



Student Practice Placement Programme

New ways of working
through COVID-19



This information is to provide a practice placement overview of what students can expect from their practice placement, during and post the COVID-19 Pandemic. Services may vary slightly within practices



Long Term Conditions

During your practice placement, you will experience the care given for our patients who have a variety of long term conditions (LTC's) e.g.

- Asthma
- COPD
- Diabetes
- Cardiovascular Disease/ Hypertension
- Chronic Kidney Disease



LTC

- Currently these reviews are being undertaken remotely within practice by our GPN's. These are via telephone consultations or video consultations
- Minimizing the risks and maintaining safety for our patients & Staff during COVID-19 is of upmost importance
- Care plans/ Care templates are being completed on EMIS



LTC

- The remote patient reviews aim to:
- Assess the patients current LTC, plan & implement care, evaluate the patients LTC, setting targets and follow up care planning
- Provide Health promotion/ advice to our patients with long term conditions
- Advise and educate regarding medications
- Advise and support regarding medical devices, e.g. inhalers, blood glucose meters etc.
- Provide support and reassurance to Patients and their families



LTC

- Following the patients remote LTC review, a follow up/ review date will be advised
- Once it is safe to do so we can arrange for patients to attend for any necessary:
- Blood tests
- Observations recorded, e.g. Height, Weight, BP, Pulse, Blood Glucose readings, Spirometry, PEFr



Digital Technologies

- During the COVID-19 Pandemic it has further emphasised the need to engage and promote digital technology
- Patients are now becoming more accustomed to remote telephone and video consultations
- During the patient's review online clinical resources, digital platforms and apps will be promoted as part of the health education process



Digital Technologies

- All patients will be encouraged to utilise home monitoring equipment as per NICE guidelines, e.g. hypertension, BP monitoring
- All patients will be encouraged to access GP services e.g. appointments, prescriptions, access to records via digital technologies
- It is expected that digital advances will empower patients to self-manage their conditions



Face to Face Reviews

- Within General Practice it is essential for our patients well being and safety that some face to face reviews do go ahead
- In accordance with PHE guidance on PPE, these reviews are undertaken wearing the appropriate level of PPE



Face to Face Reviews

- 6 week post natal checks
- 8 week new born baby examinations
- Immunisations & Vaccinations following the PHE Childhood & Immunisation Vaccination Programme
- On the day of every Face to Face review mother & baby are triaged via telephone to assess if symptomatic of COVID-19



Smears

- Currently in accordance with guidance from the Cervical Cytology Screening Programme, Smears are only being undertaken currently for those ladies who have had previous abnormal smear results, and are on the early recall schedule e.g. 6 months, 12 month recall
- Patients are triaged on the day of their appointment to assess for COVID-19 symptoms
- PPE is worn in accordance with PHE guidance



Injections

- Some patients' injections have to be administered for their safety and wellbeing and cannot be changed to an alternative drug or temporarily suspended
- The following injections are being administered as per recommended guidelines, and patients are triaged prior to their appointment for any COVID-19 symptoms
- PPE is worn as per PHE guidance



Injections

- Subcutaneous Hormone Agonist injections:
- Zoladex, Prostag, Degralex
- Anti-psycotic Depo injections e.g. Haldol, Clopixol, Depixol
- Depo-Provera (in ladies where they cannot be switched to Progesterone only pill)



INR Testing

- Patients who are taking Warfarin as an anticoagulant therapy will need to attend the surgery for INR testing
- In some instances patients have been risked assessed and switched to a NOAC/DOAC anticoagulant instead
- However for some patients this is not appropriate to do so e.g. safety, patients' choice, not licenced for their reason for anticoagulation



INR Testing

- Patients are triaged and risk assessed for COVID-19 symptoms on the day of their INR test
- INR testing is undertaken wearing PPE as per PHE guidance



General Practice Setup

- Each individual organisation is different logistically
- Within each organisation safety is paramount and the triage, assessment for face to face reviews are utmost importance
- Organisations utilising their premises to offer face-to-face appointments deep-clean in between patients as per local infection control policies & procedures
- Support and training will be given to students wherever 'donning' and 'doffing' of PPE is required
- Some General Practices also support COVID-19 assessment



Wider Community Services

- As part of the General Practice placement, the student may be given the opportunity to spend time with local community providers, e.g. community nursing, to enhance their Primary Care placement experience
- Students will be expected to follow Public Health England advice in accordance with PPE and infection control policies