

<<Mandatory Certificate EPA>>

ST3-FP-AOP-EPA7 – Expert evidence 3

Area of practice	Forensic psychiatry	EPA identification	ST3-FP-AOP-EPA7	
Stage of training	Stage 3 – Advanced	Version	v0.8 (EC-approved 10/04/15)	
The following EPA will be entrusted when your supervisor is confident that you can be trusted to perform the activity described at the required standard without more than distant (reactive) supervision. Your supervisor feels confident that you know when to ask for additional help and that you can be trusted to appropriately seek assistance in a timely manner.				
Title	Expert evidence 3.			
Description Maximum 150 words	Assess patients for legal purposes and provide psychiatric evidence by way of written (all) and oral (at least one) testimony to legal bodies (eg. tribunal, panel, court) relating to each of the following four tasks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detention/supervision/release/restriction reviews in prison, hospital or community settings. • Psychiatric defences and mitigation, eg. insanity or equivalent. • Unfitness to plead or other forms of capacity. • Disposition. 			
Detailed description If needed	The assessments could be mock reports.			
Fellowship competencies	ME	1, 2, 3, 4, 8	HA	
	COM	1, 2	SCH	
	COL	1, 4	PROF	1, 2, 5
	MAN			
Forensic competencies For Certificate of forensic psychiatry trainees only	ME	a, b, c, d, e	HA	c
	COM	a, b, c	SCH	a, b, c
	COL	b, c	PROF	a, b
	MAN	a		
Knowledge, skills and attitude	Competence is demonstrated if the trainee has shown sufficient aspects of the knowledge, skills and attitude described			

<p>required</p> <p>The following lists are neither exhaustive nor prescriptive.</p>	<p>below.</p> <p>Ability to apply an adequate knowledge base</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of knowledge of the literature in the area. • Relevant legislation and how it applies to the task at hand. • Understands the requirements of the legal body seeking opinion/testimony. • The theoretical underpinnings of the task specific to the testimony/opinion sought (eg. insanity/unfitness to plead). • What an expert is and where the limits of expertise lie. • Psychiatric knowledge as it applies to the task at hand including the limits of that knowledge. <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to meet with the instructing parties and interact in a constructive, objective and professional way. • Conduct an organised and comprehensive interview consistent in scope with the requirements of the required opinion or testimony. This includes effective communication of role, limits of confidentiality and consent. • Write a structured, relevant and focused report specifically addressing the required issues. The trainee should demonstrate flexibility in their approach to balancing the competing needs for rigour and concise writing. The opinion should be clear and understandable in the context of the body of their report. Unnecessary jargon should be avoided. Collateral information should be appropriately sought and integrated into the report in a coherent fashion. • Ability to translate the psychiatric issues into understandable language for the legal forum involved when writing opinion or giving oral evidence. • Oral evidence should be clear, concise and relevant. The trainee should demonstrate the capacity to maintain composure when challenged and be prepared to justify, expand upon or modify their opinion appropriately. <p>Attitude</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of the potential ethical problems arising (including confidentiality, conflicts of agency, etc.) and an ability to resolve such problems professionally. The trainee should display a clear grasp of the differing roles of an expert witness and the wide gap in epistemology between mental health and legal forums. • Alert and responsive to the differing requirements of various legal forums including process and level of formality. • In both written and oral work, the trainee should demonstrate the capacity to maintain objectivity and not be influenced by potential outcomes or fiscal reward. • The trainee should display an awareness of the limits of their opinion/testimony and communicate this effectively.
<p>Assessment method</p>	<p>Progressively assessed during individual and clinical supervision, including three appropriate WBAs.</p>
<p>Suggested assessment method details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case-based discussion – a case where the trainee observed or gave evidence. These must include discussion of a written report prepared by the trainee.

<i>(These include, but are not limited to, WBAs)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observed Clinical Activity (OCA) – direct observation of interviewing subjects for the purpose of preparing a report.• Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS) - Observation of providing oral evidence.
References	

COL, Collaborator; COM, Communicator; HA, Health Advocate; MAN, Manager; ME, Medical Expert; PROF, Professional; SCH, Scholar