Dear GP Tutor,

We hope your teams and loved are staying well. We are writing to update you regarding plans for next academic year. It has been a very challenging time for staff and students with immense uncertainty – as you will appreciate. None of the decision we summarise below have been taken lightly.

We are very aware that we are asking a lot but you are part of the medical education family in east London and we desperately need your support to ensure new doctors can graduate safely in the future.

**Below we summarise the key changes. In the next week we will be sending a revised Preference Form with an audit of the remote consulting technologies you are using.**

We will provide more guidance and support to our GP Tutors throughout the ever changing climate.

Thank you for bearing with us and for you on-going commitment – we are as always grateful and proud of the work we do together

With best wishes

Anita Berlin, Lynne Magorrian and the whole CBME Team

**BACKGROUND TO GP PLACEMENT CHANGES**

A number of key factors are shaping GP placements due to the pandemic. Some changes are being implemented as part of the new curriculum, *Graduate2025*:

1. Teaching on campus will be very limited due to social distancing for all years at least until January probably until July 2021
2. Clinical placements need to resume as soon as possible
3. Capacity for placements in hospitals will be significantly reduced
4. Capacity GP placements may be reduced depending on group & practice sizes
5. We anticipate remote consultations will continue to be the most common mode of GP practice in 2020-21. We will support you in involving students in patient encounter.

**OVERVIEW**

* Year 1 will be large (over 400 students) as more applicants will meet offers based on *predicted* grades
* Year 1 students will have the option of remaining at home in Term 1 so placements will be virtual
* Year 2 as for Year 1
* Year 3 will start with online learning – with some clinical tutorials. GP placements will start late – either November or January 2021
* Year 4 will start as normal (early September) with an altered timetable
* Year 5 will start as normal (early September) with longer blocks (8-9 weeks)

**RISK ASSESSMENTS**

The medical school will be undertaking an initial risk screening and counselling students with person risk or shielding other at home regarding appropriateness of placement. You may wish to carry out a local risk assessment but we anticipate the vast majority of students will be very low risk due to their age.

**DETAILS GP PLACEMENT CHANGES – YEAR BY YEAR**

(Covid pandemic contingency timetable 2020/21)

**Medicine in Society in Year 1**

* **MedSoc1 will take place in virtual groups at least until January 2021**.   We are asking GP tutors to **supervise a group of twelve students**. Contact with students will be via Microsoft Teams – and you may wish to **break them into smaller groups** at times.
* Students will work through each of the themed days remotely, doing preparatory readings. On Day 1 they will meet the practice team virtually and **complete a virtual community** profile with guidance from the tutor.
* They will prepare presentations and attend **online tutorials** with you and where possible **interviewing your patients** via Teams.  Pre-recorded video consultations will be available for discussion and we hope students may be able watch you interview a patient using AccuRx
* In January, if restrictions have eased, hope up to 4 students can visit the practice each week while their peers join remotely.
* The **assessment will be reduced** : a short piece on a the contribution of BAME healthcare professionals (in December) , and an essay in March on their professional development
* Community tutors join virtually unless your community tutor works at your practice.

**Extending Patient contact (now GP2)**

* Will run on **6 full days (Tuesdays)** through the year (one per month).
* We expect that students in year 2 will not attend clinical settings until January 2021
* We are asking each practice to take **responsibility for 10 students BUT only 5 will attend at one time**  with the other 5 joining via Teams, or completing some preparatory work
* We hope you will be able to share video consultations of your patients. Pre-recorded video consultations will be available for discussion if it is not possible.
* On their GP days students should have opportunities to interview and where possible start to examine patients
* The assessment criteria will be modified to fit with the new delivery.

**GEP Medicine in Society**

* **GEP MEDSOC will take place in virtual groups at least until January 2021**.   We are asking GP tutors to take a group of **eight** students. Contact with students will be via Microsoft Teams
* **Please see Medicine in Society in Year 1 above for other details**

**Year 3**

* GP3 placements will **start in January 2021**.
* All Year 3 GP Teaching in **Term 1 will be managed centrally.**
* We will ask GP Tutors to get involved with webinars and online forums (paid at sessional rate)
* GP3 will incorporate **all clinical themes** for Year 3 (Cardio, Respiratory, Haematology, Diabetes, Endocrine, Infection, Gastro, Surgery and Cancer in the context of Primary Care).
* From **January** practices will be allocated **students in groups of 4 OR 8,** but the students will attend in two equal groups over the term.  **Half your group will attend in weeks 1-5** (the others will have medical school sessions) and **the second half will attend in weeks 6-10.**
* Practices can specify which of these options they are willing to accommodate.

