Paediatric Sub-specialty Recruitment 2026-27
Guidance for Educational Supervisors

Educational Supervisors (ES) play a key role in ensuring Post Graduate Doctors in Training make informed career decisions. Discussion regarding suitability and eligibility is vital and it is ultimately the role of the ES to confirm that a PGDiT should make an application for sub-specialty recruitment.

This guidance aims to support you, as an ES, through this important part of the process.

IMPORTANT: If you have not watched the short briefing on YouTube which was shared with all Educational Supervisors via email on 28 July 2026, please try to watch it, before reading any further!

Contents

1. Role of the Educational Supervisor

As an Educational Supervisor (ES), you should be discussing career options and aspirations with your Post Graduate Doctors in Training (PGDiTs) on a regular basis. Ideally this should be at least annually, (ideally around ARCP time) from ST2 onwards, so they will be suitably prepared for transition to Specialty Training in ST5-ST7 and any sub-specialty applications they may make.

For PGDiTs planning to apply in the autumn, discussions should begin by April of that year, if not before. If you are both in agreement that a sub-specialty application is appropriate to realise their career goals and that it is the right time for them to apply, you will need to support them with completing their Confirmation of Eligibility (CoE) form on Risr (e-portfolio).

For a PGDiT to be able to apply, their ES needs to confirm that they meet the minimum requirements in five training areas, by discussing and verifying their examples and subsequently filling out section 2 of the Risr CoE form.

N.B. Completion of a fully completed, verified and signed CoE form is mandatory to allow any PGDiT to apply and be considered for longlisting and interview.

2. Confirmation of Eligibility Form

Eligibility for interview will ultimately be defined by demonstrating that an applicant meets the minimum requirements in each of five specified training areas, alongside meeting the basic eligibility criteria, which are defined on the RCPCH website.

It is your role as ES to confirm verification of meeting these minimum requirements and sign these off in section 2 of the CoE form on Risr.

For each training area, PGDiTs will need to provide a short description on their CoE form, detailing how their experience meets at least the minimum requirements.

Evidence does not need to be uploaded to the Risr form itself. However, evidence must be available for review and discussion with you, as Educational Supervisor so that you can confidently verify the accuracy of the information being presented.

- One CoE form is needed for each PGDiT, not for each application.
- Discuss each training area with your PGDiT, who must share examples/evidence from their career to date that will allow you to verify the examples as factual and sign them off on the Risr form, as directed in the 'Confirmation of Eligibility & Selected Portfolio Guide'.
- Final sign-off of the CoE form will be made by the HoS/TPD, who is the designated signatory in your region – they will also need to confirm basic eligibility criteria, including ARCP outcome, time left in training, CCT date and expected completion of core training capabilities
- PGDiTs who do not meet the minimum requirements in **all five training** areas should not be signed off and cannot submit an application.
- You should make sure that the CoE form is completed to the end of section 2, as early as you can, to avoid any problems with gaining final sign-off from the regional HoS/TPD before the final deadline

The following should also be noted and checked:

- In order to evidence each training area, PGDiTs will need to write a brief description (aim for no more than 100 words) of the example they are using, demonstrating how you meet the minimum requirements
- PGDiTs should not use the same example for more than one section
- PGDiTs do not need to upload or attach any documents to the Risr form – however it is important that any documented evidence of the examples they are using, is shared with you, as ES, so you are able to verify them as factual and sign them off*
- The RCPCH Recruitment Team may ask for additional information, or verification, as part of the longlisting stage, as necessary
- Ideally, examples used should be based on existing e-portfolio evidence but significant examples from Medical School or Foundation School can be included, as appropriate

*N.B. Where you were not directly involved in an activity, you must see sufficient evidence to verify it e.g. written confirmation from another clinician who oversaw the activity, supporting certificates, official letters etc.

The five training areas are:

1. Exploration of the chosen sub-specialty.
2. Leadership and management.
3. Quality improvement or audit.
4. Education and teaching.
5. Research experience.

