

Nursing Student Clinical Placements – Information

Eastern Ranges GP Association (ERGPA) has partnered with Monash University to facilitate nursing student clinical placements throughout the division.

ERGPA is asking practices to consider providing a Monash student nurse placement. Placements are a valuable recruitment tool and contribute greatly to training the next generation of practice nurses. They also provide links to Monash University, innovation, and they assist with practice nurse duties. Placements are flexible and can be completed part-time or in an arrangement across practices. ERGPA will assist you with supervisor training, support and administrative assistance. Remuneration is provided.

What benefits can a nursing student placement bring to your practice?

Recruitment and retention of nurses is improved by offering training to students

- Many students consider a career as a practice nurse after a clinical placement in general practice.
- A practice supervising a nursing student demonstrates commitment to practice nursing.

Improvement of practice nurse skills

- Students bring new learning and developments in nursing to the practice.
- The process of training and reflection is useful in improving supervising practice staff skills.

Contribute to the education of the next generation

- Practices have accumulated years of knowledge and experience in carrying out their important work. A nursing student clinical placement is the perfect opportunity to pass this knowledge on.
- The general public support and encourage practices that are training nurses.

Links to Monash University

- Providing a nursing student placement connects a practice with Monash University, providing access to innovations, research and networks.
- Training a student nurse leads to formal recognition by Monash University. A certificate of recognition will be given to the practice for public display.

Remuneration

- \$274 per placement (40hrs), per student, is provided to the practice.

Satisfaction of Infrastructure Grant and Practice Incentive Program (PIP) requirements

- Some grants or PIPs obligate practices to achieve greater educational activity. This may be achieved through a demonstrated commitment to training student nurses.

What is a placement?

A placement is the orientation, supervision and assessment of a student. Each placement is **40 hours** in length. This may be done as 5 x 8 hour days in one week, or on a part-time basis (e.g. every Tuesday and Wednesday, and Thursday 1-4pm, for two weeks).

When is a placement?

The following dates in the 2012 academic year are the placement dates:

- 1st Semester: Week of the 5th of March
- 2nd Semester:
 - Weeks of 13th August to 1st October inclusive
 - Week of 15th October
 - Week of 12th November to 3rd December

Placements outside of university semesters will also be considered. The 2012 university semesters are from 20th February to 22nd June, and 16th of July to 16th November.

What level of student nurse? What can they do?

- Third-year Bachelor of Nursing students from Peninsula Campus.
- Pre-service Masters students from Clayton Campus who have an Undergraduate Degree, life experience, and have chosen to return to study to become a nurse.

All students are in the process of completing their final year and have advanced clinical skills. Clinical placements are for the consolidation of these skills.

What does your practice have to do?

There are simple requirements and expectations to be met for a Monash nursing student placement. ERGPA will assist you directly by organising preceptor training and providing administrative support. We will provide a brief Placement Manual that contains all necessary orientation information, learning objectives, training requirements and assessment forms. This will be your “go to” book for the placement. In addition, we will meet with you to discuss placement details and support you through the process.

All placement practices are required to:

Be an accredited general practice

Recognise that the student will be supernumerary during the placement

Ensure that there is a Registered Nurse who is willing to preceptor the student during the placement

- Monash University will be running a short preceptor training course in October/November 2011 for registered practice nurses who will be student preceptors. The course has no cost for participants. In addition, there will be preceptor support throughout the placement by ERGPA staff, like a regular check up phone call, practice visit and advice.

Ensure that a Registered Nurse is available to the student at all times

- This means that the student, even when working unattended, has access to a registered nurse.

Ensure that practice policies and procedures are current and reflect best practice care

- ERGPA can assist with any aspect of best practice care. You are probably already doing it. A student placement can be an opportunity to reflect on how to do things even better.

Plan to meet and support the student's learning needs, from a practice team perspective

- ERGPA will meet and work with you to satisfy student learning requirements.

Provide the student with a brief orientation and induction

- ERGPA will provide a "go to" manual and assistance with orientation. You will have your own orientation process for new staff, and student orientation is very similar.

Confirm medico-legal and contractual responsibilities

- Students are covered by Monash University insurance. Public Liability is already covered by your practice.

Monitor and evaluate the student placement and give constructive feedback, including feedback from the student

- Each placement requires assessment and feedback. Monash University provides preceptor training which covers this and ERGPA can provide a manual and support.

Maintain links with the student's educational institution

- ERGPA will facilitate this process.

In addition, ERGPA will complete any administrative requirements that do not require practice attention.

Who do I talk to about a placement?

Please contact Greg Poynter, Clinical Integration Officer, on 9871 1000 or 0424 580 871, or email greg.poynter@ergpa.com.au.

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