

## PRIMARY CARE GP SUPERVISOR INFORMATION GUIDE

---

We would like to welcome you to UNSW as a Primary Care Clinical Teacher in General Practice. We appreciate the important role that General Practitioners like you play in the education of future generation of doctors.

*You will find in this guide information about the Primary Care course that may be helpful to your practice and teaching, information relating to your role as a GP supervisor and information on opportunities for professional development as a clinical teacher. This guide and other useful links and resources can be found at:*

<http://www.sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/SPHCMWeb.nsf/page/PCClinicalTeachers>

### About Us

You will be pleased to know that UNSW's undergraduate Medicine program's Primary Care course is taught and run by General Practitioners. The course is convened by Dr Meredith Makeham. Other campus-based GP teachers in the course include Professor Nick Zwar, Dr Suzanne McKenzie and Dr Peter Harris. Dr Jeremy Bunker and Dr Sanjyot Vagholkar are based at the Fairfield GP Unit, where students may attend tutorials. Vanessa Green and Susan Zhang play an important role providing administrative support for the course.

### About the UNSW Medicine program

Medicine at UNSW is a six year undergraduate degree, divided into three phases, each of approximately two years duration. Learning and teaching in each phase is organized broadly around the human life cycle. This is reflected in the four fundamental domains of the program – Beginnings Growth & Development, Health Maintenance, Ageings & Endings, and Society & Health. Students study both proactive and reactive approaches to health issues in both individuals and populations. The content is organised into content streams – the biomedical sciences, the social and psychological aspects of health and illness, and medical practice.

GPs have a significant role in all Phases of the Program – as small group facilitators and clinical tutors in Phase 1 (scenario-based learning) and in Society & Health in Phase 2, as well as in the General Practice/Primary Care course in Phase 3.

### About the Primary Care course

Primary Care is a compulsory 8-week course in Phase 3 (Years 5 and 6) of the undergraduate Medicine program at UNSW. While some teaching is delivered through formal lectures and tutorials, most of the learning takes place through student's general practice attachments. Students are required to attend at least 50 half-day general practice sessions during the course. Some students attend two practices for four weeks each, and others stay with one practice for 8 weeks. There are a wide variety of rural and urban GP placements currently available for students.

The teaching periods for 2009 are as follows:

<b>UNSW Teaching Period 09</b>	<b>Placement dates</b>	
Summer Teaching Period	<b>21 January – 12 March</b>	
	<b>21 January – 12 February</b>	
		<b>16 February – 12 March</b>
Teaching Period 1	<b>18 March – 14 May</b>	
	<b>18 March – 8 April</b>	
		<b>20 April – 14 May</b>
Teaching Period 2	<b>20 May – 9 July</b>	
	<b>20 May – 11 June</b>	
		<b>15 June – 9 July</b>
Teaching Period 3	<b>22 July – 10 September</b>	
	<b>22 July – 13 August</b>	
		<b>17 August – 10 September</b>
Teaching Period 4	<b>23 September – 12 November</b>	
	<b>23 September – 15 October</b>	
		<b>19 October – 12 November</b>

## What is involved in being a GP supervisor at UNSW?

You will be supervising Phase 3 medical students (years five and six of the six-year curriculum) undertaking an eight week Primary Care term (or 4 week part thereof).

Students who will be attached to you will need to complete 50 half-day sessions in clinical general practice as well as attending a variety of teaching sessions on campus.

On average, a student will be under your supervision for approximately three days per week throughout the term. This can include time spent with other GPs (including registrars) in your practice, practice nurses and visiting some of your local allied health and specialist colleagues.

Your feedback will be highly valued on how the student has performed in areas such as their knowledge about patient assessment and management, their approach to teamwork, the level of responsibility they have displayed as a member of your practice and their ability to undertake self-directed learning.

