

Information Sheet

This guidance sheet is designed to provide you with some practical information to help you through your placement in GP but don't forget that the staff in your Postgraduate Centre are still there to support you and can answer any additional queries that you have.

What should you do in preparation for your post in GP?

Find out where you are going and how you will get there. Many of the practices are some distance from the acute Trust and you may need to make specific transport arrangements.

At least 2 weeks before your post starts, you should contact your GP supervisor by telephone and introduce yourself. This is a professional courtesy but is also a useful opportunity for you both to consider your expectations for your GP post, any personal circumstances that will affect you working at the practice or educational objectives that you have. The Postgraduate Centre may be able to put the current F2 in touch with you to pass on any useful advice.

What should you expect when you arrive in the practice?

When you arrive in GP you will spend the first week, or best part of that week, on an induction programme. You should ensure that you take full advantage of this opportunity to find your way around the practice, understand a bit more about the practice area, sit in on surgeries, meet the doctors and other staff, learn how to use the computer system, and know how to get yourself a cup of coffee! You should make sure that you know where to find key equipment, know the whereabouts of panic buttons and where and how to contact key staff if you find yourself dealing with an emergency. The practice will adapt the induction to suit your individual needs so ask your supervisor if there is something you would particularly like to be covered.

After induction, it is likely that you will spend a few days in directly supervised practice until you are ready to see patients on your own (with supervision provided by other means).

Holiday arrangements during GP

IMPORTANT: Whilst in a GP placement your annual leave entitlement will be calculated in hours. You are still entitled to 9 days but taken as 9 x 8 hour days (**72 hours total**).

Therefore, if for example you are working 4 x 10 hour days in GP each week to book a week off you will need to deduct 40 hours from your entitlement. In this instance if you work a 4 day 40 hours week you should expect to have 7 days and 2 hours annual leave in your post (72 hours) rather than 9 days (90 hours).

It is vital that any annual leave during the GP post is agreed with the GP supervisor in advance or practice manager, even if you are booking the leave before you are in the GP post. Please liaise with both the Postgraduate Centre Staff and the practice before making any holiday arrangements or ensure that your Centre Manager has liaised with the GP practice on your behalf.

Similarly, please liaise with your Postgraduate Centre and GP Supervisor should you need to make arrangements for additional leave such as **paternity leave, compassionate leave, study leave or special leave for interviews** whilst in GP. *You should expect usual trust rules to apply regarding notice for leave requests i.e., 6-8 weeks depending on your employer. Practices may be able to accommodate less notice than this, but it is at their discretion.*

Who should you inform if you take sick leave?

Please inform your Trust HR Department **and** your GP Supervisor/Practice Manager if it is necessary for you to take any sick leave and ensure you tell your Trust when you have returned to GP.

What if you are incurring additional travel expenses during your F2 post?

Travel expenses can be claimed in line with the revised [NHSe Relocation policy](#) detailed in the Excess Mileage Claims Section point 30. Onwards. The website also provides copies of [Relocation and excess mileage claim forms](#) for each trust. Please also refer to the [GP Home Visit Mileage](#) page on the HEE website.

Any queries please refer to your Post Graduate Education Centre contacts. All claims must be submitted through your trust.

What F2 teaching should I attend whilst in GP? You will be expected to attend **Learning Sets** specifically designed for F2s in GP. All these dates will be given to you by the Trust and the days will be taken from your study leave

allocation. You can attend regional F2 regional teaching during GP with appropriate notice given for study leave approval.

Should you still complete SLEs whilst in GP?

Yes. Your GP Supervisor will be prepared to expect this. Remember though it is your responsibility to make sure your assessments are completed.

Who is your contact for any queries, problems or concerns whilst in GP?

If you are experiencing problems in GP speak to your GP supervisor in the first instance. If this is not possible, or you feel awkward approaching your GP Supervisor, please speak to your Educational supervisor, Foundation Training Programme Director or your Trust Postgraduate Centre Manager. Whilst in GP, the Trust is still your employer for all HR related issues.

If you encounter any issues whilst working in GP, we encourage you to feed these back to your supervisor during the placement. GPs are usually keen to improve experiences wherever they can, and constructive feedback is normally viewed positively.

What working hours are expected in GP?

Your working/learning week will be 40 hours. This is worked on Monday to Friday only at times between 8am and 7pm. You must not work out of these hours during General Practice. If you work extra hours and agree to time off in lieu you must ensure that you take this whilst working in the practice as you might not be able to claim it in your next placement within the hospital.

Travel time from your home to the GP Practice that is **more than** the time it normally takes you to travel to the hospital base will count towards your working week. For example, journey from home to base hospital 30 mins, journey from home to GP Practice 60 mins. The extra 30 mins each way (total 60 mins per day) can be deducted from your 40 hour working week. You should discuss this with your supervisor and agree clinical working hours before you commence your GP post.

What can you expect from a typical week in GP?

Every experience should be an opportunity for learning and your supervisor will try to get the balance right between learning by seeing your own patients in a formal surgery setting and learning through other opportunities.

The following table is an indicator of how a typical week might run but all practices are different so don't expect your time to be spent exactly like this:

6 x Surgeries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ These will usually start at 30 minute appointments for each patient and reduce to 20 minute appointments as you develop your skills, knowledge, and confidence (and your supervisor develops the same in you) ▪ You must always have access to another doctor (not a locum doctor) but not necessarily your supervisor in the practice. ▪ You may not have a dedicated room solely for your use. You will see patients in your own room but may find you use different rooms on different days. ▪ You may attend home visits but always make sure you discuss any unaccompanied visit before and afterwards with your supervisor.
2 x sessions in other learning opportunities	<p>This could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1:1 session with your trainer or other members of the practice team ▪ Small group work with other learners in the practice ▪ Small group work with F2s from other practices ▪ Shadowing or observing other health professionals or service providers e.g., out patient clinics pertinent to primary care, palliative care teams, voluntary sector workers
1 x session on project work or directed study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It may be possible for you to undertake a project or audit during your time in GP. As part of your Self Development Time, you may be able to do some research, collect the data, write up the project and present your work to the practice team
teaching session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will also be expected to attend half-day facilitated learning sessions (learning sets) organised by the Peninsula Foundation School.

Practices are not required to offer formal teaching sessions, although you may find that some practices do. Even if the practice in which you are based does not offer teaching on a regular basis, if you would find it useful to cover a specific topic, please ask your GP supervisor who may be able to arrange something.

Indemnity

You are covered by NHS indemnity through your contract of employment with the acute trust. You are advised to let your medical defence union know that you have a GP placement as part of your F2 programme, but this shouldn't make any difference to your cover.

We hope you enjoy and make the most of your post in your GP.

The Peninsula Foundation Team

Peninsula Postgraduate Medical Education www.peninsuladeanery.nhs.uk