

Position Statement on the Appointment of Acute Physicians

Acute Medicine is a well-established medical specialty, developed to provide expert care in the acute setting and improve patient outcomes through timely diagnosis and treatment. As the specialty approaches its 25th year, it has matured into a distinct and strategically important facet of the urgent and emergency care pathway.

During its early growth, and while the training pipeline was still developing, many Acute Physician posts were necessarily filled by clinicians without a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) in Acute Internal Medicine (AIM). These individuals made invaluable contributions to the specialty, and their role in shaping current service models is fully acknowledged.

However, with a now fully established training programme consistently producing clinicians specifically trained in AIM, the Society recommends that **all new consultant Acute Physician posts be filled by doctors on the GMC Specialist Register for Acute Internal Medicine**. This ensures alignment with national training standards and supports high-quality, sustainable service delivery.

Appointments from other specialties, including General Internal Medicine (GIM), should only be considered **where the candidate can clearly demonstrate a sustained commitment to a career in Acute Medicine**.

Furthermore, **we advise against split job plans between two specialties** unless the clinician is on the Specialist Register for both (e.g. AIM and Intensive Care Medicine). This protects service integrity and allows clear governance around clinical responsibilities.

We recognise that some existing posts do not align with this recommendation. The Society remains fully supportive of those clinicians who have built careers in Acute Medicine through experience and continuing professional development, and who continue to deliver high-quality care.

This position statement is intended to support Trusts in:

- Aligning consultant recruitment with specialty training standards
- Building a sustainable, high-performing acute medical workforce
- Ensuring role clarity and governance in job planning
- Providing assurance to boards and regulators on consultant appointment practice

We hope this guidance assists you in developing robust workforce plans that meet local service needs while supporting the continued growth of Acute Internal Medicine as a vital and evolving specialty.