**Year 4**

* **Year 4 placements will begin in September 2020**
* Your allocated students will be split into two groups, you will have one group of students in the practice for the first half of a teaching block and a second group for the second half of the teaching block. The group that are not with you will be have online teaching and resources to ensure ongoing learning.
* We anticipate that teaching activities will change to reflect the new paradigm, such as:
  + in person teaching
  + telephone or video calling from another room in the practice or from home.
  + tutorials with a selected patient (online) with one or two students at the practice.
* more guidance will follow - we recognise much of this is new
* **Year 4 - What does this mean in practice?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module** | **Before** | **Plan for 2020-21** |
| Brain and Behaviour | 4 days in practice | 1st group for 2 days and 2nd group for 2 days |
| Human Development | 2 weeks; back-to-back or split | 1st group for 1 week and 2nd group for 1 week |
| Community Locomotor | 3 days in practice | 1st group for 2 days and 2nd group for 2 days |
| Central Locomotor | 4 days taught centrally | To be taught entirely online |

**Final Year - GP 5 2020-21**

* There will be **three block of 8-9** weeks  (some students will do 4 + 5 split)
* Students will be placed in pairs where possible (although do not always need to be on site together)
* The emphasis will be clinical contact and **developing skills for telephone and video call clinics**
* Student in practices will undertake **student-led clinics** remotely,  and, where possible, F2F
* The longer block allows flexibility to:
  + Focus on generalism with reduced direct patient contact
  + Catch-up 4th year -  As students will have missed placements we will aim to focus on all  GP themes including clinical cases such as women’s health, dermatology, ENT, MSK,  paediatrics and common and complex mental health etc.
  + Cope with a **second wave** of covid
* Placement will be supported by new online materials and resources including ‘***Case Of The Week’*** discussion thread for the students

Chloe Millan

Recruitment, Events & Year 4 Locomotor Administrator

Community- Based Medical Education

Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry

Garrod Building

Turner Street

Whitechapel

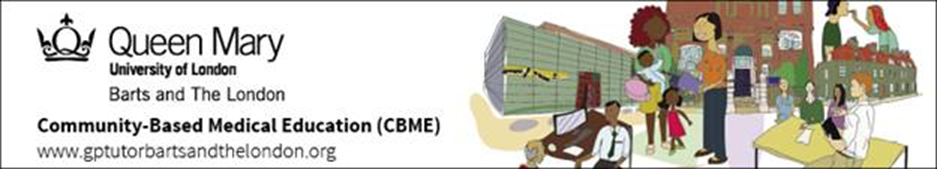
E1 2AD

Email: [c.millan@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:c.millan@qmul.ac.uk)

\*\*\*Please note that the CBME Admin Team are currently working remotely so please **contact us via email** (rather than phone)\*\*\*

Website: gptutorbartsandthelondon.org

[gptutorbartsandthelondon.org]gptutorbartsandthelondon.org

[](http://www.gptutorbartsandthelondon.org/)

**From:** Chloe Millan   
**Sent:** 29 May 2020 16:39  
**Cc:** Chloe Millan <[c.millan@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:c.millan@qmul.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Placement Pilots and Planning for 2020 – 2021

Dear GP Tutor

**A big Thank you**

We hope this email finds you and your practice teams well. I wish to start by thanking so many of you for returning your availability for teaching for the next academic year 2020 – 2021. We would also like to remind you of how much **our students value GP placements**. We have had a record number of GPs nominated by their students for the Annual GP Tutor Prize (to be announced in July) and include some quotes at the end of this message.

**Restarting GP placements – Planning in uncertain times**

The medical school is making plans for September but these are not finalised What we know for certain is that social distancing will still be in place, most consultations will be by phone or video, and direct clinical contact in general practice will remain reduced. There will also probably be a second COVID 19 wave. Current proposals are as follows (all to be confirmed) - our priorities are placements for senior medical students.

* Year 5: start September 2020
* Year 4: start September 2020
* Year 3: start November 2020 or January 2021 (online only from Sept to Nov)
* Years 1 and 2: start October 2020 (possibly with virtual placement only until January 2021)

**Your help urgently needed**

in order to finalise plans we need your help with two challenges:

1. **Capacity Survey for teaching students:** We will be sending you a very short survey next week regarding the number of students you can have in your practice, the type of remote consulting you are undertaking , readiness for online tutorials etc

2. **Piloting virtual clinical placements:**We cannot train doctors without contact with patients but we recognise this now needs to include learning through digital technology and involving students in real remote consultations with your patients. We would like to **invite you to participate in the pilots**

We are exploring the use of **remote video teaching** between students and GP tutors.  We will be offering Tutors to sign up to pilot programmes that use remote video teaching over the coming weeks.  To do this, we have setup ‘webinars’ to demonstrate the idea and discuss practical issues you might encounter.  Each webinar will last 1 hour and will include a 10-15 minute teaching encounter facilitated by one of our GP tutors.

