Quick Reference Guide for General Practice Placements  

**Background**

General Practice teaching sits at the heart of the BSMS curriculum. In Year 4 this is delivered through Module 403 which presents GP as a clinical specialty in its own right, by exploring the clinical and communication skills necessary to care for patients who present with early, undifferentiated symptoms or multimorbidity. Such challenges are considered in the context of limited access to investigations in the community and the diverse patient population. The course is evaluated mid-way through the term and at the end. We ask the students for their views and opinions on their time in General Practice and the teaching they received. We can then share this with you during the summer vacation period. This feedback will also form part of your structured reference should you request one from BSMS.

**Community GP Tutors: clinical visits**

Students undertake six half-day sessions or three full days in the same GP practice to develop their communication and clinical skills. Visits take place on Thursdays or Fridays (morning and/or afternoon) or Wednesday afternoons. This should include student-led surgeries from the second visit and feedback on students' clinical and communication skills. Community GP tutors should review and sign off the student’s logbook, relating to induction/attendance and encourage students to link their learning to their BSMS prescribing formulary.

**Term dates 2020-21**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TERM 1</td>
<td>1 September – 18 December 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>TERM 2</td>
<td>4 January – 26 March 2021</td>
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<td>TERM 3</td>
<td>12 April – 23 Jul 2021</td>
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Six ½ days or three full days in the AY per student, can be within any of the term dates – you decide.

**Student Led Surgeries** – We expect students will progress quickly in their ability to see patients independently.

- **Student to observe GP with specific focus**
  - Use of open/closed questions, lists presenting problems, listens to patient understanding of his/her illness, how GP manages expectations.

- **GP gives student specific tasks**
  - e.g. examine the ear or negotiate management.

- **Student consults with GP help**
  - Usually student and GP sit together.

- **Student in driving seat**
  - GP in room but out of patient direct sight.

- **Student-led Clinics**
  - Student sees selected patients in his/her own room. GP joins after 20 minutes, students present patient to GP, GP clarifies history from patient and negotiates management plan.

- **Evaluation**
  - Student surgeries are highly-valued by students and well evaluated and this is fed back to GP tutors at the end of the academic year.

It is essential that no patient who is seen by a student leaves the surgery without being seen by a GP.
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Case Presentation

Students are required to write up one GP case to present to their small group at BSMS. This should be based on a patient seen while on placement. Only basic details are required, and anonymity is paramount. This should not describe unprofessional behaviours or errors.

Payment

£600 per student per session is payable, plus additional funding for equipment and professional development.

In-house tutors: lecture and small group work

BSMS currently employs eight GPs as in-house tutors for small group teaching on 18 Fridays across Year 4. These sessions consist of integrated (primary and secondary care) cases, student presentations of a case seen on their community GP visits, practical skills, patient educators and simulated surgeries. Simulated surgeries take place four times a year and use actors to recreate GP clinical scenarios for students to practice clinical and communication skills. In-house tutors provide well-evaluated feed-back to students on their performance. During the year the in-house tutors undertake/receive peer observation of teaching and contribute to writing exam questions.

Feedback from a Year 4 student

“I have been encouraged to become more proactive within the GP setting and this involved taking plenty of histories, examining patients, formulating differential diagnoses, as well as carrying out and interpreting basic investigations results from urine samples or blood pressure monitor. The teaching in between consultations is excellent and I feel each GP placement so far has been very useful.”

Assessment

Community GP tutors sign off student attendance, discussion of a discharge summary and a GP referral letter. In-house tutors sign off a GP clinical case discussion based on a patient consultation. Any material relating to patients must be fully anonymized. Students are also assessed at the end of the year using Single Best Answer questions and GP OSCEs. These exams are based on in-house teaching at the medical school.

Year 4 Contacts

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This guide is intended to give you a brief overview of the teaching in Year 4. There is more information available in the Year 4 GP Teacher’s handbook. Please contact us if you experience problems or have any questions.