STUDENT NURSING PLACEMENTS IN GENERAL PRACTICE: THE UH EXPERIENCE

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BACKGROUND

The University of Hertfordshire

- School of Health and Social Work
- Diverse placement settings within acute, community and PVI sector
- Placement opportunities cover wide geographical area

![Map of Hertfordshire](image)
Placement Project

In collaboration with:
- Barnet Community Education Provider Network
- Health Education North Central and East London (HENCEL)
- Health Education East of England (HEEofE)

Project aims:
- Develop relationships and networks with local community education providers
- Explore new community placement opportunities for BSc (Hons) pre-registration student nursing programme
- Educating student nurses about the opportunities which exist within GP practices following qualification
Learning Opportunities

- Placements provide an opportunity for students to experience an essential care provider in the primary care setting

- Student nurses can consider Practice Nursing as a career option

- One step towards developing a sustainable nursing workforce

- Improve Practice Nurses skills set, mentorship profile and job satisfaction
CHALLENGES

- Preparing practice nurses for mentorship
- Perceived decrease in productivity of the Practice Nurse
- The financial remuneration is considered inadequate relative to the tariff received for medical students
- Lack of familiarity with the skill set that a student nurse will have
- Paperwork required by the HEI could be considered onerous by practice teams in the initial phase of taking on students
- Concerns about indemnity insurance
SOLUTIONS TO THE CHALLENGES – THE UH EXPERIENCE

- Students offered the opportunity to select an elective experience within General Practice

- Elective ‘formative’ experience meant that the Practice Nurse was not required to hold a current mentorship qualification

- Educational audits were conducted by the Project team using the tool to highlight clinical learning opportunities

- Support structures such as link lecturer were embedded into the process

- Hub and spoke models and suggested timetables bespoke to individual surgeries were designed at the educational audit

- General Practices were offered the opportunity to ‘opt in’ or ‘opt out’ of the student allocation circuit at the end of the elective
Practice Nurse – health assessments
  ➢ Stop Smoking
  ➢ Travel Clinic
  ➢ Leg Ulcer Clinic

Asthma Nurse Specialist
  ➢ Asthma Clinic
  ➢ Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Clinics
  ➢ Diabetes Clinic
  ➢ Family Planning clinic

Women’s Health Clinic
  ➢ Immunisation Clinic
  ➢ Pregnancy Care

General Practice
  Clinical base with a registered stage 2 mentor.

  Preliminary, intermediate and final interview conducted by mentor who remains the central contact point.

Nurse practitioner
  ➢ Minor Illness Clinic
  ➢ Long term conditions

Working with MDT
  ➢ Receptionists
  ➢ Community Pharmacist
  ➢ General Practitioner
  ➢ District Nurse
  ➢ Health Care Assistant
HOW THE ELECTIVE WAS ORGANISED

- Information sent to whole cohort of second year students adult field, setting out the depth and breath of experiences available within GP surgeries, inviting expressions of interest

- Recruitment of surgeries in liaison with local educational provider networks within NCEL and EofE

- Team approach to educational audit

- Mentorship updates delivered in GP practices

- GP surgeries visited a minimum of one occasion during the four week experience

- Team member available for support during placement
**Next Steps**

- 8 GP surgeries now active on our pre-registration circuit
- Another 6 placements coming on-line for the Elective taster experience Summer 2015
- Process has been refined, audit tool streamlined
- Value of students present at the audit process adds a robust third dimension
- Explore more about the experience: the multiprofessional team
- Follow up – look to the longer term
SUMMARY

It’s all about relationships:
- Local CCGs
- Senior practice nurses
- Steering groups: HENCEL & E of E
- Community Education Network Provider (Barnet)
- Building information networks to promote student nurse placements in GP practices
Placing student nurses in general practice can be part of the solution

Creating a sustainable workforce for the future