

Health Care Student Report – Gwent NHS trust

1. Introduction

This report was produced from feedback received from students from the School of Health Care Sciences who have been on placement at the Gwent NHS trust during the current academic year.

2. Royal Gwent Hospital – Newport

Physiotherapy – the students were given a warm welcome by all staff. They were given a tour of the hospital, information about hospital, and a timetable, shown ward. As a rule the department was very well organised on students' arrival. However, one student found that as their tutor was away at the time their placement started they were not welcomed or looked after, and the student found it very disorganised.

Radiography - An introduction session was arranged and the students were briefly shown around the areas in which they would be working. The first week was split up by spending a day in each of the areas. All the students were given a comprehensive timetable for the entire placement.

2.1 Academic

Physiotherapy - Students felt that they were given every opportunity to maximise their learning while on placement. Students said that the teaching was excellent, often time was set aside each week to go over any queries. Staff were always open to questions and queries. There was a good mix of timetabled, structured sessions and more informal teaching. Students were able to see a good balance of patient pathologies and were able to get involved in their treatment, where relevant. Some students participated in the Journal and x-ray club meetings, in-service training, and staff meetings. However, one student found that some of the teaching was misleading and that there were few opportunities to learn, but this seemed to be a one off.

Radiography – Students have found that the quality of teaching varies considerably between radiographers and one suggested that it may be useful for them to spend more time with the more experienced staff. When tutorials have been given, they were well received; however students found that the volume of formal teaching varies considerably between departments. Students also found that opportunities to get involved varied between departments, but when they were able to participate the support given was always good. Some junior students found that they were being shown a lot of techniques that they had yet to study which was a little frustrating.

2.2 Facilities

Computers – physiotherapy students could often use the ward computer, but the radiographers found that computer access was very poor.

Common room – all students tended to use the main hospital canteen.

Library – Some physiotherapy students found that the departmental library was well stocked, others didn't know it existed. Some of the radiotherapy students had heard of a library, others had no idea that there was one on site.

Parking – almost all of the students complained about the parking. They found that it was expensive and very limited. One student's car had been broken into twice while on placement. Another student had to regularly walk 10 minutes through a residential area as that was the nearest they could park.

2.3 Overall

Students really enjoyed their placements at this hospital, and some would consider working there in the future.

During the student induction to this hospital, it may be worth taking students to the library facilities on site, and also looking at setting up a car sharing system where possible.

3. Nevill Hall – Abergavenny

ODP - the student was made to feel very welcome at the hospital, and was taken on a comprehensive tour of the department and hospital as a whole.

Radiography – students were given a tour of the department and relevant areas of the hospital during an introductory visit. On arrival students were welcomed by staff, offered a refresher tour and were given a timetable for the block. Students found this very welcoming, and found the staff to be very friendly.

3.1 Academic

ODP - The student found that there were lots of opportunities to get involved; the placement was very “hands on”. The student found they had many chances to build on the learning from formal lectures.

Radiography – students found the teaching to be very good, plenty of teaching opportunities have been offered. Students found the weekly tutorials to be of a very high standard and topics were relevant. All staff were enthusiastic with students and eager to help. Guidance was constantly available, but students were encouraged to tackle problems themselves under supervision. One student found that this approach was really good at building their confidence. Students were also able to join in some of the staff training. Students found that the all round support they received from staff was beneficial.

3.2 Facilities

Computers – Students were able to access computers within the library and in their department.

Common room – Students felt welcome in the staff common room, this helped to make them feel part of the team. Free tea and coffee was available to students. The ODP student used a small coffee room within theatres, with provision for making hot drinks etc.

Library – This was included within the tour, so all students were aware of the facility, even if they hadn’t used it. Students found the library to be stocked with a good range of books and the library staff were very helpful.

Parking - Students were able to park at staff rates, which they found to be reasonable. There were only occasional problems with finding a space.

3.2 Overall

Only positive feedback was given about this Hospital, all students seemed to have had an enjoyable and useful placement.

4. Caerphilly Miners

Feedback was received from one Physiotherapy student. The student was given a warm welcome at the start of the placement. A tour was given and timetable provided. The student found that there were lots of opportunities to learn. One of the tutors assigned to the student was very good, the other less enthusiastic and never keen to teach.

5. Ystrad Mynach

Feedback was received from a Physiotherapy student. The first morning was a little disorganised, but the student was given a guided tour of the department and other areas of the hospital.

The two tutors provided numerous teaching sessions, as well as providing a timetable that included patient contact, teaching and self study.

The common/coffee room was small, but tidy and well equipped. There was no on-site library, but the student found that there were books within the department that could be used. Parking was not a problem at this site. The student found access to the internet on a pc whilst on placement.

6. St Woolos (Springfield Day Unit)

Feedback was received from a physiotherapy student who really enjoyed their placement at the hospital. The student was welcomed and given a tour on the first day. A timetable and an information pack were provided. The staff were very friendly. The student received good teaching sessions; there were lots of opportunities to observe and good supervision of the student's own patient list.

There was no specific common room, but the canteen facilities were ok. There was no library on site, but the student found some relevant books within the department. Access to computers was very limited. Parking was also a problem.

7. Caerphilly Children's Centre

Feedback was received from a Physiotherapy student who found the placement really useful and enjoyed it. The student was welcomed on the first day, given a tour, timetable and information pack. The work was mainly observation, but there was a good variety of things to see. There were not many opportunities to manage patients, but this was expected with paediatrics. The student commented that more teaching sessions would have been useful.

The centre has a kitchen with good facilities, only limited books available for studying and there were a couple of computers. Transport would be very difficult for students without cars.

8. County Hospital – Griffithstown

Feedback was received from a physiotherapy student. They were welcomed on the day they arrived and given a tour, and a timetable. The student found the staff to be very friendly and helpful.

The student found the tutors to be very good, and the timetable was well thought out. The student gained a lot from this placement. There were plenty of opportunities to practise the skills required for out-patients.

There was a basic common room away from patient areas. A small selection of books were available in the department. Internet access was available onsite. There were no problems with parking or transport.

9. Blaina/Tredegar Hospitals

Again feedback was received from a Physiotherapy student. The student was welcomed and given a thorough tour on the first day, as well as a timetable and information pack. The staff were all knowledgeable and friendly.

The student received good teaching sessions, with lots of opportunities to observe. The student found this to be an excellent learning environment and a very good placement.

There were very good facilities in both hospitals, computers were available, and there was a very limited library. However the student was encouraged to use what was available and was able to take books home if necessary. The hospital was easy to get to and the parking was free and plentiful if you got there early.

10. Conclusion

A wide variety of placements are provided by for students within the Gwent Trust. Although this report by no means covers all of the courses and placements within the Trust, it shows views of a wide range of students who have taken the time to reply.

For the most the feedback has been very positive, with students gaining a valuable learning experience within the Trust.

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