About Year 5 GP Placements

General Practice sits at the heart of the BSMS curriculum and Year 5 is a chance for students to become integrated in a GP team for 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. 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 a qualified doctor before leaving the surgery. The student timetable should also include one half day for personal study to be taken when convenient for the practice and student. Plus there is a further half day per week at the medical school. GPs should inform their medical indemnity organisation that they are teaching.

Induction

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.

Sample Weekly Timetable

We ask practices to devise a timetable to fit in with routine clinical activities in general practice. The table below is just an example of how this might work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Student Led Surgery</td>
<td>Observe minor operations</td>
<td>Chronic Disease clinic</td>
<td>Student Led Surgery</td>
<td>Chronic Disease Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunchtime</td>
<td>Home visit</td>
<td>Home visit</td>
<td>GP tutorial</td>
<td>Telephone consultations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Community visit</td>
<td>At Medical School</td>
<td>Student Led Surgery</td>
<td>GP Surgery</td>
<td>Personal Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 the tutorials to promote group learning. Topics are chosen at the discretion of the tutor with the student, but should seek to focus on clinical aspects not considered in their hospital teaching. Possible suggested topics are:

- 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. We recognise that no practice can provide all of the following examples, but suggestions are:

- 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 — Cases in Depth (marked by the Medical School)

The students must write up one clinical case in depth during their placement. Your student will discuss this with you prior to writing up. This is to ensure that the case is general practice, rather than super-specialised, and does not describe unprofessional behaviour. The student is encouraged to discuss the case with you but the written content should be their own work, i.e. you must not be asked to "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.

Payment

A fee of £1200 per student is payable, plus additional funding for equipment and professional development.

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

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

This guide is intended to give you a brief overview of the teaching in Year 5. There is far more information available in the Year 5 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.