

WOMEN'S HEALTH IN PRIMARY CARE

Module Code:	GPN03
Credit Weighting:	10 ECTS
Contact Hours:	12 (plus allow 2-3hrs per week x 12 weeks distance learning)
Timing:	Trimester 3 (March – June)
Module Tutors:	Dr. Eva Flynn (GP), Ms. Maura Molloy, Advanced Midwife Practitioner

Module Description

This module aims to provide GPs and community-based nurses with up-to-date, relevant knowledge to support their care of women. It will focus on common, frequently encountered problems presenting in primary care. In addition to providing evidence-based information on management, this module provides an opportunity for practitioners to discuss complex issues through the online discussion board, at the workshop, and at service learning visits.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module the practitioner will be able to:

- Describe the etiology of dysmenorrhoea and menorrhagia, their management in general practice, and indications for referral to secondary care
- Diagnose and manage PCOS in general practice
- Explain the range of common oral, long-acting reversible and emergency contraceptive methods, their differing risks and benefits, and their relative efficacy and use
- Identify main symptoms of the menopause and advise on safe use of HRT and alternatives
- Correctly classify urinary incontinence and initiate treatment in the primary care setting
- Identify the most common vulvo-vaginal disorders and explain the importance of biopsy
- Identify women at risk of thromboembolic disease and initiate prophylactic treatment
- Identify and manage common infections in pregnancy
- Give appropriate pre-conceptual advice, including diabetes-related advice
- Obtain a comprehensive history from an infertile couple and explain the basics of infertility etiology, investigations and treatments
- Define the major types of benign and malignant breast lesions, carry out “triple assessment” of a breast lump, and refer to tertiary care when appropriate.

Module Content

This module has 6 distance learning units (2 weeks each) supported by a workshop day and two service learning visits.

1. Normal menstrual cycle and common menstrual problems
2. Oral contraception
3. Long-acting reversible contraception
4. Health & wellbeing at/after menopause; vulvovaginal disorders & urinary symptoms
5. Common problems in pregnancy
6. Infertility and breast health in primary care

Students are also required to spend two half days visiting two community-based women's health services or clinics of their choice, as a form of “service learning”.

Teaching and Learning Strategies

Online distance learning, face-to-face workshop and service learning visits.

Assessment Strategy

45%: continuous assessment (E-tivities and online participation)

55%: practice-based assignment on completion of module (choice of clinical audit or essay).