

Policy on Shared Clinical Placements

AMSA recognises that in order to fully utilise clinical training resources, in some clinical settings it may be necessary for students from more than one university's Medical program to undertake clinical placements concurrently. Although arrangements at each shared clinical site are unique, AMSA believes that there are common principles that must be recognised in order to ensure continuing quality clinical training in these settings, and to facilitate a positive experience for Universities, teaching clinicians and students.

With respect to settings where medical students from different Universities are collocated for clinical training, AMSA believes that:

1. Students undertaking shared clinical placements should not be disadvantaged, in terms of exposure to learning opportunities or learning resources, when compared to students at non-shared clinical sites of the same University.
2. All students should be equally integrated into the hospital environment. To ensure this:
 - 2.1. Students should be treated equally in the clinical setting independent of their University of origin;
 - 2.2. Medical, nursing, allied health and support staff should be briefed about the presence of students from different Universities in the clinical setting;
 - 2.3. Medical, nursing and allied health staff should be informed of their role in supervision of students from different Universities; and
 - 2.4. All students should be given a comprehensive induction to the teaching facility, including information about which other Universities use the teaching facility and how they will work alongside their colleagues from other medical schools.
3. The curriculum and learning objectives for students from each University should be explicit to the students and the teaching staff. To facilitate this:
 - 3.1. Teaching staff should be made aware that students from different Universities may have different learning requirements;
 - 3.2. Universities with students in shared clinical placements should, where appropriate, collaborate to ensure there is as much overlap as is possible between curriculum and learning objectives, while still retaining consistency across the University;
 - 3.3. Universities should commit to forward planning about curriculum and learning objectives prior to integrating students in a shared clinical setting; and

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- 3.4. Content which is innovative or unique to a University's Medical program should be delivered in a way which does not impede the access of students from other Universities to clinical teaching opportunities.
4. Teaching infrastructure and learning opportunities should be shared and equitably allocated between students from different Universities. To facilitate this:
 - 4.1. All students should be made aware of the teaching opportunities that are available during the rotation;
 - 4.2. Students should be allocated to learning opportunities such that each student in the teaching facility has equitable access to learning opportunities;
 - 4.3. If a rostered learning opportunity is cancelled it should be rescheduled such that it does not interfere with the rostered sessions for other students;
 - 4.4. Where appropriate, teaching staff should be encouraged to conduct joint tutorials for all of the students on the placement;
 - 4.5. Where possible, infrastructure such as tutorial rooms, libraries, study areas, common rooms, IT facilities and parking should be equitably accessible to all students.
5. Students undertaking shared clinical placements require adequate administrative support and explicit administrative contacts for the placement. Where possible, Universities should appoint shared administrator positions for shared clinical teaching sites.
6. Assessment should reflect the teaching opportunities at shared clinical sites. To facilitate this:
 - 6.1. The times and locations at which students are assessed should be coordinated to minimise conflict over resources;
 - 6.2. Where appropriate, universities with students at shared clinical placements should collaborate to develop similar or identical clinical assessments; and
 - 6.3. Teaching staff should be made aware of the assessment requirements for all students at a shared placement.