

Guidance on GPStRs' Taster arrangement

Aim: To widen the experience the GP trainee in ST3 has of general practice.

Objectives:

1. To learn to work in a new environment with limited induction,
2. To develop skills appropriate to their future work in general practice.
3. To consider aspects of a practice, relevant for a trainee's choice of a future workplace.
4. To experience different IT systems

Resources: Local Trainers and Trainees,

Process: The suggestion may arise from the GP trainee, GP trainer or Programme Directors when looking towards the trainees' future and preparing for working in different practices. The type of skills and knowledge the trainee hopes to gain needs to be clarified. GP trainees should initiate and lead on this process. The Taster is normally planned after completion of the final ARCP process and it requires GP Trainers' agreements. The arrangement should be carried out within the same PCT.

Example 1: GP Trainee & Trainer would approach another training practice to negotiate a maximum of 1 week attachment with a view that the host's GP Trainee would take lead on induction and support for the other GP Trainee. This process might be repeated. GP Trainer from the host practice will take responsibility for supervision, tutorial and clinical & educational governance. This means the host GP Trainer would take responsibility for both GP Trainees. There is a need for a clear educational and clinical hand over. (There is no additional trainers' grant available). Once all the details are clarified, the practice to be tasted needs to inform their doctors and staff. The tasted practice arranges informal feedback to and from the visiting trainee.

Example 2: GP Trainee & GP Trainer would approach another training practice to negotiate a swap for one week of GP trainees. There is a need for a brief induction by the host GP Training practice. GP Trainers would agree on educational & clinical handover before and after the period of swap. Once all the details are clarified, the practice to be tasted needs to inform their doctors and staff. The tasted practice arranges informal feedback to and from the visiting trainee.

An alternative model to widen experience is to encourage VTS to discuss sharing information about practices. One of the Day Release sessions is spent talking about the sort of information a trainee would like to know about a practice in which they're planning to work. A series of questions are generated. The trainees arrange to visit each other's practice and collect the information to bring back to the VTS.

This exercise helps trainees clarify the information they think is important to gather about a new practice and also to see how easy it is to obtain the information, and whether once collected it is useful.