

18 November 2020

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS FOR HEALTHCARE STUDENTS IN 2020/21

Dear Colleague

A Strategic Group has been established, chaired by Gillian Russell, Director for Health Workforce, to oversee the placement capacity issues across healthcare students, and will meet on a monthly basis. The group will act as an escalation point for the Rapid Action NMAHP Placement Oversight Group (RAPOG) and the Board for Academic Medicine (BfAM), Board for Academic Dentistry (BfAD) and Medical Undergraduate Group (MUG) and consider short, medium and longer term support to bolster placement capacity.

The first meeting of the Group took place on 7 October 2020 and membership includes Council of Deans Health (CODH), Universities Scotland (US) and NHS Education for Scotland (NES). At the second meeting on 4 November, NES presented data on the current clinical placement capacity across all Health Boards.

We are aware of the pressures on Health Boards and the remobilisation of services due to the impact of Covid-19 and very much appreciate all the good work that is being undertaken as we ensure a collective response to the pandemic. Further communication on the support and interventions that can be put in place will be issued as soon as possible.

DL (2020)/31

Addresses

For action

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Directors of Dentistry
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Meantime, for clarity, where Boards are experiencing any difficulties finding capacity to meet student placement requests, we are formally instructing that the placement of final year students, and those for whom a lack of placement may result in a delay in qualification, across all healthcare subjects, is to be prioritised during 2020/21. This is to ensure that they have the best opportunity possible to make up missed time from the academic year 2019/20 and to ensure, insofar as possible, timely graduation, registration, and a consistent workforce pipeline.

Yours sincerely,



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