You will need to refer to the 'Confirmation of Eligibility & Selected Portfolio Guide' for a full breakdown of the minimum requirements for each of the training areas, as well as a table of suggested types of evidence, that can be shared for verification, which is listed in the glossary.

N.B. The evidence that is shared with you, for each area should already be in the PGDiTs portfolio and we would not expect them to need to gain additional experience in the few months leading up to application. If this does look to be the case, it may be that this is not the right time for them to apply, so please be aware of this when having your initial discussions regarding submitting an application – it may be prudent to suggest putting off their application to the following round, provided there are no additional issues, such as having a limited time left until their CCT date.

Appendix

1. Background

- Currently managed & run by the College team in collaboration with Medical & Dental Recruitment and Selection (MDRS)
- 4-nation recruitment
- Input from CSACs at most stages
- Single round of recruitment for all 18 paediatric sub-specialties
- Applications in October/November
- Longlisting/invites to interview in November/December
- Interviews in January/February
- Offers & appointments in February
- Posts start in August/September

2. Paediatric Sub-specialties and duration of programmes

Paediatric training is capability based and time spent in sub-specialty programmes is indicative. As such, PGDiTs may complete training in less time.

36 months programmes	24-36 months programmes
Neonatal Medicine	Paediatric Diabetes and Endocrinology
Community Child Health	Paediatric Emergency Medicine
Paediatric Allergy	Paediatric Intensive Care Medicine (including anaesthetics training)
Paediatric Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*	Paediatric Nephrology
Paediatric Gastroenterology	Paediatric Oncology
Paediatric Hepatology	Paediatric Palliative Medicine
Paediatric Immunology, and Infectious Disease	Paediatric Rheumatology
Paediatric Inherited Metabolic Medicine	Child Mental Health**
Paediatric Neurodisability	
Paediatric Neurology	
Paediatric Respiratory Medicine	

* Paediatric Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics will not be recruiting in 2026-27
** Child Mental Health currently do not have any available programmes and PGDiTs are advised to contact the CSAC for more information on gaining experience in this sub-specialty.

3. Discussing suitability and understanding of potential career path(s)

Things to consider when meeting with your PGDiT:

- Do they meet the rest of the basic eligibility criteria?
- Is this the right time for the PGDiT to apply?
- Is it the right sub-specialty for them?
- Is there evidence that the PGDiT has been preparing themselves adequately for a career in the sub-speciality?
- Is the PGDiT likely to be ready for entry into a sub-speciality programme by the time the post would start (August/September), if they are appointed to one?

- Does the PGDiT have the relevant experience and evidence to meet the minimum requirements in all five of the specified training areas?
- Have they applied before but didn't rank high enough for an offer? Or perhaps they didn't get through shortlisting? They may need to reflect on their previous application and see what they could improve on.
- Has the PGDiT got enough indicative time left in training, to complete a programme in their chose sub-specialty/ties?

Suggested format for completing sign-off of CoE form:

i. Arrange short initial meeting ASAP with your PGDiTs, so that you are all clear regarding career plans/aspirations – briefly go through the CoE form and requirements.
ii. Make plans for when to have your next meeting in which the examples of experience that demonstrate how the PGDiT meets at least the minimum requirements in each of the five training areas.
iii. Meet to discuss the five training areas and how your PGDiT(s) experience makes them eligible to make an application – for each area check the evidence with the PGDiT and sign off on the form, as appropriate.

4. Useful links

Applying to sub-specialty recruitment: https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/education-careers/apply-paediatrics/sub-specialty-training

Information about the Paediatric sub-specialties: https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/education-careers/apply-paediatrics/sub-specialties

Sub-specialty applicant guide: https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2026-08/Sub-specialty%20applicant%20guide%202026-27.pdf

Confirmation of Eligibility & Selected Portfolio Guide: https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2026-08/Confirmation%20of%20Eligibility%20%26%20Selected%20Portfolio%20Guide%202026-27.pdf