

Clinical Methods Block Summary

1 Aim of the Block

The Clinical Methods Block (CMB) is a 7 week course forming one of the 6 blocks the third year students complete in the junior rotation of phase 2 training at UBMS. It is based in General Practice. Two students are allocated to each practice attending 3 days per week from weeks 2-7.

The course aims to help students further develop the consultation competences required to define and manage the health problems of patients.

2 Outline of the Block

The block commences in March each year.

In the first week of the course there are introductory lectures on Consultation Skills, Paediatrics, and Dermatology.

From week 2-7 the pair of students will attend practice on three days per week, for 2 clinical sessions/day (6 sessions per week) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This involves conducting individual student led consultations with 6 patients each per session. The GP Clinical Supervisor (CS) discusses each consultation with the medical student and is then responsible for the management of each patient. After the surgery the students are then debriefed and cases discussed with the CS.

Two days per week (Mondays and Thursdays) the students attend additional lectures and teaching on consultation skills in the UBMS Academic Centres using videoed consultations, patient simulators and other teaching tools.

3 Practice Commitment

Due to the nature of the teaching and supervision of this course it is anticipated that the practice is an accredited postgraduate GP training practice. It should be situated near the teaching hospital.

The students work in adjacent rooms taking the history from unselected patients then are joined in turn by the CS to complete the examination, discussion, decision and subsequent debrief. The students will have SMART cards so can record the consultation, but the CS is responsible for the management, generating any prescriptions and investigations.

The CS is responsible for reviewing the notes and debriefing the cases with both students together at the end of the session.

It is anticipated patients are informed when making the appointment that they will see a student first, but will see the named trained GP (CS) after the history is taken.

Students are responsible for gaining consent to video and complying with UBMS and Practice procedures for handling videoed consultations.

Each 7 week block requires a Designated GP to act as the Educational Supervisor (ES). They will be responsible for planning the sessions and teaching the pair of students for at least one session each week for the whole block. They will be responsible for providing written, formative feedback for both students to upload into their e-portfolio's. They will be the principle point of contact for the UBMS for both administrative and educational activities. The role of ES can be taken by a GP who has attended the formal training for CMB provided by UBMS in November of each year. Exact dates and details TBC. It is anticipated that more than one GP can take this role on during the 6 blocks throughout the year. Ideally the ES should be a GP trainer familiar with the principles of teaching the consultation.

The CS role can be fulfilled by any trained, permanent GP in the practice. They are there principally for patient safety and to ensure the patients receive the correct treatment and advice. There is no requirement to formally teach the consultation, this is completed during the two teaching days each week.

4 Clinical Methods Block Facilitation

The two teaching days a week are facilitated by experienced GP's, many of whom have been involved in post graduate GP training, past or present. Two GP's are allocated to facilitate each block, committing to full days of teaching on Mondays and Thursdays each week for 7 weeks. The prime focus is on developing consultation skills, based on the Calgary-Cambridge model, interspersed with seminars on investigations, management of long-term conditions, pharmacology and other topics relevant to primary care. We ask that our facilitators commit to at least 2 blocks each per year.