

# **Trainee programme in Ob/Gyn in Denmark;** (Ed.: Autumn 2008).

## **Summary:**

### **Duration of trainee program in OB/GYN**

- in total 4 years (1 year in Ob/Gyn required before applying for a traineeship; i.e. 1+4 years in total to become a specialist)
- 6 months in surgery (gastroenterological, incl a focussed stay in an urological dept.)
- 2 x 12 months in an Ob/Gyn department in a university hospital
- 18 months in Ob/Gyn in a larger, peripheral hospital

### **Course hours in OB/GYN**

- 210 hours.
- 2 administrative courses, each of 3 – 4 days of duration. Compulsory.

### **Operation and procedure list**

- Check-list and log-book (see below). The check-list is mainly competence driven rather than giving an exact minimum number of procedures to perform.

### **Teaching and guidance**

Every trainee has a personal tutor in each of the Ob/Gyn departments and in the surgical department. Regular meetings are encouraged and a minimum number of meetings are required. Schemes have to be filled in at each meeting to document meeting activity.

All senior doctors are able to certify that the trainee is capable of performing a given procedure.

A 360 degree evaluation is performed once or several times during the traineeship. In this, cooperative skills are evaluated by other doctors and by midwives and nurses.

-----

### **Time horizon, working hours, check-list and log-book:**

Each year in Denmark, approximately 26 doctors commence their ob/gyn trainee programme.

The trainee programme lasts for 48 months. To apply for this programme, a 12 month employment in an introductory position in ob/gyn is required.

Trainees spent their time in ob/gyn departments in both a university hospital (24 months) and in a larger peripheral hospital (18 months) as well in a surgical ward (6 months). The timing of the surgical rotation in the 48 months programme depends on which region in Denmark the traineeship is placed in. In Denmark, working hours are 37 hrs per week, though most doctors, incl. trainees, spent somewhat more hours in the departments.

All trainees have a check-list and a log-book. The check-list (<http://www.dsog.dk/files/Checkliste%20gynobs%202007.pdf>) explicitly defines practical procedures, for which competences must be acquired during the trainee period (e.g.: Caesarian sections, curettages, abdominal hysterectomies, etc.). A certain competence level has to be achieved, depending on the character of the procedure. For the procedures in the check-list, no predefined number to perform has been given. Thus, the check-list is competence driven rather than merely a quantitative list of procedures performed during employment.

The log-book (<http://www.dsog.dk/files/Logbog%20gynobs%202007.pdf>) lists topics, issues and procedures that the trainee should have been dealing with as a trainee. Most practical procedures are referred to in the check-list. Additional competences are then listed in the log-book, e.g. course attendance and performance in various clinical diagnostic and therapeutic situations in a daily setting. A predefined number of e.g. various ultrasound procedures have been defined, and print-outs must be shown to senior colleagues to ascertain adequate competences in such procedures. Also, a predefined number of obstetrical and gynaecological “cases” and “audits” must be collected and patient records from these must be discussed with a senior doctor. A very large amount of signatures (more than 400) from senior doctors are needed in the check-list and log-book. However, once all signatures have been obtained, the lists can be forwarded to the central health authorities and specialist assignment obtained. There is no exam at the end of the trainee period.

The evaluation of the trainee with check-lists and log-books has been implemented in the recent years. Therefore, corrections of the log-books and check-lists may occur as the new trainee programmes are evaluated by trainees and senior doctors.

Further information is available (in danish) at: <http://www.dsog.dk/uddannelse.shtml> and <http://www.sst.dk/Uddannelse/Laeger/Speciallaegeuddannelse/Maalbeskrivelse.aspx>

*November 13<sup>th</sup> 2008  
/Jens Fuglsang, MD, Ph.D.*