



Trainee & Program Details

Training Program

Respiratory Medicine (Adult) 2025

Training Program Phase *

Specialty Foundation

Date of Observation *

15/04/2025

Learning Capture Details

Type of Learning *

Personal reflections

Title*

Navigating complex goals of care in end-stage lung disease and lung transplantation

Select the primary learning goal *

01. Professional behaviours

Learning Capture Details

Description of Activity *

Early in my general respiratory rotation, I was involved in the care of a 64-year-old man with advanced idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis who had been admitted with an acute exacerbation. Despite initial improvement, he remained in severe hypoxaemic respiratory failure and was not well enough for discharge. During this admission, he completed his transplant workup and was activated on the lung transplant waitlist.

As his condition deteriorated, discussions between the respiratory, intensive care, and lung transplant teams took place to weigh the risks and benefits of intubation as a bridge to transplant. The complexity of the case, including concerns around functional decline, ventilatory wean, and time to transplantation, made for deeply considered, multidisciplinary decision-making. Ultimately, he was managed with high-flow oxygen and CPAP in ICU and received a lung transplant within 48 hours.

What did you learn? *

This case helped me appreciate the ethical complexity and professional responsibility involved in goals of care discussions, especially in patients with end-stage lung disease. I observed how experienced clinicians from different specialties collaboratively weighed clinical deterioration, patient values, and transplant viability. I also recognised the importance of timing, functional status, and system-level factors in determining eligibility and success of advanced therapies like lung transplantation.

How will you apply this learning in the future? *

I will continue to develop my ability to assess and communicate goals of care, particularly in complex or rapidly evolving clinical scenarios. I plan to involve senior colleagues early, collaborate across disciplines, and consider long-term outcomes when contributing to care planning. I also intend to broaden my clinical reasoning by reflecting on how interventions like mechanical ventilation may affect outcomes in both transplant and non-transplant patients. Exposure to these complex cases has deepened my professionalism and judgement in difficult decision-making.

Assessor Feedback (optional)

Feedback From *

Dr Sam Smith

Assessor Role *

Supervisor

Personal Message

Dear Dr Smith, I've reflected on a particularly complex case involving a patient with end-stage ILD and lung transplant planning. I'd appreciate your feedback on my reflections and learning.

Feedback Requested Date

16/04/25

Feedback *

This is a strong reflection that demonstrates growth in your understanding of the complexities surrounding end-stage respiratory disease and transplant care. You have shown insight into how multidisciplinary perspectives contribute to optimal patient outcomes. I encourage you to continue developing your skills in clinical judgement and communication in high-stakes settings. Well done.



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Training Program

Respiratory Medicine (Adult) 2025

Training Program Phase *

Specialty Foundation

Date of Observation *

15/04/25

Learning Capture Details

Type of Learning *

Personal reflections

Title*

Clinical decision-making in end-stage interstitial lung disease and lung transplant planning

Select the primary learning goal *

05. Clinical assessment and management

Learning Capture Details

Description of Activity *

During my general respiratory rotation, I was involved in the care of a 64-year-old man with advanced idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) admitted with an acute exacerbation. Although initially stabilised with antibiotics and corticosteroids, he remained in severe hypoxaemic respiratory failure with significant functional decline. He completed his lung transplant workup during the admission and was placed on the transplant waitlist.

As his condition worsened, there was ongoing assessment of his suitability for mechanical ventilation as a bridge to transplant. Clinical decision-making was complex, requiring consideration of his respiratory status, ability to tolerate ventilation, risk of deconditioning, transplant eligibility, and estimated wait times. Collaborative discussions between the general respiratory, intensive care, and transplant teams led to a consensus approach. He was managed in the ICU with high-flow oxygen and CPAP support and underwent successful lung transplantation within 48 hours.

What did you learn? *

This case highlighted the importance of dynamic clinical assessment in patients with end-stage lung disease, especially when managing acute deterioration. I learned how to critically evaluate a patient's transplant eligibility alongside the evolving clinical picture, integrating factors such as gas exchange, work of breathing, and functional reserve. I also recognised the need to anticipate and plan for escalation of care, including the timing and appropriateness of ICU admission and ventilatory support.

How will you apply this learning in the future? *

I will apply a more structured and anticipatory approach to clinical assessment in patients with complex respiratory conditions. I aim to consider both immediate physiological needs and longer-term treatment trajectories, such as eligibility for transplant or other advanced therapies. I will continue developing my skills in synthesising clinical data to guide real-time decision-making and contribute meaningfully to multidisciplinary discussions in high-acuity settings.

Assessor Feedback (optional)

Feedback From *

Dr Rebecca Maple

Assessor Role *

Supervisor

Personal Message

Dear Dr Maple, I've reflected on a complex clinical case involving advanced ILD and decisions around escalation of care and transplant planning. I'd appreciate your thoughts on my learning and clinical reasoning.

Feedback Requested Date

16/04/2025

Feedback *

This is an insightful reflection demonstrating your growing capacity for clinical reasoning in high-stakes respiratory care. You've shown an excellent grasp of how to assess and integrate multiple clinical variables to guide decision-making. Going forward, continue developing your confidence in managing complex deterioration and participating in multidisciplinary care planning.