If you would like to attend online please sign in with the following links:

**PILOT 1: GP tutor - student - patient (role-played)**

**Wednesday 3rd June 2020**, 11am-12pm

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/947aaa0f4b4146a9acfef105da7adf78>

**PILOT 2: GP tutor-student tutorial**

**Wednesday 10th June 2020**, 11am-12pm

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/db3bb5c708864094b43d91c3b9c7c53a>

**PILOT 3: Student engagement in GP clinical meeting**

**Wednesday 17th June**, 11am-12pm

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/9c053b7af4bf4bf2898da826200b2954>

The purpose of the pilots are to garner experience and feedback on what works for tutors and students in order to scale up virtual learning for the coming academic year. We will request that you complete detailed feedback.

After the sessions there will be opportunity to sign up for your own student pilots. If you have any queries or suggestions regarding the pilots please contact Louise Younie ([m.l.a.younie@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:m.l.a.younie@qmul.ac.uk) ) or for administrative queries Chloe Millan ([c.millan@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:c.millan@qmul.ac.uk))

The CBME team has been working long days switching as much material to online learning and live webinars - increasingly with GP tutors. We have wonderful feedback. Student are desperate to get back to placements and have teaching from our wonderful GP Tutors and, of course, your patients.

We look forward to working with you to make this possible

Best wishes

Anita

**What Students say about the best GP placements *(its personal!)***

“Dr X creates an environment where students feel safe to attempt histories, make mistakes, and learn from them. She shows great empathy to students and never fails to hold debriefing sessions at the end of the day so that students can reflect on what they've learnt, and the challenges they've faced during the day. I've always felt like I came away with something valuable every time I leave the surgery. Her passion towards her work and to teaching is inspiring and infectious.”

“A kind-hearted person who has looked after me and my group throughout the placement sessions. She has gone above and beyond the curriculum to expand my understanding of what it is to be a doctor and the various different roles a doctor can do. She has increased my confidence and knowledge in many ways and has enhanced my passion of doing medicine.”

“Every week was thoroughly planned and unique and involved participation on our part. He was always prompt and thoughtful with feedback, and he was always available to help if we were struggling.  The love his patients showed for his is testament to how good he is at his job, and it was a real privilege to get work with him for the time we had.”

Anita Berlin FRCGP, EdD,

[a.berlin@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:a.berlin@qmul.ac.uk)

*Mon/Wed/Thurs (Tel: 020 7882 5757)*

Professor of Primary Care Education & Head of Community-Based Medical Education

Barts & The London School of Medicine & Dentistry

**GP Undergraduate Tutors - Inspiring the next generation**(Teaching Medical Students)

*GP Tutor* [website](http://www.gptutorbartsandthelondon.org/) : [www.gptutorbartsandthelondon.org](http://www.gptutorbartsandthelondon.org/)

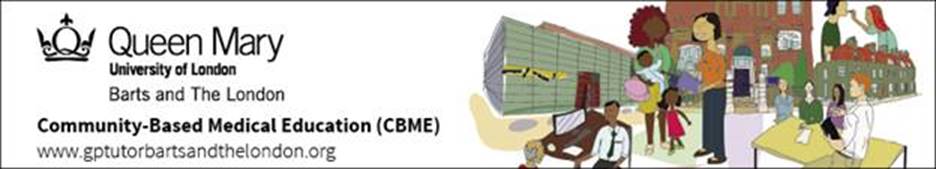
*Podcast* <https://soundcloud.com/qmulofficial/sets/the-gp-educator>

**MSc International Primary Health Care:**

**INFO**: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/coursefinder/courses/international-primary-health-care-msc/>

*Podcast* <https://soundcloud.com/qmulofficial/sets/international-primary-health>

Recent publication: *Case Study In Social Medicine: Two hands of the State - doctors and deportation of undocumented migrant (NEJM Perspective)*<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1811607>

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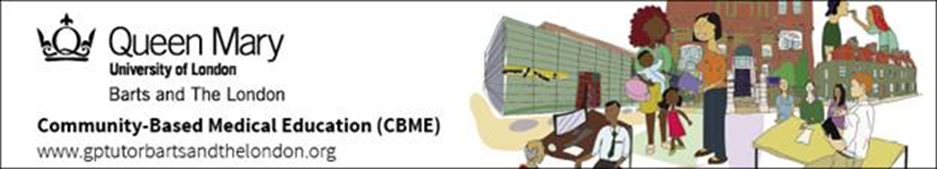
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