

Background/Introduction

General Practice sits at the heart of the BSMS curriculum and Year 5 is an opportunity for students to become integrated in a GP team for up to four weeks. Through an 'apprenticeship' model of learning, students should be introduced to general practice in a supported environment by seeing patients with a range of problems presenting in primary care. We recognise that timetabling will differ from surgery to surgery, but should include opportunistic presentations such as minor symptoms, chronic disease, multi-morbidity and basic prescribing. This should include at least two sessions of student led surgeries per week.

What we expect

We expect BSMS students will progress quickly in their ability to see patients independently and most are expected to start consulting alone within 3-4 sessions. Please note that patients who consult a student must also be seen by the supervising doctor before leaving the surgery. The weekly timetable should include one half day for personal study, timetabled when convenient for the practice and student, plus a further half day at the medical school. All students should receive an induction, much of which can be provided by the practice manager. We provide a template for this and suggest that the student and the surgery keep a signed copy. This covers core areas such as confidentiality, chaperones, computer use, timetable, contacting surgery if ill, etc. If teaching takes place outside routine NHS hours / premises, GPs should contact their indemnity organisation to ensure they are insured to take students.

Attachment dates 2021-22

Attachment 1a	08/09/21 – 01/10/21
Attachment 1b	04/10/21 – 29/10/21
Attachment 2a	01/11/21 – 26/11/21
Attachment 2b*	29/11/21 – 17/12/21
Attachment 3a	04/01/22 – 28/01/22
Attachment 3b	31/01/22 – 25/02/22

*2b is a condensed 3-week placement, to cover the aims and objectives of the usual 4-week placement (same fee applies)

Feedback from a Year 5 student

“Literally the best placement I have been on throughout medical school – would 10/10 recommend. Definitely have had my head turned to a career in general practice (coming from someone who was previously pretty dead set on becoming a surgeon!)”

Payment

£1200 per student is payable, plus an additional £200 funding for equipment. Professional development opportunities are also available.

Sample weekly timetable

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM	Student led surgery	Observe minor operations	Chronic Disease Clinic	Student led surgery	Chronic Disease Clinic
LUNCH	Home visit		Home visit	GP tutorial	Telephone consultations
PM	Community visit	At medical school	Student led surgery	GP surgery	Personal study

We ask practices to devise a timetable to fit in with their routine clinical activities. The table above is just an example.

Optional weekly tutorials

Practices may wish to provide weekly/fortnightly tutorials to promote student learning in general practice. The GP can delegate some of these tutorials to a colleague or trainee. Other members of the clinical team are welcome to join to promote group learning. Topics are chosen at the discretion of the tutor with the student and should focus on clinical aspects not considered in hospital teaching. Some suggestions:

- Managing minor illnesses, such as sore throat
- Chronic disease management/prevention in primary care
- Examining the sick child in GP
- Writing a referral letter
- The doctor's bag
- Record keeping
- Case reviews

Other opportunistic clinical activities

Wider activities should normally be half (rather than full) days. Some suggestions:

- Home visits
- Telephone calls
- Audit
- Opportunistic screening (e.g. pulse, BP for stroke prevention)
- Videoing consultation to review communication skills
- Pharmacy visit
- Funeral director visit
- Flu jab clinic (under nurse supervision)

Assessment

The students may write up a clinical case in depth during their placement. Your student will discuss this with you prior to writing. Please ensure that the case is general practice, rather than super specialised and does not describe unprofessional behaviour. The written content should be their own work i.e. please do not "proofread" their submission. Anonymity is essential.

Feedback

Specialty Sign Off

The student will provide the form for you to sign them off. We need to know that the student has attended and engaged appropriately in your surgery. We also ask the student to document wider learning activities undertaken during the placement.

Feedback from Students

Each student is asked to provide feedback at the end of their placement, which will be collated and sent to you at the end of the year. This feedback will form part of your structured reference should you request one from BSMS

Feedback from a Year 5 student

∴ "The staff have all been incredibly welcoming and I didn't meet a single person that didn't go out of their way to try and help. The GPs have all been happy for me to join their clinics and all were really eager to teach and discuss whatever. I also wanted to give some recognition to what has been a really enjoyable GP placement."

Year 5 Contacts

Dr Max Cooper Year 4/5 GP Lead
m.cooper@bsms.ac.uk / 01273 643768

Dr Carl Fernandes GP Teaching Fellow
C.Fernandes@bsms.ac.uk / 01273 643768

Dr Mena Jegatheesan GP Teaching Fellow
m.jegatheesan@bsms.ac.uk / 01273 643768

Heidi Swain Quality and Placements Officer
h.swain@bsms.ac.uk / 01273 644563