

Special Edition GP Newsletter

October 2018

Year 3 GP placement changes in 2019

As a result of several factors, there will be changes to the UQ Year 3 GP course in 2019 which will affect our teaching practices. The changes are discussed below and there is a summary on the back page. Despite these changes, the most important point is that both the content of what you teach, and the need for strong GP role models, remain the same.

Placement length: Year 3 will become semester based which means each half of the year will have 3 GP placement blocks of 6 weeks each. There will be a mid-semester break of one week before the third placement of each semester and an inter-semester break of three weeks, which includes a week of examinations for the three courses in the preceding semester (See diagram next page). Students will also complete Medicine in Society and Mental Health courses in this semester.

Number of required sessions: Students will be required to complete a minimum of 28 sessions within the 6 week placement period. They may complete up to 36 sessions during the placement if the practice and the student are agreeable. The students will be expected to spread their sessions over the full 6 weeks, and there will be no exam week at the end of each placement.

Days available for sessions: Every Wednesday will be a “back to base” day for student teaching at the University, so students will be available to do their practice sessions on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Student allocation: As part of the University requirement to standardise placements, we will be using the InPlace software to allocate students to practices. This means that students will no longer contact practices to secure their placements.

Instead, prior to each semester, we will invite practices to submit their preferred placement blocks. PCCU will then select and upload available practices to InPlace. Students will preference a minimum of 30 practices and placements will be allocated based on these preferences.

Practices and students will be notified of their placement allocations through InPlace, and students will be asked to contact the practice prior to the start of their placement block to arrange their first visit.

Please note that, as we will have fewer students per placement block, practices may not be allocated a student during each block over the year.

Assessment: There will be two types of assessment – (1) practice based assessment which contributes to a year long MD portfolio course and (2) PCCU based assessment which contributes to the GP rotation mark.

The *practice based assessment* will include a minimum of 3 workbased activities (WBA) and completion of a Clinical Participation Assessment (CPA). The WBAs are designed to encourage further development of clinical skills. WBAs are performed during consultations when the student is observed taking a focused history, doing a specific examination or discussing a management plan with the patient. Their performance is assessed by GP teachers based on marking criteria and recorded in a student held booklet.

The CPA is completed via an online platform at the end of the placement. These assessments contribute to their portfolio which gathers and collates information from each discipline across the year.

The *PCCU based assessment* has two components – a multiple choice question (MCQ) exam undertaken at the end of each semester and tutorial based assessment which will occur throughout the placement block. The MCQ will be similar to the one currently being used.

PIP forms: In line with Medicare changes, these will be sent to practices at the beginning of the placement for completion and direct submission to Medicare by practices at the end of each placement. Students will still submit their attendance form to PCCU.

Semester 1 placement dates

	O 1w	Placement 1 14 January-22 Feb	Placement 2 25 Feb - 5 April	Mid semester break 8 April – 12 April	Placement 3 15 April – 24 May	SV 1w	Ex 1w
Stream 1	O	GP 6 weeks	Mental Health	1 week break	Medicine in Society	SV	Ex
Stream 2	O	Medicine in Society	GP 6 weeks	1 week break	Mental Health	SV	Ex
Stream 3	O	Mental Health	Medicine in Society	1 week break	GP 6 weeks	SV	Ex

O = Orientation week
SV = Study week
Ex = Exam week

Summary of changes to Year 3 GP placements

Placement length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semester based placements 6 weeks with no exam week 3 x 6 week placements per semester
No of sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 28 Maximum 36
Days available for sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday not available as “back to base day” for all students Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday available Arranged by practice and student
Student allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> InPlace software based allocation Prior to each semester, practices invited to submit available placement blocks for that semester PCCU upload available practices to InPlace Students preference minimum 30 practices Placements allocated based on student preference Practices and students notified Students contact practice to arrange first visit <p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students no longer ring practices to secure placements. Practices may not be allocated a student in every available placement block.
Practice based assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This contributes to a year long pass/fail portfolio course covering all disciplines Minimum 3 work based assessments (WBA) completed during consultations & recorded in student held booklet; student uploads to portfolio CPA completed online by GP
PCCU based GP rotation assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This determines GP rotation result Exam at the end of the semester rather than end of rotation Tutorial based assessment of clinical skills MCQ exam
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core material unchanged
PIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claim form sent to the practice at beginning of placement Practice submits directly to Medicare (with student signature) at end of placement Student submits attendance form to UQ at end of placement

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