma, HUS/TTP
- Approach to tubulointerstitial diseases
- Specific renal diseases (III) – minimal change disease, membranous nephropathy, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis
- Drugs and the kidney
- Case discussions – dialysis / renal transplantation

Clinical Attachment:

- Renal Ward Round
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MEDI6410 - 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

Clinical Attachment:

- Neurophysiology
 - Neurology Ward Round
 - Neurorehabilitation
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MEDI6411 - Respiratory Medicine

- Clinical approach to common respiratory symptoms
- Introduction to Investigations in diseases of the respiratory diseases
- 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 CA lung (including LELC)
- Practical approach to obstructive sleep apnoea
- Management of respiratory failure and cor pulmonale
- Management of pleural diseases and pulmonary embolism
- Interpretations of arterial blood gases, pleural fluid tests, serology/disease markers (e.g. ANCAs, TTF-1, anti-Jo-1), and polysomnogram tracings.
- CPAP and non-invasive ventilation

Clinical Attachment:

- Visit to fiberoptic bronchoscopy room: standard FOB, autofluorescence bronchoscopy, endobronchial ultrasound guided FNA (actual cases, or videos); Lung Function Tests Lab and Sleep Study Lab – observational only
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MEDI6412 - 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

Clinical Attachment:

- Rheumatology Grand Round
- Rheumatology Clinic