

What to expect in your GP post

Relationship with trainer/practice

- more informal/closer than relationships in hospital
- trainer roles include teacher, employer, apprentice-master, mentor/adviser, friend, assessor - difficult balance, trainers find it problematic too, particularly tend to dislike assessor role
- importance of relaxed and respectful relationships with practice staff
- importance of give-and-take

Induction period usually covers

- introductions to all the team
- going out with/sitting in with PHCT members, trainer, partners
- how to use computer system

The work

- up to 8 surgeries/week plus VTS plus half day Self Directed Learning
- appt interval starting long, ending up at 10 minutes
- GP days long: usually 8.30 to 6.30 by the time you get out of the building
- visits by agreement - not places/people they could reasonably be scared of
- out-of-hours – 1 per month
- trainer or named partner covering and accessible at all times

Education

- educational support available during surgeries if necessary
- trainer or partner available for discussion (or for making a date for discussion) after every surgery
- 1 tutorial/ joint surgery every week from your trainer: topic based or WPBA based
- VTS day release: 3 days per term in ST1 and 2. Afternoon session most weeks in ST3
- assessment of learning needs by trainer and registrar - usually some reference to a curriculum checklist
- tutorials usually on spectrum with fixed topics at one end, case discussions at the other - point on the spectrum will depend on factors including trainer's preferred style, GP trainee's preferred style, GP trainee's stage of training
- preparation for topic teaching, or follow-up reading/research, improves the educational value
- monthly small group sessions with fellow GPST1 and 2's in GP placements.

Study leave

- officially 15 days in 6 months. VTS counts as study leave.
- many practices take a flexible attitude to study leave provided the GP trainee is generally conscientious, helpful, committed to the team (this is one of the things I meant by give-and-take)