

**PROPOSAL FOR “GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR
TRAINING INSTITUTES
IN PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY”**

**Developed by the
Professional Advisory Committee
and the Council
of the Association for European Paediatric Cardiology
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GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINING INSTITUTES TRAINERS

Institute facilities and manpower:

The ideal training institute:

- Should have sufficiently high quality of patient care and sufficient workload that the institute can comply with the training requirements of a Paediatric Cardiologist. For training in a subspecialty of Paediatric Cardiology, such as cardiac catheterisation, advanced imaging, CMRI, nuclear medicine, fetal cardiology etc.), trainees may need to move to another institute for this part of the training module to ensure they obtain the training required according to the “AEPC Recommendations for Training in Paediatric Cardiology”.
- The department of Paediatric Cardiology within the institute should have access to all types of specialized imaging facilities needed for evaluation of paediatric patients with congenital and acquired cardiac defects from the fetus to adulthood.
- Should have the infrastructure for the assessment and treatment of patients with congenital and acquired cardiovascular disease from fetal life to adults, including paediatric cardiovascular surgery.
- Should have specialists representing paediatric cardiology including imaging, invasive cardiology and electrophysiology, paediatric cardiac surgery, paediatric anaesthesiology and paediatric cardiac intensive care.
- There should be a minimum of 3 full-time equivalent paediatric cardiologists at the institute.
- There should be at least one cardiac catheterisation laboratory with facilities for cardiac catheterisation, angiocardiology, interventional procedures and electrophysiology studies for infants and children (see AEPC Recommendations for Ideal Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratories).
- To ensure the quality of the training institute, the institute should be peer reviewed by a national or an international organisation.

Training at the institute:

The training institute should ensure that:

- Structured clinical meetings are held regularly
- Discussion at joint multidisciplinary meetings with cardiac surgeons are held regularly in a formal forum.

- The training institute should provide a stimulating atmosphere in which the trainees learn critical evaluation of the literature and decision making.
- There are adequate opportunities for multidisciplinary consultations with adult cardiology for adult patients with congenital heart disease and with clinical genetics, obstetrics and radiology departments.
- Trainees should be encouraged to make case presentations at local meetings and to teach other junior doctors, nurses and medical students.
- The trainees should have adequate time for studying heart-lung specimens, if available, and to participate in anatomic-pathological conferences.
- The trainees have access to the appropriate high quality paediatric cardiology journals and are given protected time for personal study.
- The training institute should encourage the trainees to participate in scientific research in paediatric cardiology and related fields.
- The institute should encourage the trainees to participate in important and relevant national and international scientific symposia and congresses by presenting the research through oral or poster presentations.