**Significant event analysis**

You are required to produce **one** SEA during your attachment.

The GMC anticipate the SEA will be an important tool in the revalidation process. All doctors, in all disciplines, will be obliged to write SEAs on a regular basis. A well-constructed SEA shows you are a student/doctor who is capable of reflecting on your day-to-day experiences and identifying your learning needs. With the constant pressure of work and patient contact it is often surprisingly difficult to find the time to reflect on our work experiences in sufficient detail. The formal structure of the SEA helps you achieve this. Despite medical students’ traditional reluctance, there is significant educational research evidence to show SEAs are a very effective way of learning! The evidence also suggests that the scope of the learning is broadened by discussing it with another person. It is for these reasons we are asking you to undertake one SEA and discuss it with your teacher.

A Significant Event is *any* incident that:

* makes you think... ‘this is what Medicine is all about’
* causes you distress or anxiety
* makes you feel proud of your achievements
* exposes a gap in your understanding
* arouses other important thoughts or feelings

This event may arise out of a patient interaction, an interaction with your GP teacher or another member of the Primary Care Team. Equally, it might be something you have observed in a non-clinical setting during your attachment.

Depending on the nature of the event, headings might include:

* Patient details (age, sex, ethnic origin etc…)
* What happened?
* Patient description – how did the patient appear to you?
* GP, other health professional or your own approach – what was said or done?
* What skills, knowledge and attitudes might be useful with this type of problem?
* Your thoughts and feelings about the event?
* Conclusion and learning plan
* Notes after discussion with GP teacher including plans to address any outstanding issues

Please remember that your conclusion and learning plan are essential, irrespective of the event described.

There are examples of good SEAs on the section on [examples of coursework](Examples%20of%20coursework.doc)..