

The Clinical Syllabus: Coverage, Evidence and Linking to SLOs

The clinical syllabus in the 2022 ACP curriculum lists the clinical presentations and conditions that the ACP needs to be able to manage to entrustment level 2b. This is a big undertaking!

The syllabus should be used by the trainee ACP (tACP) to formulate a learning plan and identify gaps in their knowledge for their own personal development into a well-rounded ED clinician. The idea of the syllabus is that this knowledge is built up over their 3+ years of training and that, as they get to the stage of credentialing, there is evidence linked to the whole breadth of the syllabus.

As an advanced practitioner, you will be applying basic science (anatomy, physiology, epidemiology, pathology) to make a differential diagnosis and select the right investigations, and then select the right treatment for that patient. Providing evidence of this is not only a matter of linking e-learning, WPBAs, teaching, etc. but also reflecting these skills in practice within that content. Therefore, reflection is again really key. For example, you might have a WPBA for a Colles reduction that links to the condition in the syllabus and your reflection in the WPBA would be on the importance of the position of the reduced fragment, the position of the plaster in the position of function and the potential for nerve entrapment if there is excess swelling.

The clinical syllabus is different to the SLOs in that the only sign-off required for the clinical syllabus is within the final ESR when the ACP Educational Supervisor will need to review the syllabus and confirm all elements have evidence against them. However, every single element of the syllabus (over 350 individual elements) must have some evidence linked to it. In some sections of the syllabus, one item might cover every element in that section. Conversely there will be some items that can cover elements from different sections – for example, a reflection or WPBA on a patient who has hematemesis, who is anaemic and develops chest pain, might link to cardiology chest pain, hematemesis gastroenterology and anaemia in Haematology. However, it can only be linked to all three elements if, in the evidence, there is some discussion of all three different aspects and demonstration that you really understand the breadth of that element. In some ways it is better to try to remain within one section of the syllabus and do it well. For example, one RCEMLearning module may include knowledge on anaphylaxis, anaphylactoid reactions and angioedema.

You can use a wide variety of types of evidence (see help sheet **Other Evidence**) for this purpose and you can complete a Curriculum and Syllabus Comment form relating to elements of the syllabus itself.

The formal WPBAs can also be used to cover syllabus items, so it is important that the appropriate boxes are ticked when completing tickets. For example, sudden onset abdominal pain with diarrhoea and nausea, complex decision making and decision bias in high-risk elderly patients can be linked to **SLO2: KC3 Be aware of the human factors at play in clinical decision making and their impact on patient safety** and to clinical syllabus conditions **SuP1: Abdominal Pain** and **SuP4: Diarrhoea** all within the surgical emergencies section. Make sure this is discussed in the feedback on the WPBA so that you can ensure the evidence covers the items.

Finally, in practical terms, you can use the clinical syllabus to guide and focus your experience and to seek new opportunities; if you link carefully, the syllabus on the dashboard of your portfolio will show you where you have gaps in the main syllabus sections. The absolute number per section will clearly vary depending on the number of elements in the section and how you cover them – you will need to ensure that both you and your supervisor are confident that all elements are covered sufficiently.

Adult Syllabus		↺ –
Resus		1
Allergy		0
Cardiology		21
Dermatology		0
Ear, nose and throat		3
Elderly care		7
Endocrinology		0
Environmental emergencies		0
Gastroenterology and hepatology		6
Haematology		0
Infectious diseases		0
Maxillofacial/dental		3
Mental Health		1
Musculoskeletal (non-traumatic)		3
Nephrology		0
Neurology		19