

Concerns, Consent & Confidentiality

He who studies medicine without books sails an uncharted sea, but he who studies medicine without patients does not go to sea at all.

~ Osler

Our students are governed by a strict Code of Conduct which includes confidentiality. Your information will be respected and will be kept confidential. You will always be asked for your consent to work with a student and to be examined by them; this might be in writing or verbally (if in the middle of a consultation). You may be asked for your consent to video record your consultation with the students. You do not need to consent and your care will not be affected if you choose not to consent.

If you witness any behaviour which is not becoming of a medical student then please contact the surgery where you are registered as soon as possible so that we can address your concerns swiftly. If you would prefer you can contact the university directly on **01280 820 349**.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your continued support with respect to educating our doctors of the future.



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MB ChB Patient Information Leaflet

General Practice

The University of Buckingham sits in the heart of Buckingham. It has launched a new undergraduate medical degree course which runs over 4.5 years. The first students entered the course in January 2015. At the end of this course the students will qualify as doctors and be able to apply for Foundation Years in the UK.

General Practice is seen as a perfect opportunity for medical students to learn about illness and its impact on people.

It is also hoped that 50% of all medical students will become General Practitioners. Therefore Medical schools have been asked to ensure that their students spend as much time in General Practice as possible. The University of Buckingham Medical School has undertaken to do this. Its students spend weekly time in General Practice from week 6 onwards and we would like to thank you for allowing the students to spend time in your GP surgery.



The course, consisting of 2 phases, has been designed to give the students as much contact with patients as possible from the outset.

Phase 1

During this part of the course which lasts for 2 years the students will be spending time learning about the human body in great detail. It is an integrated course and therefore the students will learn about whole body systems at a time i.e. respiratory system or cardiac system. Whilst learning about one of these systems they will review normal anatomy and how the system works. At the same time they will learn about the illnesses that affect that system of the body and how we treat them.

During their time in Phase 1 they will participate in the Clinical Skills Foundation Course (CSFC). This is a weekly half day session where they spend time in General Practice and the hospital as well as interactive teaching at the university. The aim of this part of the course is to teach the students to be able to communicate effectively with their patients.

Whilst in phase 1 the students will visit GP surgeries in groups of 8. These groups will then be split into 2 and these

2 groups will spend time with a couple of patients who have illnesses relating to the system of the body they are currently studying.

Your GP might ask if you would be able to give up a morning of your time in order to help teach the patients of the future. All we would need you to do is to come to your surgery and allow the students to ask you questions about your medical problems and allow them to examine you. They will never ask to undertake intimate examinations. These sessions will be supervised by a senior GP who works in your surgery so should be familiar to you. You will not have to teach the student about your illness.

If you are asked to help in this way then there will be a full briefing document as well as a consent form for you to fill in.

Phase 2

This is the second half of the medical students training where they are developing an understanding of the medical specialities. During this time they will be spending 7 weeks attached to a practice for 3 days a week.

Whilst they are attached to the surgery they will be expected to learn about the role of the General Practitioner and the rest of the clinical team within and attached to the practice. Therefore you might be asked if you would mind a student sitting in on your consultation or actually undertaking your consultation under the close supervision of their trainer who will be one of the GP's working in your surgery. You might also encounter the students as they spend time with the rest of the team.

Narrative Medicine

The Narrative Medicine course is a long term follow-up project for the students to enable them to understand life with chronic disease.

You might be asked if you would consent to a student being attached to you for 18 months. During this time they will contact you and meet you at a place convenient for you periodically in order to understand the pathway

of your illness. At the end of this time the students will have to write an 8000 word essay on life for you with your illness. This is fully anonymised and there will be no connections made about you within this essay.

If you are asked to help in this way then there will be a full briefing document as well as a consent form for you to fill in.

