**Preparing to meet and shadow a health care professional**

During your MEDSOC2 placement you will have the opportunity to meet and shadow other non-medical members of the multidisciplinary team providing care to your patient/s. This experience will broaden your knowledge of the doctor’s role within the team, and help you to achieve the MEDSOC learning objective “explain the roles played by different members of the MDT and how the patient’s care is optimized by effective team working”.

Another important aspect of this experience is to develop your skills in interprofessional communication. One of the GMC requirements for new graduates is to be able to communicate clearly, sensitively and effectively with colleagues from the medical and other professions (GMC 2009, Tomorrow’s Doctors Outcome 15a). Developing your skills in quickly establishing a professional rapport with other members of the MDT will help you to become an effective member of the interprofessional teams you will meet in your future clinical role.

**Examples of MDT members you may encounter:**

**Receptionists**

**Ward Clerk**

**Social Worker**

**Speech and language therapists**

**Dietician**

**Occupational Therapists**

**Hospital Chaplain/Rabbi**

**Nurses**

**Housekeeper**

**Health Care Assistants**

**Volunteer staff**

**Health Visitors**

**Midwives**

**Pharmacists**

**Podiatrists**

**Psychiatric nurse**

**Psychologists**

**Key-support workers**

**Paramedics**

**Physiotherapists**

To prepare for each shadowing experience:

1. Reflect on what you already know about the role of the professional you will be shadowing, and what you would like to find out. For example, you might consider finding out about their training, professional regulation, work and shift patterns, range of patients/conditions worked with, patient referral routes, screening and assessment processes, interventions carried out, and how they interface with the MDT. Consider also whether you hold any preconceptions about the type of person who is a member of that profession (professional stereotypes), and what these preconceptions are based upon. Identify three questions about this profession that you want to answer through this shadowing experience, and write them down.
2. Consider what the professional needs to know about you and your learning needs prior to the shadowing experience, and how best to communicate this with them in a professional manner.
3. Contact the professional in advance (or on the day if the shadowing has already been set up for you) to introduce yourself and negotiate how and when you are going to observe them carrying out their role. You should take account of the professional’s workload and work patterns, and be prepared to be flexible.

**Assessment**

Following each shadowing experience you should complete MEDSOC 2 Multi-disciplinary Team Shadowing Report (a proforma is provided for this). This report should include your reflection on the experience rather than be a simple description of your day (see examples on QM+).

1. By the end of the MEDSOC placement you must present three completed Multi-disciplinary Team Shadowing Reports for sign off by your tutor.
2. You must upload one Multi-disciplinary Team Shadowing Report to QMPLUS by December 2nd

Failure to complete either of these requirements will be considered a matter of professionalism and may incur professionalism points.

**MEDSOC 2**

**Multi-disciplinary Team Shadowing Report**

**Student Name**

**MEDSOC Tutor**

**Date**

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| **i) Which MDT member did you shadow and in what setting? (this should be a team member who is not a doctor** |
| **ii) Briefly describe how you contacted them, introduced your self, and negotiated the shadowing arrangement. How did you find approaching someone you did not know? Was this easy or difficult? Why was this?** |
| **iii) Briefly summarise what you already knew about their professional role** |
| **iv) Write three questions that you wanted to answer through this shadowing experience, and what you found out.****1.****2.****3.** |
| **v) Reflect on the shadowing experience, including your thoughts about**1. **The profession you shadowed and their contribution to patient care within the MDT**
2. **Your own interprofessional communication skills development**
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