

Medical Student Report – March 2005
Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust

1. Introduction

This report was produced from e-mails received from medical students who have been on placement at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital during the current academic year. Feedback was requested via a whole year email to students in years 3, 4 and 5.

2. General Comments

Start of Placement – Students were welcomed at the start of placement, and many were given an introductory talk. Students commented that the staff were warm and friendly. Students were given a clear timetable of activities for their placement. Students enjoyed being given a bleep on the placement, and found that it made it much easier for their teams, the undergraduate staff and their colleagues to contact them.

Undergraduate Office – Many positive comments were received about the staff in the undergraduate office. Glenys and Anne managed to solve almost any problems that the students gave them, from lost teams, to illness and transport to other hospitals. Students found that the staff were always very friendly, they took all problems seriously. Any suggestions for improvements to placements were always welcomed.

3. Academic

General – Students found that all staff were keen to teach. Teaching and tutorials were of a good standard, well organised and delivered at the times stated in the timetable.

Surgery – Students said there was lots of teaching which was delivered according to the timetable. If any sessions were cancelled or added, the students were bleeped. The students found the standard of timetabled teaching to be very high, with one envious 5th year commenting that the sessions they had sat in on were better than their 5th year teaching. Students had the chance to assist in theatre if they wished. Students found the extra sessions on cannulation, rhythm recognition, and the ILS course useful, interesting, and were well delivered.

Rheumatology and Orthopaedics – Students commented that there was lots of teaching, which was of a high standard. The staff were very friendly and went out of their way to help students learn. Students found that there were opportunities to get involved in theatre, with many assisting in operations.

Obstetrics and Gynaecology – Students were given lots of teaching, both consultant-led and other sessions. Students commented that the teaching was very good.

ENT (MOSS) – Students were given an ENT textbook for the week, they found this to be a novelty and it was greatly appreciated. Students found the radiology session particularly useful. There was no strict timetable, some students accidentally missed a clinic and suggested that a more formal timetable may be helpful.

Ophthalmology (MOSS) – Students found this week to be well organised, with a good mix of theatre and clinics. Students commented that there was no set teaching session in the week and suggested that this could be added to improve the week. Some students felt that this week would

benefit from one staff member taking responsibility for the whole week, who could then coordinate the students better.

Paediatrics – Students found that there was plenty of teaching. If sessions were cancelled they were rescheduled promptly.

4. Facilities

Computers – Available within library including access to Cardiff e-mails and Blackboard.

Food – Good comments were received about the food. Lunch vouchers were provided to students if they were attending a lunchtime teaching session. Students found that the vouchers were worth enough to get a good meal, not just a snack. This is something that has been raised by students when feedback has been collected for other trusts, with requests that all hospitals provide such a good lunch.

Common Room – Students liked the common room and commented that it was a nice, good sized space. Lockers were available; students found that they were big enough to fit their bags in. The plasma screen television was appreciated, and students commented that future developments that they had heard of using the screen were positive.

Library – Students found the staff to be friendly and helpful. Students found most books they needed in the collection, and were aware that they could suggest new books to the librarians.

Transport – A problem was reported with the timing of University buses. Some students found that if they used the bus, it was difficult to make ward rounds. This sometimes created problems with consultants who expected the students to be there. For students who drove, there were normally spaces, at a reasonable rate of 30p a day. The undergraduate staff sorted out taxis if students had to travel to other hospitals as part of their placement.

5. Overall

Only positive feedback was received about placements at this hospital. Students found their placements to be enjoyable, useful and really valuable learning experiences. Students found that there was an all round positive attitude towards students that is missing at many hospitals. This attitude was evident from not just the undergraduate staff, but from all staff that students came into contact with. Many students commented that they would like to work at the Royal Glamorgan in the future and requests for them to have more placements at the hospital. Comments included “the best hospital I’ve ever been to” and “Very good atmosphere, would definitely like to work there”.

Jenny Longbottom

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