

## CPD-SS – FAQ

### **Q - When do I have to decide on what pathway I will register for?**

A - Registration for Structured Learning Pathways must be completed by 31 October 2021.

### **Q – What specialties are available in the Structured Learning Pathways?**

A – There are Structured Learning Pathways for General Internal Medicine, O&G, Paediatrics, Pathology and Occupational Medicine.

### **Q - What are the advantages of the Self-directed Pathway?**

A – The benefit of the Self-directed pathway is the flexibility and freedom of choice you must select the courses that interest you most from the courses available to CPD-SS participants dates and courses are available to view on the website under the CPD – SS prospectus.

### **Q – What does the Structured Learning Pathway (SLP) consist of?**

A – Each SLP year one consists of five specialty specific online courses and a virtual tutorial.

### **Q – What are the benefits of the Structured Learning Pathway (SLP)?**

A -

- Fulfil your medical council legal requirement
- Courses are completed online, in your own time and from the comfort of your home
- On successful completion of a Structured Learning Pathway in your chosen specialty (SLP1, SLP2 & SLP3) you will receive a certificate of completion. e.g., *Certificate of Completion of Structured Learning Pathway in Paediatrics*
- Your Certificate of Completion can be used as evidence of completion of courses equivalent to HST mandatory courses for submission with your application to the Specialist Division of the Register, if applying.

### **Q - What is the difference between the Structured Learning Pathway and the HST formal training scheme?**

A – Higher Specialist Training (HST) is the final crucial step on the path to specialization in medicine. It is a four to six-year training programme completed in Specialist Registrar (SpR) posts, with programmes available in 28 specialties.

On completion of HST, you will be eligible to register with the Medical Council of Ireland as a specialist and can begin to apply for consultant posts. Entry to HST is competitive and RCPI manage the national recruitment process every year.

Structured Learning Pathways are not a training programme. They are a selection of specialty specific online courses to provide learners on a CPD-SS scheme with a structured approach to meeting their CPD requirements.

**Q – If the courses included in the SLP are the equivalent to their corresponding HST Mandatory courses, what about BST? Is BST not a prerequisite to HST, how do we skip that stage?**

**A –** The courses included on each SLP are considered equivalent to their corresponding HST mandatory course for the purposes of applying to the Specialist Division of the Register (SDR). The Structured Learning Pathways are not a training programme. Anyone wishing to apply to a Higher Specialist Training programme must have completed Basic Specialist Training, or an equivalent training programme. [For more information, please see our website linked here.](#)

**Q - If I were in Paediatric SLP for one year, then wanted to switch to Internal Medicine or Obs Gyn, could I do so and just make up the few courses that don't overlap, without having to sit out a year?**

**A –** Structured Learning Pathways (SLP) are specialty specific. Years 2 and 3 of each pathway will delve deeper into specialty specific courses with the inclusion of simulation workshops and technical training. Each year is intended to build on the competencies from the year before, therefore it is intended that you would complete the full pathway in the same specialty, but it is up to you how you wish to proceed through the pathways.

However, for application to the Specialist Division of the Register, your certificate of completion of the Structured Learning Pathway (SLP1, SLP2 and SLP3) in your specialty will be accepted as evidence of completion of the corresponding HST mandatory courses that is required for your application. You will not receive a certificate of completion of a Structured Learning Pathway in your specialty unless you complete all three years of the pathway in one specialty.

**Q - If I, at some point, don't get an NCHD contract, do I continue in the SLP by just paying? What are the associated costs? I just don't want to do two years of the SLP and then be denied third year completion because I didn't get an NCHD contract in year 3.**

**A –** Yes, each Structured Learning Pathway is also available for sale.

**Q – Does the SLP put me on the same competitive pathway for jobs as someone in a formal training scheme?**

**A –** Structured Learning Pathways are a selection of online courses. They are not a Higher Specialist Training Programme.