



Diploma in Occupational Medicine

General Practitioners!

***Do you want to extend your
portfolio of practice?***

***Have you considered taking a
Diploma in Occupational Medicine?***

A diploma for General Practitioners who are working part-time in occupational medicine, or who have an interest in work and health as it affects their everyday general practice

What does the Diploma offer?

The Faculty of Occupational Medicine is keen to support GPs who are working part-time in occupational medicine, or would like to, or who have an interest in work and health as it affects their everyday general practice.

Well over 1000 GPs have now taken the Faculty's Diploma in Occupational Medicine and all over the country GPs are taking on sessional occupational medicine work with local employers.

Occupational medicine covers as many varieties of roles as there are employers. You may find yourself advising an employer on preventive measures for factory workers, or identifying the cause of an apparent disease cluster in a workplace, or presenting the pros and cons of influenza vaccinations for a call centre, or running clinics for employees with complex health problems.

There is a strong evidence base showing that work is generally good for physical and mental health and well-being. Worklessness is associated with poorer physical and mental health and well-being. Work can be therapeutic and can reverse the adverse health effects of unemployment.

Gordon Waddell, A Kim Burton
'Is work good for your health and well-being?' (TSO 2006)

Occupational medicine gives you the opportunity both to build up a long term relationship with local workplaces, getting to know them and their health profile well, or, on the other hand, it can offer immense variety for GPs who run clinics for several workplaces. For a primary care practice, being able to offer occupational health services gives you the opportunity to strengthen relationships with the local community and to understand more about the context in which some of your patients work.

Most of your patients will be in employment and so, whether you offer occupational health services or not, this Diploma will help you to help your patients.

The Diploma syllabus includes the effects of work on health, assessment of fitness for work, health surveillance, rehabilitation, workplace visits, ethics and the law.

Further information can be found at:

www.fom.ac.uk/education/non-specialist-qualifications-and-training/diplomas/doccmmed

Healthcare professionals are key to providing much of the support people need to stay in or return to work. Their advice is often crucial in influencing a person's belief about their ability to work and available courses of action. GPs are particularly important here, as they are usually a person's first port of call when they fall ill and need advice about fitness to work.

Dame Carol Black
'Working for a healthier tomorrow' (TSO 2008)

Further information

For further information about the Diploma contact: may.elphinstone@fom.ac.uk

or see: www.fom.ac.uk/education/non-specialist-qualifications-and-training/diplomas/doccmcd

...recent research carried out for Government by Doctors.net.uk ... found that, of 1,500 GPs surveyed, two thirds did not know of recent evidence showing that work is good for health. It is encouraging that almost 90% said that this evidence could help change their behaviour

Dame Carol Black
'Working for a healthier tomorrow' (TSO 2008)

Healthy Working UK – a website for GPs

The Faculty has also developed in partnership with the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Society of Occupational Medicine a website for GPs:

www.healthyworkinguk.co.uk

This is a one stop shop with searchable catalogues of leaflets, guidance, learning resources, and information on local and national services available. Together, these create an excellent launch pad to answer any questions you may have on the fit note and on all matters concerning health and work.

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