

# Clinical Attachments Medical Staffing Guide

Version 1.4 (November 2024)



## Clinical Attachments

A Clinical Attachment is a period of time when a medical/dental graduate or doctor/dentist is attached to a Clinical Unit, to gain an overview of medical/dental processes and systems in a hospital setting. It is not applicable to overseas medical students seeking a medical elective and/or experience as part of their medical education.

Clinical Attachments will vary in duration depending upon the reason of the attachment but should be for no longer than 6 months duration.

There are two types of Clinical Attachment:

- Clinical Observership
- Clinical Access

## Clinical Observership

Clinical Observerships are primarily used by international medical graduates, who have been practising abroad and are coming to work in the UK for the first time. It provides an opportunity to gain a UK reference and perhaps gain future employment, through acquiring relevant NHS experience.

Observership status can be granted to applicants who do not have professional registration and confers responsibility no greater than those of a medical or dental student. During the attachment, the graduate is not given any responsibility and is not able to make clinical decisions or give clinical advice. The individual will have no 'hands on contact' with the patient and should be supervised at all times by a named consultant.

Clinical Observerships should be structured with objectives and learning outcomes agreed at the beginning of the attachment with the named consultant and the observer.

## Clinical Access

Clinical Access defines the arrangement, whereby suitably qualified doctors/dentists who do not hold an appointment with the Board may be granted access to a hospital department, for the purposes of gaining postgraduate experience or to visit the Board in order to provide and/or gain experience of certain procedures.

The permitted activities and access to facilities are those appropriate to the experience and training as defined and limited by the named consultant responsible for the supervision of the attachment.

## **Medical**

Doctors seeking clinical access must be appropriately registered with the General Medical Council (GMC). During the attachment, the doctor can participate in patient care under the supervision of a named consultant. The responsibility for the doctor will lie with the named consultant at all times. The doctor does not have consultant responsibility for the care of patients or the right to admit or treat private patients on the Board premises.

It is important to note, NHSGGC will not be assigned as the doctor's Designated Body for the purposes of revalidation with the GMC for the duration of the clinical placement.

## **Dental**

Dentists seeking clinical access must be:

1. Appropriately registered with the General Dental Council (GDC); or
2. Meet the exemption criteria outlined within Sections 37(2) and (2A) of the [Dentists Act 1984](#). This provides a legal exemption which applies in the dentist education and training context. Their effect is that a student may practise dentistry without GDC registration if all of the following criteria are met:
  - The person is recognised by a dental authority as a student of dentistry; and
  - The dentistry is undertaken as part of a dental training course (or examination) approved by that dental authority; and
  - The dentistry is undertaken under the direct personal supervision of a GDC registered dentist.

During the attachment, the dentist can participate in patient care under the supervision of a named consultant / registered dentist. The responsibility for the dentist will lie with the named consultant / registered dentist at all times. The dentist does not have consultant responsibility for the care of patients or the right to admit or treat private patients on the Board premises.

## **Clinical Attachment applications**

Applications should firstly be made through the appropriate advertisement for Clinical Placements within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde via [apply.jobs.scot.nhs.uk](http://apply.jobs.scot.nhs.uk).

Where a placement has been agreed, the Supervising Clinician should arrange for the [Clinical Placement offer form](#) to be completed.

Agreed applications should be sent to [ggc.workforcesupply@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:ggc.workforcesupply@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

Placements cannot commence until the necessary checks have been undertaken and the applicant has been issued with a letter authorising the placement.

NHSGGC is unable to provide sponsorship or support with any visa applications needed for a Clinical Attachment. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review

guidance provided by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) in relation to obtaining a [Standard Visitor visa](#).

## Clinical Attachment offer

The following documents must be reviewed before a decision can be made to offer a Clinical Attachment:

Documentation	Clinical Observership	Clinical Access
Clinical Placement offer form	Yes	Yes
Copy of CV or application form	Yes	Yes
Confirmation of right to enter/remain in the UK	Yes	Yes
Copy of photographic Identification i.e. passport or Driver Licence	Yes	Yes
Letter of Registration with appropriate professional body e.g. GMC/GDC Registration	No	Yes
Occupational Health Clearance	No	Yes
PVG Clearance	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>
Certificate of Good Standing	No	Yes <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The PVG (or DBS for non-Scottish boards) should be obtained from the HR Dept. of the applicant's current employer where applicable.

<sup>2</sup> If the applicant has been living outwith the UK for a period of one year in the past five years.

## Version control

Date	Version	Revisions
10 April 2017	1.0	First published
08 December 2022	1.1	Addition: Application process Addition: Workforce Supply Unit contact details
12 March 2024	1.2	Addition: GDC registration exclusion criteria Format: Formatted in line with accessibility requirements
23 May 2024	1.3	Revision: Right to work requirements Revision: Clarity on the application process
07 November 2024	1.4	Addition: Visa requirements Addition: Clarity on position of GMC revalidation