



SEPT 2023

University of Brighton

CARDIAC PLACEMENT

SPECIALIST CARDIAC CARE
FOR ACUTE AND CHRONIC
CONDITIONS

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PLACEMENT DETAILS

Duration: 1 week
3 days/week (8-12hr shifts)

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

Completed in: Year 3

LEARNING OUTCOMES

LO1: Discuss 12-lead ECG components, which should include:
Recognition of sinus rhythm, atrial and ventricular rhythms.

LO2: Observe or discuss a ST segment elevation myocardial
infarction electrocardiogram (STEMI ECG) and demonstrate your
ability to recognise.

LO3: Observe or discuss drug regimes, including: Oxygen,
Aspirin, GTN, Clopidogrel, and Morphine and how they impact
upon patient outcomes.

LO4: Observe or discuss immediate and long-term care and
management of patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS).

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WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

A SPECIALIST SUPPORTED LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

"Be able to make a decision about the most appropriate care pathway for a patient and refer patients appropriately"

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

It gives the invaluable opportunity to work alongside, and be mentored by, Cardiologists, Cardiac Specialists and Nurses.

You will be able to further develop your skills and knowledge in the assessment and management of patients with both acute and chronic cardiac conditions, such as Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS), acute and long-term heart failure, atrial and ventricular arrhythmias and inherited cardiac conditions.

Here is the place for you to utilise and get feedback on your ECG skills! There may also be an opportunity to observe or discuss the ongoing care of an ACS patient after paramedic referral to the cardiac catheterisation laboratory.

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WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

TO BE PROACTIVE AND PREPARED!

"You should ask for, listen to, think about and respond proactively to feedback you are given"

- HEALTH AND CARE PROFESSIONS COUNCIL (HCPC), STANDARDS OF CONDUCT, PERFORMANCE AND ETHICS, 2016

It is important to be prepared for this placement. A clear understanding of your scope of practice around cardiac care, the drugs we are able to administer and the patient group directives (PGDs) associated with them will allow you to get the most from this experience.

You will also have the chance to discuss electrocardiograms (ECGs) with experienced cardiac clinicians so ensure you have studied and are prepared to place leads, interpret and ask questions!

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 IMPROVING PATIENT OUTCOMES

The ability of a paramedic to perform a comprehensive cardiac assessment can often be the difference between a positive or negative patient outcome. The well known phrase "time is myocardium" has never been more relevant than in the pre-hospital environment.

This placement is vital in increasing your exposure and expanding your skills and knowledge of how to assess, identify and treat acute cardiac events. This experience will also improve your understanding of chronic conditions, how they may present as emergencies in the pre-hospital setting and how they are managed in hospital and at home.

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 they contacted/referred to?
- How are patients received, triaged and managed after:
 - Paramedic referral to the Cath lab?
 - Admission via the Emergency Department?
- What tips or resources do you suggest for ECG interpretation?
- What is the recovery process after an acute cardiac event?
- What advice can you give on assessment of chronic cardiac conditions?
- How are chronic conditions managed in the community?

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

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LINKS TO HCPC STANDARDS

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

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

[HCPC Standards of proficiency](#)