### Important forms and documents

Altogether there is a Supervisor Assessment 1 page form that the student will ask you to complete at the end of the attachment, and there is a second 1 page form for you to rate them on how they are performing in their clinical knowledge and skills approximately every two weeks of their term.

You should be given all the necessary paperwork by your student. You can also download the forms on the website in the section called 'useful forms and documents' [www.sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcmweb.nsf/page/PCClinicalTeachingDocs](http://www.sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcmweb.nsf/page/PCClinicalTeachingDocs)

### What are the benefits of being a GP supervisor at UNSW?

- You get to pass on your experience to the next generation of doctors, many of whom will enter General Practice.
- You can provide students with invaluable insights into the rewards and challenges of a general practice career.
- Your personal and professional satisfaction in knowing that you have enhanced a medical student's clinical and communication skills, and an appreciation of whole patient care and general practice.
- **Teaching practices are eligible for PIP payments (currently \$100 per session or \$5000 for an eight-week placement).**
- You can apply for and obtain Conjoint Academic Titles that provides access to privileges associated with UNSW, such as library (physical and online access), staff parking, invitations to seminars and other campus events.
- You will be invited to GP supervisors' training workshops and networking dinners to meet your colleagues and enhance your skills in teaching and in practice.

### How do I apply to become a Conjoint Academic?

We realise that this process can be a bit complicated so we are more than happy to assist you if you wish to apply to become a conjoint academic with us at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine. There is a section to guide you through this on the Primary Care Clinical Teachers Support website under 'important forms and documents' at [www.sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/SPHCMWeb.nsf/page/PCClinicalTeachers](http://www.sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/SPHCMWeb.nsf/page/PCClinicalTeachers)

Please e-mail Susan Zhang (s.zhang@unsw.edu.au) if you are interested and we will do our best to assist you through this process.

### What are some activities that I could undertake with my student?

- Ask the student to sit in with you initially to see a range of patients. This will help them to understand common general practice conditions and early stages of disorders which up to now, they have met at a much more advanced stage. Students should progress to more responsibility and autonomy in clinical activities during the attachment.

***Inside the Practice.***

- Observation and critical analysis of the GP at work, with discussion after selected consultations of key aspects of the case – for example, early stages of disease, undifferentiated illness, communication styles, managing uncertainty/complex problems, using continuity of care.
- Practice consulting skills – history taking and assessment (followed by presentation of cases to the GP) and explanation of conditions/management to patients.
- Self-directed learning – encourage students to test their biomedical knowledge for each condition they encounter and refresh relevant details of presentation, natural history, assessment and management as they go, following up any areas where they have a deficit.
- Undertake consultations – conduct consultations (all or part) while being observed by the GP and then receive feedback, and conduct consultations alone in another room, present to the GP and then receive feedback.
- Team care –review a patient with a complex or long-standing condition, possibly using a health assessment etc under the supervision of the practice nurse and GP, and then develop or update a care plan for this patient.
- Discussions with practice manager and practice nurse – to assess how practice management is organised to improve patient care.

***Outside the Practice***

- Home visits – accompany GP on home visits and nursing home visits and re-visit patients seen at home or in practice to follow-up and report their progress
- Local health service teams – participate in local health service teams (eg ACAT, primary health nurses, Home and community Care, Diabetes service, Drug & Alcohol, etc) and observe or participate in care planning, case conferencing, home assessment and other relevant activities, then discuss this with the GP
- Visit other community services –such as pharmacy, community health/nursing, allied health, self-help groups (eg dementia, arthritis), to learn how these contribute to patient management, and discuss with the GP the role/s of each service they visit

**Contact Us**

If you have any comments, issues or queries, then please feel free to contact us.

Susan Zhang, Administrative Officer  
Phone (02) 9385 2520  
Email: s.zhang@unsw.edu.au

Dr Meredith Makeham, Senior Lecturer in General Practice  
Course Convenor for Primary Care Phase Three  
Phone (02) 9385 3502  
Email: m.makeham@unsw.edu.au