**University of Oxford Clinical Medical School**

**GENERAL PRACTICE PLACEMENT FOR FOURTH YEAR STUDENTS**

**Information for GP Tutors**

**How the GP placement fits into the Oxford course**

This general practice placement occurs at the beginning of the fourth year of the Oxford medical course. It forms part of the “Patient & Doctor II Course”, which is an introductory programme where students have training in basic clinical skills. This includes history-taking, examination and carrying out practical procedures.

*Previous Clinical Experience*

The first three years of the Oxford degree focus on the biomedical sciences. During this time, students do have some early patient contact, as part of the “Patient Doctor I Course”. This involves eight afternoon sessions with a general practitioner, talking to selected patients with a range of conditions, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and depression. The aim of these conversations is to appreciate the impact of the patient’s illness on their lifestyle and wellbeing, rather than be a vehicle for learning formal clinical skills.

**Aims of the GP placement**

**Students should:**

1. Gain understanding of the work of a GP
2. Experience the role of different members of the primary health care team (PHCT), e.g. district, practice and specialist nurses. Understand how the PHCT interacts and works together
3. Practise clinical skills, particularly history-taking and examination (if possible in current climate)
4. Gain experience of the spectrum of illness in the community, with exposure to both acute & chronic cases, including emergencies if possible
5. Interact with patients in a variety of settings, including home visits and telephone consultations
6. Consider the impact of social, emotional and environmental factors on a patient and their illness

**Teaching & Learning Tasks**

Each GP tutor will draw up a timetable (in advance) for the student to meet these objectives. The activities available will vary from practice to practice, but will include four main areas:

1. *Working with general practitioners:*

Students should sit in on consultations, go on home visits, and observe other activities of GP work. This time will be more rewarding if the GP encourages the student to take an active part in the clinical encounters as much as is feasible (e.g. by asking student to suggest questions in the history, getting student to interview and examine patients, and asking their views on diagnosis and management).

*2. Working with other members of the primary health care team:*

It is essential that students spend time with other members of the practice team, e.g. practice nurses, community nurses, health visitors, midwives, management and reception staff. The aim should be for the team member to explain and/or demonstrate the role they play in the delivery of primary health care. It is important to be explicit with both your colleagues and the student about the aims of the sessions. This is the only opportunity in the Oxford medical course to gain such experience.

*3. Extended patient contact:*

The student will spend time interviewing a patient, either at the surgery, patient’s home or by telephone/video. The goal is for the student to take and write up the history (see below). They should gather biological, social and psychological details and be able to discuss the impact of the patient’s condition on their life. They should evaluate the role played by other health or care services. Ideally, they should interview other professionals (e.g. district nurses) involved with the patient, in order to compare the varying roles of the multi-disciplinary team. Students should discuss their findings with the GP tutor.

The GP tutor needs to identify a suitable patient in advance of the student placement, within the constraints of current working conditions.

**Assessment of Students:**

1. *Assessment by Tutor:* The GP tutor should write a brief report on the attendance and participation of the student at the end of the attachment.
2. *Assessment by Primary Care Teaching Team:*The student must write up a report of their Extended Patient Contact Case – and submit this to Primary Care Department for marking. Students will receive written feedback on their report from the Teaching Team. The instructions given to the student for this report are reproduced below.

May 2020

*(Please note that the below task may need to be adapted for September 2020, once we know more about how Primary Care services will be running)*

**Student Instructions for Writing the Extended Patient Contact Report**

Ensure patient details are anonymised by use of initials (e.g. “patient TH”).

The report should be a maximum of 1500 words and cover the following four sections:

**Section 1: Outline the case (max 250 words)**

Outline the case, including the relevant history of the problem. Students are encouraged to interview as many as possible of those involved in the patient’s care, to gain an understanding of their role(s).

**Section 2: Reflect on interactions of professionals involved   
(max 500 words)**

Discuss your personal reflections on the interactions of the wider multi-disciplinary team, and/or secondary care. Discuss how these impacted on the patient’s care, considering both good and less good interactions.

**Section 3: Discuss the impact of illness on the patient (max 500 words)**

Discuss the impact of their illness on the patient, from a social and psychological perspective. This should include how the illness affects their close relationships. Make suggestions about what could be done to improve the patient’s quality of life.

**Section 4: Formulate a plan for your future learning (max 250 words)**

Summarise how this case will affect your future approach to patients, considering the biopsychosocial perspective. Describe what has been learned about effective interactions within a multidisciplinary team. What further learning do you need to undertake and how will you do this?

The deadline for submission of the report is two weeks after the last day of your GP placement.