INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN PRIMARY CARE

Module Code: GP512
Credit Weighting: 10 ECTS
Contact Hours: 12 (plus allow 2-3hrs per week x 12 weeks distance learning)
Timing: Trimester 1 (September – December)
Module Leader: Dr. Patricia Cremin, GP with special interest in genito-urinary medicine

Module Description
Infectious disease is one of the commonest sources of morbidity in the community, and most infectious illness is diagnosed and managed by primary care practitioners. This module aims to provide GPs and community-based nurses with an overview of important topics in infectious disease that are of direct relevance to practice. In particular the module will look at issues such as the use of antibiotics, the management of common viral diseases and an evidence-based approach to the management of common community-acquired infections.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of this module practitioners will be able to:
▪ Diagnose and manage all commonly occurring community-acquired infections in the major body systems in a primary care context.
▪ Develop a personal or practice guideline for prescribing antibiotics.
▪ Differentiate upper from lower respiratory tract and urinary tract infections.
▪ Explain the rationale for, and appropriate approach to, adult immunization for pneumococcus and influenza.
▪ Diagnose the causes of gastroenteritis, describe the different types, and apply different therapeutic approaches.
▪ Explain the epidemiology and clinical presentation of common STIs, carry out a review of sexual health, and be aware of contact tracing and disease notification approaches.
▪ Diagnose and manage infectious mononucleosis and lymphadenopathy, with particular reference to viral aetiologies and work-up.
▪ Take a history from, and make a differential diagnosis of, a patient with a ‘viral illness’.
▪ Describe the presentation and management of postviral fatigue and chronic fatigue syndrome.

Module Content
This module has six distance learning units (2 weeks each) supported by two workshop/clinic days.
1. Respiratory tract infections
2. Antibiotic prescribing
3. Urinary tract infections
4. Gastroenteritis
5. Sexually transmitted infections
6. Viral infections.

Students will visit the GUM/STI and infectious diseases/HIV clinics, as well as the microbiology lab. Workshops are on antibiotic prescribing and infectious diseases case histories.

Teaching and Learning Strategies
Online distance learning, face-to-face workshops and clinic/lab visits.

Assessment Strategy
45%: continuous assessment (E-tivities and online participation)
55%: practice-based assignment on completion of module (case study and practice protocol).