



You are here

Dear Students,

You have almost completed your first placement and I am sure the time has flown by! There have been a lot of teaching and new learning experiences – I hope you have managed to capture them in your logbooks.

The first placement sign-off by your supervisor might seem daunting, but it is an opportunity to reflect on the highlights of your first clinical experiences, ask for advice on how to improve and create an action plan to help you organise your next steps. Be ready, help the supervisor by ensuring your logbook is up to date showing all the hard work you have done.

UPSAs/Prescribing Skills

One of the next steps I want you to think about is starting to get your UPSA and Prescribing Skills signed off. Some of the skills will need several attempts before you can be signed off as competent, in particular venepuncture and cannulation, so best to start early. If a Health Care Assistant (HCA) observes you doing an UPSA skill they must ask their supervising Nurse to sign you off as competent using their professional registration number. Your skills tutors and educational pharmacists, who you have met in your clinical skills or SCT teaching sessions, are available to provide support and advice where and how you can practise these. Information about UPSAs and Prescribing skills is available here.

<https://www.onemedinfo.manchester.ac.uk/blog/infoobjects/u-psa-guidance/?section=12482>

Physical Examination Skills

It is also important that you are practicing and learning about Physical Examination Skills in your clinical placement. The list of Year 3 Examinations is in your Skills iBook

https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/mmsonemedlearn/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2017/09/Y3_Clinical_Exam_2017-18.pdf, Chapters 1-9.



Dr Anu Trehan

Academic Lead
Year 3

Consultant
Acute
Physician

Top Tips: Getting UPSAs signed off easily

What I should do beforehand

- Be proactive
- Ask at the beginning of your shift/day what skills it might be possible to do on this day,
- Ask your assessor before you start your assessment if they don't mind filling out the form straight away after you have done the skill so they are prepared to give feedback.
- Partially fill in the form with your assessor's details as much as you can before handing your iPad to the tutor to complete their feedback

What I should do immediately after an UPSA

Use the 'Submit' button, not the 'Draft' button. Submit within 7 days of starting the assessment.

Remember: Over 7 days or if the assessor's email is not known the assessor needs to validate the form. Over 14 days: your form will be rejected and you will need to retake the assessment.

If your dashboard is green then you can be assured that your UPSA is marked satisfactorily and has been validated.

How many should I do per block?

You should try to complete **at least 1 UPSA per block** so you don't fall behind

Show the iBook to your placement tutors, create yourself a checklist if you need to track that you are covering all the skills. If you are struggling let us know earlier by contacting your Y3 Sector Lead. However, remember patients don't fit textbooks!

We hope that you will also take the opportunity to learn other examination techniques as they arise within the placements.

With best wishes,

Anu Trehan
Academic Lead Year 3

Alison Quinn
Associate Lead Year 3

Himanshu Singh
Associate Lead Year 3

Sector Year 3 Lead



Dr Mohamed Al-Aloul
Consultant Respiratory & Transplant Physician

Sector Year 3 Lead
MFT (Wythenshawe Campus)

I will simply start by echoing Dr Trehan's messages above and as you approach the end of your first placement, I would strongly urge you to engage your clinical placement supervisors (CPS) sooner rather than later in agreeing the time and place for your end of placement sign off. Your CPS appreciate this is all new to you and will be very supportive.

Your feedback

The transition into the clinical environment can be challenging: it comes with a different set of responsibilities and expectations- Some of you in have already met me in my Friday lunch time drop in surgery in the undergraduate department and I hope our discussions have helped your learning. Quality of placement induction, cancellations and student overcrowding are common themes. I have addressed these as you have raised queries directly with the with placement supervisors. Thank you for this invaluable feedback.

Sign ups

A time table of available sign up sessions on Medlea will be updated monthly. Please e-mail amanda.gould-sadler@manchester.ac.uk if you wish to arrange an informal meeting.

Your clinical placements should provide you with ample opportunity to practice system examination; just because you are attached to the respiratory team for example, it does not mean you cannot be supervised examining someone's heart, abdomen or peripheral nervous system. We have an active clinical skills lab in the undergraduate department at Wythenshawe and you are encouraged to visit it regularly. Please contact Lesley.wood@macnehsctr.ac.uk to discuss any difficulties with clinical examination teaching. We have recruited a team of enthusiastic junior and middle grade doctors specifically to assist your clinical examination teaching.

Best wishes,

Dr Mohamed Al-Aloul
mohamed.al-aloul@manchester.ac.uk

I am also pleased to announce the selection of Mehreen Anwar as your student representative. I will be meeting with Mehreen monthly to address issues you may wish to raise with her regarding your teaching and learning in the South Sector. Mehreen's introductory message is included...

Student Representative

"Hi guys, I am Mehreen Anwar the student representative for Wythenshawe! I am honoured to have been chosen for this role and I will try my very best to be the student rep you all want me to be and can count on. I will be happy to speak to any of you so don't hesitate to contact me!"

