

Theme

Readiness

Smoothing the transition to General Practice for registrars

Learning Objectives

To better understand how to assist registrars with the transition to independent General Practice (GP)

To analyse the perceptions of GP registrars, supervisors and practice managers of a new orientation to GP program.

To evaluate the effectiveness of an intensive two week GP registrar orientation program.

Background

General Practice registrars encounter significant challenges when transitioning from hospital based medicine to general practice. These include practicing medicine with a greater degree of autonomy and new challenging clinical situations. This transition has been made more difficult through gradual changes to hospital training experiences over recent years resulting in junior doctors having less clinical experience and opportunities for decision making than in the past.

Intervention

James Cook University (JCU) GP Training facilitates general practice registrar training throughout a large geographical area in Queensland. This year a two-week comprehensive registrar orientation program was introduced to assist registrars with the transition from hospital practice to general practice. Opportunities were provided to gain the new knowledge required for independent primary care practice including dedicated supervisor time observing and providing feedback to registrars on their consultation management skills.

Methodology

All GP registrars commencing their primary care terms, their supervisors and their practice managers were provided the opportunity to participate in a survey evaluating their experience to explore the usefulness of the content and resources provided. It is intended to do semi-structure interviews of a sample of participants and these results will be available for the conference.

Results

Results are still being gathered but preliminary results suggest the experience of registrars, supervisors and practice managers varied, with the majority finding the orientation period and associated resources very useful and easy to integrate into their practice.

Discussion

A structured and standardised two-week orientation program is a useful tool that prepares registrars for the transition to primary care. Supervisors found having a resources provided saved time and provided structure, complementing their usual orientation process.