

The effects of Covid-19 on Physiotherapy placements

A guide for students and clinical educators

Placements have changed. Below are examples of how placements may look now.

Placement type	What the placement entails	Resources (websites, documents, student/educators experiences)
Traditional	Face to face placement	CSP website
Longitudinal	Hours are accumulated over 1 year. A 4 week block also is allocated for extra tasks	Student interview
Blended	Combining 2 part time clinical areas within 1 placement	Extra information and student reflection
2:1/3:1/4:1	1 educator to 2/3/4 students	Educator reflection , student reflection (12.10 - 35.50), extra info
Remote/ Virtual	The use of electronic communications and virtual technology to deliver healthcare	Quality improvement report , Connect Health , student reflection , advice (11.00 - 20.07)
Traditional + Project	A traditional placement combined with weekly WFH days to complete a project	Student and educator interview
Leadership	Based within management and research	Student reflection , student reflection , student reflection
Role Emerging	A placement where there is no existing Physiotherapist employed	Student experiences: a qualitative study , CSP website

COVID-19 Specific Changes

- **Risk Assessment**

- Every student should be risk assessed before a face to face placement

- **Social distancing**

- **PPE**

- Surgical face mask, gloves and an apron must be worn with all patients.
- Upgraded face mask, eye protection and a full body gown should be worn during all aerosol generated procedures and with certain patient groups.

- **Educators and students unable to care share during community placements**

- **More technology is being utilised**

- Microsoft Teams is used for meetings and during assessments / treatments in inpatient, outpatient and community settings

- **Periods of isolation**

- Ensure students know the procedure if they have symptoms / a positive test / house mates have symptoms
- Difficult time for students and educators

Tips for Students

- 'There are no such thing as core placements' CSP. Due to Covid-19 you may think not experiencing certain placements will put you at a disadvantage during job interviews. However this is not the case. Having a different experience from your peers will enable you to stand out.
- Communication. This is always important, but now more than ever:
 - If you feel uncomfortable for your safety you must speak.
 - If you are isolating, the communication does not have to stop. Communicate with your educator and continue your development
- Go for it! Demonstrate your adaptability and resilience to the situation.

Tips for Educators

- Ensure your student knows where to collect their PPE.
- Might need to alter your meeting / eating spaces when having a student, in order to adhere to social distancing.
- If your place of work is short of space, 1 or 2 work from home days are appropriate for your student. You can set them a project which links to their marking criteria.
- Teaching sessions are great for your student, especially if patient contact is limited. It will increase their range of learning particularly if topics have not been studied at University
- Days can be spent shadowing other AHPs / MDT members.
- A guide to setting up a virtual placement, if you are interested: [click here](#).