

# Preparation for a Placement in General Practice



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## **Preparation for Placement in General Practice**

Dear Learner,

You have been allocated a placement in General Practice.

Worldwide, the delivery of healthcare has shifted from secondary to primary care settings which, means if the future primary care workforce is to be developed, it is essential more student nurses have exposure to a range of nursing roles in primary care settings. Recent nurse education reports, stress the importance of student nurses accessing positive practice environments in a wide range of settings and specifically called on employers and universities to work together to make placements available in primary care settings such as general practices.

General Practice placements are particularly suited to supporting the development of nursing students due to the wide range of learning opportunities and types of patient contact that take place in this environment.

### **General Practice**

General practice is considered the corner stone of the NHS and the core of the primary care team, and is the first point of access to health for many patients. Each borough has a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) who commission services for their local population, and jointly across boroughs in some cases, to improve care pathways and patients' services and experience.

The links below will explain the role of the CCG and their key health and social care priorities:

- Camden - <http://www.camdenccg.nhs.uk/>
- Haringey - <http://www.haringeyccg.nhs.uk/>
- Islington - <http://www.islingtonccg.nhs.uk/about-us/>

The primary care team including General Practitioners, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Practice Nurses and Healthcare Assistants, provide primary and continuing care for patients in the community setting, delivering comprehensive, compassionate medical care to an identified population of patients.

To be able to deliver this locally accessible, high quality care and treat more patients closer to their home it is essential the team work in partnership with other health professionals including, district nurses, health visitors, midwives, pharmacist, mental health and social services.

## **The Practice Nurse**

General Practice Nurses are qualified and registered nurses. They are usually employed by and have a contract with the practice. The practice nurse undertakes a range of nursing assessments and provides appropriate care/treatment in conjunction with the GP, including health promotion and preventative health by providing screening and immunisations services.

In addition, many of the nurses have acquired expert knowledge and competence in independently managing patients in nurse-led clinics including clinics for long-term conditions such as diabetes and asthma.

Due to the wealth of knowledge, experience and clinical expertise practice nurses attain from evidence based education they are highly qualified and best placed to offer students a diversity of learning opportunities which is enriched by the practice nurses' access to other professionals in different settings. This can help the learner understand the complex needs of the patients and the need for seamless interpersonal care.

## **Possible learning opportunities:**

### **Clinics**

- Diabetes
- Sexual Health/ Family Planning
- Immunisations
- Travel Health
- COPD
- Smoking Cessation
- Asthma

### **Possible Skills/Learning**

- Physical assessment activities – manual blood pressure monitoring, Respiratory assessments –peak flow / spirometry, Body Mass Index (BMI), ECGs, Blood glucose monitoring, Urinalysis
- Patient consultations – including New Patient Health Checks
- Health promotion activities – Healthy living
- Wound care – acute (surgical) or chronic (leg ulcers)
- Medications management in the community
- Patient Specific prescriptions and Patient Group Directives
- Long term condition management
- Referral to and liaison with other community services
- B12 injections
- Taking part in baby clinics
- Public health agendas and how they are being implemented locally

- Home visits with GP/ nurses including to locality care homes

## **Feedback from mentors & students**

### **Mentors**

*'I really wanted to do this. Students should definitely get this type of experience as there is so much to learn - Baby clinic, Diabetes etc.'*

*To be aware that there are so many services in primary care that they can go to observe ...i.e. the HV and DN, Ear syringing, Desmond Training, Podiatrist, Residential care....or they could do a locality project'*

*'The student supported the GP with the 6 week checks and was great helping with all the admin tasks'*

### **Students**

*'The learning opportunities available in General practice exceeded my expectations'*

*'I really loved running the diabetes clinic with supervision, it helped me gain in-depth knowledge of the pathophysiology and management of diabetes'*

*'I definitely want to go back and work in general practice once qualified'*

## **Additional information:**

### **Uniform/Dress Code:**

It is a requirement for all staff and students to present a professional image- ask to see the Practice Dress Code Policy for local specifics. Please check with your placement if you are required to wear your uniform.

### **Shift Patterns:**

These will vary with each placement location, and anytime between 0700-2000.

Please contact your placement at least 2 weeks in advance to obtain your rota and clarify the dress code policy for the area.

### **Sickness and Absence:**

If you are absent for any reason it is your responsibility to inform both the university and your placement as soon as you know you are not able to attend. Please refer to the university's procedure for reporting sickness and absence.

### **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality must be maintained at all times as per the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC, 2015) conduct and must not discuss patients/clients outside the practice area.

#### Raising Concerns:

*If you are concerned with the standards of care in any placement area, it is your responsibility to raise this concern. This should be addressed to your mentor and the University. This would normally be your Link Lecturer. The University Team will support you to undertake this process. Please refer to placement whistle Blowing Policy and the Escalating Concerns Policy (NMC) in the Essential Guide. If you require further help or advice, please contact the Practice Based Learning Unit at [pblu@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:pblu@mdx.ac.uk)*

#### Link Lecturer

Your link lecturer for this placement is ..... You can contact them about any issues related to your placement.

Or email; [Pblu@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:Pblu@mdx.ac.uk) (Practice-based learning unit)

#### Useful Resources / Clinical Guidance

- Asthma UK - <http://www.asthma.org.uk/>
- British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) - <http://www.bashh.org/>
- British Thoracic Society - <https://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/guidelines-and-quality-standards/>
- Diabetes UK - <https://www.diabetes.org.uk/>
- Health Education England - District Nursing and General Practice Nursing Service Education and Career Framework  
[https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/District%20nursing%20and%20GP%20practice%20nursing%20framework\\_0.pdf](https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/District%20nursing%20and%20GP%20practice%20nursing%20framework_0.pdf)
- Immunisation against infectious disease -  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book>
- Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) - <http://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/guidance/>
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) - <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance>
- NHS Careers (Practice Nurse Video)  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/exploreroles/nursing/general-practice-nurse>
- Public Health England - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-healthengland>

- Royal College of Nursing - <http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/practice/clinicalguidelines>
- Smoking – GOV.UK - <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/smoking>