Dear Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/072)

Thank you for your clarified Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 4 February 2021, reference K/21/072.

Your original request read:

“I want to understand to what extent menopause is included within the curriculum for medical students. I am therefore making a request for the following information held by your medical school:

1. Is teaching about menopause included in the curriculum? If so, is it mandatory or optional?
2. How much time is dedicated to teaching about menopause?
3. How is the teaching delivered? E.g. lecture, seminar, placements
4. What are medical students taught about the menopause and treatment options including about Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT)?”

Your clarification email read:

“With regards to question 2- We would like to know the total amount of hours that would be spent on teaching the menopause over the entire time the students are in attendance please.

With regards to question 4- We would just like to know an overview of teaching methods e.g. Tutorials, attending GP appointments, role playing and the extent of the teaching re the effect menopause has on all systems of the body?”

The University of Leeds holds some information relevant to your request.

There are two areas of the Medicine and Surgery MBChB programme where teaching on menopause is covered; in the primary care part of the course in placement settings and as part of Gynaecology Obstetrics and Sexual Health (GOSH). In GOSH there is a part of the course taught on the menstrual cycle, which discusses both abnormal and normal menstrual cycles and includes the menopause. There is also small group teaching on the menopause and hormone replacement therapy included within this part of the course.

Within primary care students go out on placement from years one to five, and during their placements will experience the practical application of the taught components of the course.
1. Is teaching about menopause included in the curriculum? If so, is it mandatory or optional?

Yes, teaching on the menopause is included in the curriculum, some of which is mandatory. Further information is provided in response to your remaining questions, set out below.

2. How much time is dedicated to teaching about menopause? We would like to know the total amount of hours that would be spent on teaching the menopause over the entire time the students are in attendance please.

3. How is the teaching delivered? E.g. lecture, seminar, placements

4. What are medical students taught about the menopause and treatment options including about Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT)? We would just like to know an overview of teaching methods eg Tutorials, attending GP appointments, role playing and the extent of the teaching re the effect menopause has on all systems of the body?

We address these questions together.

We do not hold, and are not able to calculate, a total amount of hours which are spent on teaching about the menopause during the course. Teaching is often opportunistic and can vary depending on the individual patients that students encounter on placement.

We hope that the following information is helpful in addressing your remaining questions.

**All years Primary Care**

Menopause teaching in primary care is opportunistic rather than a mandatory aspect of teaching. The teaching methods used in primary care, with respect to the menopause, are observed GP consultations, student-led consultations, and topic-based tutorials within practice, throughout all years of the curriculum. As with all primary care consultations and teaching, the teaching of the menopause focuses on the holistic, patient centred care that general practice delivers. Students are taught to elicit the symptoms and effects of the menopause, affecting multiple body systems. They are then encouraged to consider and develop management plans that address the multiple effects the menopause has on all body systems.

**Year 4 Gynaecology, Obstetrics, and Sexual Health**

Menopause features as follows:

**Mandatory Intro Week:** A mixture of lectures and small group teaching as follows:
- Menstrual Cycle and Menopause Lecture 30 min includes diagnosis, impact on physiology and treatment hormonal and non-hormonal
- Gynaecological History and Examination Lecture: 45 min includes aspects of menopause and postmenopausal issues
• Pelvic Pain and PID small group session: 45 min include discussion of menopause from the perspective of pelvic pain including physiological, medical, and surgical menopause
• Genital Skin lecture: 90 min including changes to genital skin throughout life including menopause
• Urogynaecology small group session: 45 min including impact of menopause on continence and pelvic organ prolapse
• Gynaecological Oncology small group session: 45 mins including treatment for gynaecological malignancy and possibility of a surgical menopause

The only specific session is the first Menstrual Cycle and Menopause Lecture (30 mins) however, the menopause features widely in both lecture and small group format in the above sessions.

Placement: 5 weeks mandatory, primarily hospital-based, placement including 3 weeks of gynaecology (with 1.5 days in sexual health). Whilst the individual student experience will vary due to the patients they meet on placement, menopause and wider health implications are a key part of the curriculum.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about this email, however, please do not hesitate to contact us on foi@leeds.ac.uk

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you can request an Internal Review. Requests for Internal Review should be made in writing using the following contact information:

Post: Mr D Wardle
Deputy Secretary
The University of Leeds
Leeds
LS2 9JT

Email: foi@leeds.ac.uk

Requests for Internal Review should be submitted within 40 working days of receiving the University’s response to your request. Further information about how the University manages Freedom of Information requests and about our complaints procedure is also available on our website (www.leeds.ac.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review/complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Chloe Wilkins
Freedom of Information Officer

Secretariat
University of Leeds