Year 4 - Module 403

General Practice teaching sits at the heart of the BSMS curriculum. In Year 4 this is delivered through Module 403 and seeks to present 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 both limited access to investigations in the community and the diverse population of patients seen.

Core generalist skills are taught through supervised student led surgeries and include concepts such as “time as a tool”, “trial of treatment” and “doctor as drug”. Ultimately, our aim is to provide the skills and inspiration for BSMS students to embark upon GP as a career. Module 403 includes separate teaching in global health, population medicine and palliative care.

Community GP Tutors: Clinical Visits

Students undertake eight half day (or four full day) visits to 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.

Student Led Surgeries

We expect BSMS students will progress quickly in their ability to see patients independently. From observation of GP consultation to initial independent patient contact:

- Student to observe GP with specific focus (e.g. student observes GP use of open and closed questions, lists presenting problems, listens to patient understanding of his/her illness, observes how GP incorporates patient management expectations).
- GP to consult and give student specific task (e.g. examine the ear or negotiate management).
- Student consults with GP help (usually student and GP sit together).
- Student in driving seat, student in GP chair consulting with patient (GP in the room but out of patient direct sight).
- Student sees selected patients in his/her own room and GP joins after 20 minutes, student presents patient to GP, GP clarifies history from patient and negotiates management plan).

Student surgeries are highly valued by students and well evaluated. They are an excellent place for students to learn about clinical management, including therapeutics. It is essential that no patient who has been seen by a student should leave the surgery without being seen by a GP. GPs should inform their medical indemnity organisation that they are teaching.
**Tutor Support**

A one day training course is available, known as TIME (Teaching Innovation in Medical Education). Tutors who are not clinical or educational supervisors should attend. This provides information about the BSMS curriculum, learning outcomes and practical issues. **All new GP teachers receive a payment of £500.**

We also run an annual ½ day meeting for community tutors in Year 4. This aims to provide an update on the curriculum/module, promote learning in teaching or clinical domains and to serve as a meeting point to network with other tutors. **All attendees receive a payment of £250.**

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**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/secondary care) cases, student presentations of a case seen on their community GP visits, practical skills and simulated surgeries. Simulated surgeries take place four times a year and use actors to recreate real-world GP clinical scenarios for students to practise clinical and communication skills. In-house tutors are responsible for providing feedback to students on their performance. During the year, the in-house tutors undertake/receive peer observation of teaching and contribute to writing exam questions.

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**Assessment**

Community 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.

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**Payment**

**A fee of £800 per student (£100 per visit) is payable, plus additional funding for equipment and professional development.**

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This guide is intended to give you a brief overview of the teaching in Year 4 and is designed as an example of what is required. There is far more information available in the Year 4 GP Teacher’s handbook which is sent to all GP Teachers before commencement of a placement.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

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