



PGPPP

The Prevocational GP Placements Program

PGPPP is an Australian Federal Government initiative that provides Junior Doctors with an opportunity to experience General Practice and Primary Care in the community.

PGPPP Terms are in selected accredited General Practices providing hands-on experience in a closely supervised setting.

For those of you seeking a career in General Practice, PGPPP will expose you to the daily life and challenges of a General Practice in a supportive team environment.

Alternatively, for those directing their future towards a different career in medicine, PGPPP will provide you with a unique opportunity to further your understanding of community primary care and its interface with other specialist medical care. This is an unprecedented and invaluable professional development experience.

Benefits of PGPPP

- Clinical autonomy - one on one direct care of patients with continuity of care for patients with acute and chronic medical problems as well as opportunities for preventative care and patient education.
- An excellent educational experience with individual supervision and mentoring by experienced and committed GP Supervisors who provide planned, structured teaching to support the clinical experience.
- Own patient load to build relationships and experience continuity of care.
- Work with allied health professionals, indigenous and community care services.
- Overall understanding of the Australian health care system.
- Exposure to family care across multiple generations.
- Remuneration on par with hospital training position.
- All accommodation and travel costs will be covered.
- Interaction with staff at the General Practice, learning in teams of clinical practitioners.
(Some practices will have GP Registrars as well as Medical Students working in concert.)
- An invaluable educational experience to observe a professional small business in operation.
- Lifestyle balance with community support in some of Australia's most scenic rural/regional areas on the NSW North Coast.

Training received

PGPPP participants will receive training in the many facets of General Practice.

Topics may include:

Introduction to medicare - Managing depression and anxiety - Dermatology/minor surgery - Antenatal care and child health - Aged care - Musculoskeletal medicine - Asthma - Chronic care for Diabetes/ Hypertension - Drug reactions & polypharmacy - Preventative health/Immunisation - Consultation & communication skills - Indigenous and Cross Cultural Health - Workers Compensation and practice management.



"I absolutely loved my PGPPP placement on the north coast. I was exposed to how things really work in general practice, and gained confidence in doing procedures like pap smears, skin biopsies, removal of skin lesions etc. I'm now much more confident in managing mental health problems including drug and alcohol abuse. Teaching sessions with supervisors and the practical experience of seeing my own patients were my most valuable learning experiences".

Dr Mahbuba Shampa

Why consider PGPPP ?

I have already decided on General Practice as a career. Why would I do a PGPPP term?

Doctors have chosen PGPPP in order to immerse themselves in GP sooner rather than later, or to confirm they have made the right choice. Experience and referee reports gained from PGPPP terms may be advantageous for you when applying for future General Practice Vocational Training.

I have already decided on a specialty other than General Practice. Why would I do a PGPPP term?

Doctors have chosen PGPPP to enhance their Specialist skills and to gain a greater understanding of the Specialist/General Practice interface; as GPs and other specialist colleagues work collaboratively in caring for their patients.

I'm considering a different specialty and not really leaning towards General Practice. Why would I do a PGPPP term?

PGPPP represents a practical approach to gaining additional experience for those still choosing to keep their options open. Doctors have chosen PGPPP in order to observe procedural GPs with special interests and sub-specialties in areas including obstetrics, surgery, anaesthetics, mental health, women/men/children's health and aged care. In addition, the term will provide insight into the relationship between the tertiary hospital and primary care systems.

Your questions answered

Who can apply for a PGPPP term?

In 2011 PGY2 JMOs in CETI Network 4 can undertake a PGPPP term at Tweed Heads or Maclean, Network 5 at Port Macquarie, Network 9 at Ballina, and Network 13 at Coffs Harbour or Woolgoolga.

How long is a PGPPP placement?

PGPPP placement terms are the same as hospital rotations which are 10 or 11 weeks long.

How many patients will I see?

The number of patients allocated to you will depend on your Supervisor's assessment of your capabilities. Initially, the expectation is 2 patients per hour, increasing to no more than 4 per hour during the term. This is always at your Supervisor's discretion and in consultation with you.

Will my consultations be supervised?

You will be required to consult your Supervisor about the management of patients. Your Supervisor will negotiate this with you during the term (eg. after each session or after complex cases, as required). You and your Supervisor share responsibility for individual patients.

Are my consultations billed to Medicare?

Yes. Your consultations are billed to Medicare using your Provider Number which you will be required to apply for prior to the commencement of the term.

How will I be paid?

You remain an employee of your hospital and will continue to be paid and accrue leave entitlements etc in the usual way.

What could my overtime roster look like?

This depends on the hospital, but it is expected that you will do a share of the after hours work in the hospital (not night duty). This may be as few as 4 shifts during the term.

What educational support will I receive?

You will receive approximately six hours of education/supervision per week which will include an orientation at the beginning of the placement. A Learning Plan (based on the learning needs specific to you) will be developed in consultation with you, your Supervisor and Medical Educator. Structured sessions may take a variety of formats including case discussions, work shadowing, practical skills sessions, meetings, tutorials, workshops with NCGPT registrars, video consultations and reviews.

How does North Coast GP Training support and contribute to the Education Program?

A NCGPT Medical Educator will spend time with you to develop an initial Learning Plan and discuss the challenges of General Practice relative to hospital based medicine. A Medical Educator will also conduct a direct observation visit to provide you with individual feedback on your consultations.

For further information contact Bruce Barling at NCGPT on (02) 6681 5711 or email bruceb@ncgpt.org.au



**North Coast GP Training is an accredited Regional Training Provider of General Practice Vocational Training in NSW.
NCGPT is a non profit company, funded by the Australian Federal Government.**

www.ncgpt.org.au