Training Programme in Clinical Toxicology Subspecialty

1. OBJECTIVE OF TRAINING

The goal of training in clinical toxicology is to develop emergency medicine (EM) subspecialists who are competent to accept and exercise the highest responsibility in the field of clinical toxicology. In particular, the doctor should demonstrate knowledge and skill in the

A) Recognition, resuscitation, stabilization, evaluation and care of patients after acute exposure to toxic agents
B) Evaluation and management of sub-acute or chronic exposure to toxic agents
C) Education in clinical toxicology
D) Research in areas relevant to the practice of clinical toxicology
E) Administration and function of poison centre
F) Prevention of poisoning

2. ENROLLMENT OF TRAINEES

A) Higher trainee or Fellow of Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine AND

B) Diploma holder OR candidate of the Diploma in Clinical Toxicology, Hong Kong Poison Information Centre and Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine [Dip Clin Tox (HKPIC & HKCEM)]
3. STRUCTURE OF TRAINING

The training period for emergency medicine specialty and clinical toxicology subspecialty should span at least 7 years.

The subspecialty training in clinical toxicology is made up of a two years full time accredited training which shall include the following elements:
A) Clinical toxicology in emergency department setting
B) Clinical toxicology in poison centre setting
C) Clinical toxicology in intensive care unit setting
D) Clinical toxicology in general ward setting
E) Clinical toxicology in outpatient setting

The training in clinical toxicology is made up of a two years full time accredited training including a minimum training period in College accredited Poison Centre (PC) for 1 year.

The two years full time accredited training can be conducted in the following categories:

Category A: College accredited Poison Centre (PC)
Training period in College accredited Poison Centre (PC) is counted as full time accredited training. The requirement for PC is listed in appendix I.

Category B: Emergency medicine based toxicology training centre (EMTTC)
Training period in College accredited emergency medicine based toxicology training centre (EMTTC) is counted as full time accredited training with a general conversion ratio of 2:1 (i.e. two years EMTTC training is counted as one year full time accredited training). The maximum period counted in this category is one year full time accredited training. The requirement for EMTTC is listed in appendix II.

Category C: Toxicology training centre (TTC)
Training period in recognized toxicology training centre (TTC) can be counted as full time accredited training. The maximum period counted in this category is 6 months full time accredited training. The recognized TTC and their maximum period of recognition are listed in appendix III.
Category D: Toxicology-related specialty/subspecialty other than emergency medicine (TS)

Training period in other recognized toxicology-related specialty/subspecialty other than emergency medicine (TS) can be counted as full time or full time equivalent accredited training. The maximum period counted in this category is 3 months. The training in this category can be conducted on full-time, part-time or sessional basis. The recognized TS are listed in appendix IV.

The full time or full time equivalent accredited training period in category C & D combined can be maximally counted for 6 months in total.

All training must be accredited by the Board of Clinical Toxicology of Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine (The Board).

The training includes a completion of at least one research project.

Clinical experience obtained before enrollment, whether local or overseas, shall be subjected to individual assessment by the Board for the purpose of recognition as accredited training. Due considerations will be given to whether the training is supervised, relevant to clinical toxicology and of comparable standard. In general, clinical experience before enrollment should not be counted for more than 50% of the training requirement in the respective training category.

After at least two years of full time accredited training and on compliance with the training requirements, trainees may sit for the exit examination in clinical toxicology.
4. CONTENTS OF TRAINING

Contents of training should cover both knowledge and skills that are required for the management of poisoning. In general, the following aspects should be covered:

A) Principles of toxicology
B) Toxins and toxicants
   i) Drugs
   ii) Drugs of abuse
   iii) Industrial, household, and environmental toxicants
   iv) Natural products
   v) Warfare and terrorism
C) Clinical assessment
D) Treatment
   i) Resuscitation
   ii) Decontamination
   iii) Antidote
   iv) Enhanced Elimination
E) Toxicology investigations and laboratory assessment
F) Poison centre management
G) Control of poisoning outbreak
H) Toxico-vigilance

5. METHODS OF TRAINING

Trainees are responsible to keep adequate record of their own training activities in the training logbook. The methods of training may include the followings:

A. Bedside coaching
B. Tutorial
C. Case audit
D. Journal club
E. Topic review
F. Course
G. Research
H. Conference
6. EXAMINATION

A. Requirements
   i. Trainee MUST obtain the Fellowship of Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine AND

   ii. Trainee MUST obtain the Diploma in Clinical Toxicology, Hong Kong Poison Information Centre and Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine AND

   iii. Trainee MUST have completed at least two years of accredited clinical toxicology training and on compliance with the training requirements AND

   iv. Trainee MUST have completed at least one research project. The project must fulfill the following requirements:
      a) Trainee as the first author, AND
      b) Related to clinical toxicology, AND
      c) Accepted for publication in peer-review journal that is indexed in EM Base / Medline

B. Examination Format
   i. Written examination
   ii. VIVA examination
Appendix I: Requirements for College accredited Poison Centre (PC)

1) The PC provides 24 hours per day and 7 days per week service.
2) The PC must be manned by at least 2 full time clinical toxicology fellows/specialists and 4 other doctors with recognized toxicology training.
3) The PC provides consultation service for poisoning management in poison centre setting. The caseload for this service should be at least 1,500 cases per year.
4) The PC has extended care facilities or joint consultation service for the management of poisoned patients in pre-hospital, emergency department, intensive care unit, and general ward setting. The caseload for this service should be at least 240 poisoning cases per year.
5) The total caseload of the PC should be at least 3,000 cases per year.
6) The PC has regular (bi-weekly) audit activities on poisoning cases.
7) The PC provides regular training activities on research, journal review.

Hong Kong Poison Information Centre (HKPIC) is currently a College accredited Poison Centre

Appendix II: Requirements for EM Toxicology Training Centre (EMTTC)

1) The EMTCC must be an accredited emergency medicine training centres of the College
2) The toxicology team in the EMTCC provides 24 hours per day and 7 days per week service.
3) The toxicology team in the EMTCC must include a clinical toxicology fellow/specialist and 2 other doctors with recognized toxicology training.
4) The EMTCC has extended care facilities for the management of poisoned patients.
5) The EMTCC manages at least 120 poisoning cases per year.
6) The EMTCC has regular (monthly) audit activities on poisoning cases.

Appendix III: Recognized Toxicology Training Centre (TTC)

1) Prince of Wales Hospital Poison Treatment Centre (6 months)
2) Hospital Authority Toxicology Reference Laboratory (3 months)
3) Any other poison centre to be pre-approved as TTC by the Board (3-6 months as determined by the Board)
Appendix IV: Recognized Toxicology-related Specialties/Subspecialties other than emergency medicine (TS)

The practice of the specialties and subspecialties listed below, other than emergency medicine, has elements that are relevant to training in clinical toxicology. Elective training arranged by supervisor according to individual’s interest and need is encouraged.

List of TS:
1) Chemical Pathology / Forensic Pathology
2) Community Medicine / Public Health Medicine / Occupational and Environmental Medicine
3) Intensive Care
4) Internal Medicine / Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics / Critical Care Medicine
5) Paediatric
6) Psychiatry
7) Any other specialty/subspecialty to be pre-approved by the Board