**The Patient Project**

**Aims**

The Patient Project aims to increase your understanding of patient-centred care in the context of chronic and complex illness. We are also asking you to analyse the patient’s care and make constructive suggestions for change. Your GP tutor will identify a suitable patient for you to interview at the patient’s home.

The patient project will also be an opportunity to practise your presentation skills and to gain valuable feedback from the practice team. It will hopefully enhance the care of the patient by exploring unmet needs and the wider issues surrounding care pathways and the primary/secondary care interface.

**Content**

You are expected to cover:

**Patient’s Narrative and journey**

* Take a detailed history from the patient and gain an understanding of how the patient lives with their condition and how they have adapted to a life with chronic illness.
* Describe the patient’s journey from symptoms to diagnosis and ongoing care.

**Management**

* Look at the current management and compare this with established protocols/ guidelines.
* Focus on each of the patient’s symptoms and try to relate them to their medical problems, treatments, and/or psychosocial factors.

**Needs Assessment**

* Carry out a needs assessment and describe which members of the primary and secondary healthcare team, and which family members and lay professionals meet the patient’s needs.
* Describe how these people communicate to ensure optimal patient care.
* Identify any unmet patient needs or an area of care which you feel could be improved.
* Discuss and evaluate possible improvements in patient care, given the available resources. You could look at current practice or local protocols. Some examples of this could be: blood monitoring of cytotoxic medication, referral to community physio/OT, access to urgent appointments/home visits for palliative care patients/ dissemination of information to out of hours services (OOH)/ availability of syringe driver OOH/ home rescue packs etc.

**Ethics and Personal Reflection**

* Consider whether the patient’s care raises any ethical issues (for example confidentiality, autonomy, resource allocation or professional ethics). Provide a balanced discussion of the key dilemmas, and consider your own standpoint.
* Reflect on what you have learned from the patient project and how you might use what you have learned in your future career.

**Presentation skills**

* You will be assessed on your presentation style and use of IT.
* All references should be correctly cited.

**Presentation and assessment**

Begin thinking about the project in the first week of the attachment. You will be allocated sessions for visiting the patient and preparing your presentation.

Arrange a date to present your project during the final week of your attachment. You should do this at your first meeting in the practice.

The patient project will be assessed as a formative exercise as a Power point presentation to your GP practice, ideally within a regular practice meeting. It should be 10 minutes long, with 10 minutes for discussion. You are free to use any other aids or props that you think will make your talk more engaging. Your GP tutor will give you written and verbal feedback.

If it is not possible to present your project at a practice meeting you should arrange a meeting with your GP tutor and present it to them.

Please bring a printed copy of your Power point presentation (six slides a page) and the feedback sheet to the department on the final day of your attachment.

**Project Prize**

The Project judged by the departmental tutor to be best in the year will be put forward for the annual North-West Thames Provost Prize (£100) awarded by the Royal College of General Practitioners.