

Norwegian trainee program

The ob/gyn trainee program in Norway is based on the general requirements that apply to all specialist educations voted by the The ministry of health and care services. The ministry of health and care services govern the specialist educations, but have delegated the practical aspects of approving educational institutions and specialists to the Norwegian Medical association and the Speciality committees. The speciality committees are expert organs concerning each speciality and they have mandate to approve an institution as an educational institution and how many trainees they should have. They also monitor the institutions and can suggest changes to improve the education. One of the committee members is a trainee. The speciality council is also an advisory organ concerning the specialist education. Different organs and organizations are represented in the council, such as the medical faculties, the state board of health, the health Affairs, The federation of municipalities and the patient organization.

The Norwegian Medical Association has stated certain goals and plan for implementation for the trainee program. A general goal is to educate specialist with competence in communication, cooperation, prevention and information, academic skills and professionalism. The specific goals states the requirements for knowledge and skill concerning obstetrics and prenatal care, labor and delivery care and handling, both normal and pathological, general gynecology, gynecological oncology, ethics and surgery. There is a detailed, numberbased, list of medical problems, procedures and operations, including the surgical year, that must be fulfilled to be approved a specialist. The list reflects the goals of the education and the purpose is to ensure that the trainees acquire the appropriate skills.

Everyone with an authorization (can.med. degree and completed turnustjeneste i.e. 1 year work in a hospital and 6 months as a general practitioner) can apply to become a trainee. It is required that the position is approved as an education position in an approved institution. Except from one year, the position have to be advertised. Some hospitals (the larger) have rotations and also rotate to the surgical ward, but mostly the trainee have to apply for different positions of its own. The trainee is required to take part in all the aspects of duty in the ward, including the on-call duty. 6 months without on-call duty can be accepted. The workhours and on-call systems vary from hospital to hospital, mainly depending on the size of the ward and the number of trainees working there.

The educational institutions are divided into two groups according to size and competence in the ward. Group I institutions are university hospitals, larger regional hospitals and certain special hospitals. The rest are group II institutions.

The educational institutions, i.e. the hospitals, are responsible for the education of trainees. The ward should have a educational board. All senior doctor guide the trainees and every trainee should have their own tutor/supervisor. It is recommended regular meetings to discuss the trainees achievements and plan further progress. There should be theoretical education two classhours a week in which the trainees attend and contribute. The trainee should have time to study 4 hours a week. They should get paid time off work to attend courses, it is recommended they attend to one course at least every 6th month. Every year the institution send in a report to the speciality committee confirming the size and activity of the ward, the numbers of senior doctors and trainees, a list over the theoretical classes and an individual evaluation of all the trainees, including a list evaluating the trainees skills and number of procedures and operations done so far (filled in by the trainee and the supervisor).

Duration of trainee program (minimum time, often takes longer to get all the operations/procedures)

1. 4,5 years in ob/gyn ward. 6 months can be replaced by research, another relevant speciality

or by administrative work or in public health/as a GP. 1,5 year in a group I hospital is mandatory (group II hospital not required)

2. 1 year in a surgical ward, 6 months can be replaced by research

The research position have to be supervised work in at least a 50% position. A nordic Ph.d. or equivalent counts as one year. Completed research programme during medical school counts as one year. Other types of relevant research or a ph.d from a country other than a nordic country will be evaluated individually and have to be documented by a supervisor or by publications.

Relevant specialities: anesthesiology, pediatry, pediatric surgery, gastroenterologic surgery or urology, dermatology and veneria, internal medicine, immunology and transfusion medicine, vascular surgery, clinical farmacology, medical genetics, medical microbiology, oncology, pathology, plastic surgery, psyiciatry and radiology

Theoretical education:

At least 200 coursehours of which 132 are manadatory courses in

- Gynaecological oncology
- Special topcis in gynaecology and obstetrics
- General gynaecology
- General obstetrics
- Ultrasound
- Administration and leadership and webbased course in beeing an expert.

The courses are governed and arranged by the Norwegian Medical Assosiation and the specialitycommity. The trainee have to apply to attend. The time off work and the course fee is paid by the ward. The travelexpences and accomodation is paid by the Norwegian Medical assosiations educational fund III.

There are no specialistexam to be approved a specialist, but all the manatory courses have exams that must be passed to receive coursesertificate. The application to be approved a specialist is send to the Norwegian Medical Assosiation. The procedure/operationlist must be attested by the head of the ward.

For further information in norwegian, visit

<http://legeforeningen.no/Emner/Spesialiteter/Fodselshjelp-og-kvinnesykdommer/>