

PLACEMENT CONSOLIDATION

FOR UNDERGRADUATE DIETITIANS

Purpose

To ensure a student can manage a caseload and workload safely and independently

Timing

Last 2 weeks of Practice Placement C

What to expect of a student

A student must manage dietetic-related elements of care, as appropriate and with limited prompting.

A student can seek advice if they have reached the limits of their practice. To seek this advice, a student must independently initiate discussion with a Practice Educator to proactively resolve queries.

What to expect of a Practice Educator

The Practice Educator must:

- Provide a suitably detailed handover of patient cases
- Be contactable throughout the day
- Co-sign student entries into medical and dietetic documentation
- Accept that responsibility for patient care ultimately rests with them

If a task mandates input from a qualified dietitian, e.g. ordering TPN, booking an interpreter, etc., it must be specified during handover so that a student is clear on how to proceed should it arise.

Caseload

Size

5-12 patients at one time. The number of patients assigned should consider patient complexity and student ability, and be a mix of new and review patients.

New patients

Students can be given new patients. The Practice Educator should make contact with a new patient on the same day as the student's first assessment of the patient.

Review patients

The Practice Educator should maintain contact with existing patients at appropriate intervals.

White time

A Practice Educator should not designate white time during consolidation. Instead, a student must decide when to take time to review the literature, complete relevant CPD opportunities, etc. Their handling of this is considered part of the proficiency on managing a caseload typical of a staff grade dietitian.

