

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

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

How does the rota work?

There is one FY2 doctor on the SHO rota. Everyone else working as an SHO is singly qualified in dentistry. The SHO's cover from 8am – 10pm weekdays, 9am-10pm on Saturdays, and 9am-9pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays. On weekends you will work the full 12 or 13 hour shift. On weekdays, the on-call is shared, with one SHO being on-call from 8am-1pm. This person is then assigned elsewhere from 1pm-5pm. Another SHO works a week of 1pm-10pm shifts, and is on call every evening that week. During your on-call week, you work Monday to Thursday evenings. You then get Friday off. You work the weekend and Monday morning, and then get Tuesday and Wednesday off. At night, patients are covered by the Hospital at Night Team and the Emergency Department.

There are two SpR's assigned to Southampton who are both doctors and dentists. There is always a second on-call person available at home 24 hours a day. The second on-call rota is covered by the 2 SpR's in Southampton, a SpR from Salisbury, and several oral surgeons, or people at various stages in their training, the majority of whom are singly qualified in Dentistry. As an on-call SHO you cover the inpatients in Southampton General, and take referrals from dentists, GP's, Winchester A&E, and any other inpatient facility in the area (eg RSH/DoP). There is a separate SHO for Salisbury, but your second on-call and consultant on-call will also cover Salisbury, and therefore may be in theatre together in Salisbury. The consultant on-call rota is covered by the four consultants at Southampton along with Salisbury consultants.

What will I do?

When you are on-call you take referrals and assess patients in the OMFS Department or in A&E. There are usually patients booked in to the SHO emergency clinic during the week, which you will need to see in the OMFS Department. You are also responsible for looking after the ward patients. There will always be a consultant or SpR ward round every morning and every evening.

When you are not on-call, you follow a weekly timetable of different activities. You may be assigned to outpatient clinics or theatre. The dentists you are working with will also visit the ISTC and Winchester for dental lists. Your clinic and theatre time is bleep free as someone else is on-call.

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In general, OMFS offers a fair amount of minor procedures and uninterrupted theatre time. This makes it a very good job for aspiring surgeons. There are OMFS teaching sessions on two Monday afternoons per month, but this is likely to be during the FY2 theatre time, and is often very dentally orientated, or covers basic medical knowledge necessary for dentists working as SHO's.