

Job Description from a FY2 Trainee's Point of View.

General Practice

Location

Wistaria Surgery, Lymington.

The practice is set in a modern purpose built building, having rooms for GPs, Practice nurses, District nurses, Health Visitors, visiting practitioners (eg ophthalmologists, dermatologists, counsellors), the secretaries and a minor ops room.

The practice is responsible for the care of approximately 10,000 patients.

Work

My daily work is mainly supervised by one of the GP trainers at the practice, though any of the GPs at the practice will help if available. I have my own clinic room that is placed next to the GP trainers.

Generally I have 30 minutes allocated to see each patient, though this has been flexible, occasionally going down to 15 minutes. The morning session is from 0900 to 1200 and the afternoon session from 1530 to 1730. Between the two sessions, there is time to do home visits, dictate referral letters, issue regular prescriptions – usually leaving at least an hour for lunch/study.

Patient records are entered onto a standard computer system called E.M.I.S which is fairly straight forward to use. There is also a computerised clinical information database called MENTOR, which if appropriate can be accessed during a consultation (in my experience patients tend to be reassured that I reference further sources of information). If I want GP trainer to give advice or review the patient, I can send a message via EMIS, and a response usually comes within 5 minutes.

The patients that I see are usually people who ring up on the day and are allocated “urgent” appointments. However once I have seen a patient I can book them in for follow up appointments. All investigations (including bloods) are done at the hospital.

If one of my patients needs referral for admission to hospital then I am responsible for discussing the case with the accepting clinician, writing the referral letter and arranging an

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ambulance if necessary. However this does not happen that often, during my 4 months I have referred about 7 people for admission.

Overall I would definitely recommend the rotation in General Practice, even for those who are not considering it as a career in the future.