

HAP22 Observational Medicine

An Emergency Physician should be expert in the care of certain patient groups beyond the first four hours, who are cared for in the Observation Ward/Clinical Decision Unit.		
Knowledge	Assessment Methods	GMP Domains
<p>Know which patients will benefit from being cared for in an observational setting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Those who are clinically well but without a clear diagnosis – e.g. headache, abdominal pain, elderly patient who has fallen ▪ Those that have been risk stratified as low risk but require further observation and limited investigation e.g. chest pain, syncope ▪ Those patients who are recovering but not sufficiently well to be discharged e.g. post-procedure, post-ictal, post-overdose 	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Requires knowledge of the typical clinical courses over the first 24 hours for a range of clinical conditions and their risk stratification	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Knowledge and ability to anticipate, recognise and manage possible adverse outcomes	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Knowledge of the diagnostic pathways and the range of diagnostic tests to be used and their interpretation	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Skills		
Work closely with diagnostic services to achieve a timely diagnosis	Mi, C, D	1
Work closely with multi-disciplinary teams to ensure best care e.g. the elderly and those with mental health problems	Mi, C	1
Be able to formulate an appropriate individual management plan, based on best evidence (e.g. Nice head injury guidelines) for clinical conditions	Mi, C, D	1
Behaviour		
Undertake ward rounds in a timely and efficient manner	ACAT, C, Mi	3
Carefully review patients provide a diagnosis and appropriate follow-up	ACAT, C, Mi	3, 4