

## Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Why PGPPP?

Put simply it's a try before you buy. No strings attached.

Do I need to get a Medicare provider number?

If you're admitted to the program, you will require a provider number for the duration of your placement. You will need to complete an Application for Medicare Provider Number for a Medical Practitioner and a PGPPP Medicare Provider Number Form. Both forms require your General Practice Supervisor's details and generally take 4 to 6 weeks to process so you need to initiate this process in plenty of time before the commencement date of your placement. The provider number is only for your Practice site and for the duration of the placement.

I am an Overseas Trained Doctor (OTDs) or Former Overseas Medical Student, can I participate in the program?

Yes, OTDs and Former Overseas Medical Students are able to participate and will also have access to provider numbers for the duration of your placement. Interns will have limited provider numbers as described above. OTDs and Former Overseas Medical Students will not be restricted by outer metro or rural placements for the purposes of the PGPPP.

What will I be doing in the program?

Your placement will expose you to a real life experience in the general practice world. You will be involved in many areas of health care such as aged care, sexual health, drug and alcohol, paediatrics, home visits and acute and chronic disease management. Though your placement will be supervised, you will gain independence and a sense of autonomy in your health care management skills. You will gradually build up to seeing an average of two – three patients per hour, with a maximum of four per hour.

How long will I be there for?

General practice placements can vary in duration to be consistent with hospital terms. However, placements are of 10 - 12 week duration.

Who will pay me?

You will remain an employee of the Hospital as this placement is considered to be a normal hospital rotation. The practice will ensure that the hours of work and work condition are in accordance with the Medical Officers (Queensland Health) Certified Agreement for the level of the PGY2 Jnr Dr. After hour's employment and "on-call" activities are negotiated with the practice and must take into account the certified agreements mentioned above

Who pays for me to get to the Practice?

We do. Submit a claim for Travel reimbursement form to QRME and we will pay for one return trip to and from the Practice.

What can I do to prepare for my placement?

The general practice environment and working routine will be a new experience for you. QRME will guide you through an orientation program that will assist in your understanding of the general practice world, providing care in the community and your new role in the clinic. Junior doctors are encouraged to do some research and maintain an open mind in respect to what you will experience in your placement. Things we would encourage you to do:

- Make sure you have completed a PGPPP application for a Medicare Provider Number.
- Contact your Practice regarding accommodation, special needs, family visits.
- Contact your Hospital/Department regarding mail, payslips, and email.
- Research and enquire about your clinic's demographics and health care services.
- Make contact with junior doctors who have been involved in the program to find out what you can expect during the program.

How many hours a week do I work?

Under your Industrial Agreement junior doctors are expected to work 38 hours for a full-time placement. After hour's employment and "on-call" activities are negotiated with the practice and must take into account the certified agreements mentioned above.

What will it cost?

The program is free for junior doctors. The cost of the program is underwritten by Commonwealth government funding through the PGPPP.

What about medical indemnity?

As you will remain an employee of your hospital on rotation in General Practice you remain indemnified by your hospital for the placement; however, personal insurance is strongly recommended.

What education can I expect?

Upon taking up your placement you will be given a comprehensive orientation to the Practice. Your supervisor will work with you on a learning plan for the placement and will provide you with a minimum of six hours of education each week. This will take a variety of forms including case discussions, work shadowing, practical skills sessions, meetings, tutorials, video consultations and review. All placements are accredited. As well as the orientation provided by the Practice, you will also attend an orientation delivered by QRME.

Will the placement be recognised as part of my General Practice training pathway?

Participation in the program counts towards your hospital time should you decide to apply for inclusion in the GP Training Program.

Do I have to give feedback?

Yes, feedback is the same as any hospital rotation with mid and end of term reporting.

Who do I talk to about my PGPPP rotation?

You can talk to your Hospital/Department, QRME or the Practice in person, by phone or email. All are involved in the program and willing to make it the best possible experience for you.