

Prevocational General Practice Placements Program (PGPPP)

FAQ for Junior Doctors

Why PGPPP?

The PGPPP program can be an enlightening experience providing an opportunity to experience primary and community based care.

Do I need to get a Medicare provider number?

- All PGY 2/3 doctors must have a Medicare provider number specific to the practice. Medicare processing takes between 4 to 6 weeks so doctors will be contacted by the VMA and the practice some time before the commencement date of your placement with the appropriate paperwork. The provider number is only for your Practice site and for the duration of the placement.
- All Victorian PGPPP doctors will require their prescriber number.

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.

How long will I be there for?

General practice placements can vary in duration to be consistent with hospital terms. However, most placements are of 10, 12 or 13 weeks duration.

Who will pay me?

The doctor remains in the employment of the hospital and so doctors will continue to be paid by the hospital.

What can I do to prepare for my placement?

The general practice environment and working routine will be a new experience for you. You will receive 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 talk to others about their experiences in their placement. Things we would encourage you to do:

- Make sure you have completed a PGPPP application for a Medicare Provider Number.
- 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.
- Contact the junior doctor currently in the placement for a handover

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.

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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?

You will be provided with education during your placement that will enhance your understanding of the role of general practice and of the integration between primary and secondary health care. Teaching will be with your supervisor and other GPs or staff within the practice. You will also have contact with a medical educator from the VMA who can act as a source of advice and will visit you during your term.

Will there be an orientation session?

Upon taking up your placement you will be given a comprehensive orientation to the practice by practice staff and your local PGPPP Provider will also be involved in the orientation session.

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

For PGY2+ placements, 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 (if applicable) and end of term reporting.

Who do I talk to about my PGPPP placement?

You can talk to your Hospital/Department, a PGPPP Provider 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.