



SEPT 2023

**University of Brighton**

# THEATRES PLACEMENT

## AIRWAY MANAGEMENT IN A HOSPITAL OPERATING DEPARTMENT

Prepared by: Jessica Rimmer  
Practice Placement Lead

The University of Brighton  
Paramedic Practice  
[j.e.rimmer@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:j.e.rimmer@brighton.ac.uk)

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## PLACEMENT DETAILS

Duration: 2 weeks  
3 days/week (8-12hr shifts)

Location: Variable in Sussex, Surrey and Kent  
Please check your allocation

Completed in: Year 2

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

LO1: Observe discuss and participate in, under anaesthetist's supervision, head tilt, chin lift and jaw thrust manoeuvres.

LO2: Observe, discuss and/or participate in, under anaesthetist's supervision, the venous cannulation of patients.

LO3: Observe, discuss and participate in, under anaesthetist's supervision, the use of airway adjuncts including oropharyngeal & nasopharyngeal airways and bag valve masks.

LO4: Observe, discuss and participate in, under anaesthetist's supervision, the safe and appropriate insertion of supraglottic airways including recognition of compromised airway/ineffective placement.

LO5: Observe and/or discuss, the intubation of patients with a Endo- Tracheal Tube (ETT) - NOT FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION.

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## WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

### AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE AIRWAY THEORY AND MANAGEMENT

*"Be able to use a range of integrated skills and self-awareness to manage clinical challenges independently and effectively in unfamiliar and unpredictable circumstances or situations"*

- HEALTH AND CARE PROFESSIONS COUNCIL (HCPC), STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY, 2014

This placement is an opportunity to get an insight into airway management in a calm and supported environment, under the direct supervision of experienced anaesthetists.

This placement will allow you to utilise a stepwise approach to airway management, up to supraglottic airway insertion, management and assessment and also give you an opportunity to assess the ongoing success of your inserted airway. You may also get a chance to observe other skills such as endotracheal intubation and some short surgeries, allowing you to visualise some of your anatomy and physiology theoretical learning.

This is an interactive placement and you will have chance to practice any skills you have covered at UoB under the supervision of your placement facilitator.

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# WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

## PREPERATION IS VITAL

*“You should respect a person’s right to have their care, treatment or other services carried out by a professional and not a student.”*

- HEALTH AND CARE PROFESSIONS COUNCIL (HCPC), STANDARDS OF CONDUCT, PERFORMANCE AND ETHICS, 2014

It is imperative that you arrive prepared with a strong understanding of airway anatomy, your own scope of practice and present a professional and respectful demeanour.

It is important to remember that the majority of these patients are for elective surgery and are therefore different to the patients we typically see. This placement requires a proactive approach to seek out the opportunities to play an active role in their treatment and management.

## YOUR TO DO LIST:

- Contact placement to arrange shifts a minimum of 3 weeks in advance.
- Attend shift without fail and on time, except for extenuating circumstances.
- Maintain a professional attitude with enthusiasm and willingness to learn - remember, you represent ALL student paramedics!
- If attendance to a shift is affected by personal circumstances, follow normal absence reporting procedures ensuring the placement and your personal tutor are informed.

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## HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO STUDENT PARAMEDICS?

### EXPERIENCE, COMPETENCIES AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Airway management is a core skill for any health care professional. This placement is often the first time you will put your theoretical knowledge into practice as a student. The chance to practice, get direct feedback upon and improve your airway knowledge and skills is an invaluable opportunity for any paramedic.

You will also learn about the operating department itself and gain a better understanding of how it works, the importance of and how to uphold the 'no touch' aseptic technique to equipment preparation. This will help you improve many aspects of your practice and also allow you to better inform your patients.

## PAD DOCUMENTS

Supervisors on any placement have no obligation to sign your PAD competencies. However, if you are seen by a supervisor to have met the competency in a safe and effective manner you can request;

A Summative sign off **if they have a Mentorship/Supervisor qualification.**



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## TIPS

### HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS PLACEMENT

To gain as much as possible from this experience, it is recommended you engage in any observations that are offered as part of this placement and actively seek opportunities to broaden your knowledge and understanding.

There are no formal assessments or assignments for this, but it may be helpful to seek answers to the following questions:

- How many people work in this department and what are their roles?
- How are patients received, triaged and managed?
- How does an anaesthetist assess a patient's airway risk prior to surgery?
- How can Paramedics improve their airway management prehospitally?
- Tips for recognising and managing a failed/suboptimal airway?
- What is the Royal College of Anaesthetists step-wise (ABCD) airway management approach?
- How are approaches to airway management changing?

### HINT

Why not complete a short reflection to allow you to consolidate your learning and highlight areas of interest? It will look great in your continuing professional development (CPD) folder!



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## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Placement Lead

Jessica Rimmer – [j.e.rimmer@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:j.e.rimmer@brighton.ac.uk)

### Course Lead

Mark Durell - [m.durell@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:m.durell@brighton.ac.uk)

### Personal Tutors

Chris Matthews – [c.matthews3@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:c.matthews3@brighton.ac.uk)

Chris Storey – [c.storey@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:c.storey@brighton.ac.uk)

Dan Jarman – [d.jarman@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:d.jarman@brighton.ac.uk)

Kate Turnough – [c.turnough@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:c.turnough@brighton.ac.uk)

Maddi Cole - [m.b.cole@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:m.b.cole@brighton.ac.uk)

Paul Saunders – [p.saunders2@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:p.saunders2@brighton.ac.uk)

### Placement Admin Support

Shawn Belliveau - [s.belliveau@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:s.belliveau@brighton.ac.uk)

## LINKS TO HCPC STANDARDS

[HCPC Guidance on conduct and ethics for students](#)

[HCPC Standards of conduct, performance and ethics](#)

[HCPC Standards of proficiency](#)