Welcome from the new Director of Education and Training

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year and welcome you to the new term which commenced on 6 February 2017.

I am pleased to have started this year as Director of Education and Training and already 2017 has some exciting announcements. Whether you are a new GP registrar this year or nearly completing training, I hope you find your GP Synergy experience prepares you for an exciting future as a confident and competent general practitioner.

Online orientation module for 2017 cohort registrars

For new 2017 cohort registrars, you should have now completed the online orientation module sent in January. This module provides a solid start to understanding the requirements of GP training including what is required of you from day one.

GP registrar education program

Our registrar education program is ever evolving and improving based on regular evaluation. Registrar education consists of core topics relevant to all registrars as well as locally specific topics. Depending on the requirements, the education is delivered regionally or centrally. There is also a comprehensive exam support program for both RACGP and ACRRM assessments.

New online in-practice teaching tool - SupportGPT and ResourceGPT

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new educational resource for registrars in their first or second GP term called SupportGPT (and ResourceGPT). SupportGPT is an optional online module for you to use with your supervisor for in-practice teaching sessions in your first or second GP term. ResourceGPT is available with this and has over 1,300 resources catalogued. If you have not yet had the chance to review the SupportGPT factsheet and video, I highly recommend these as a starting point.

SupportGPT is available via GPRime2 in Quicklinks and Subscriptions – make sure you review all the resources available such as eTherapeutic Guidelines (eTG), Australian Medicines Handbook, BMJ best practice and many more!

Reminders for GP registrars entering a GP term

For those of you moving into GP terms, it is important you have an orientation at your new practice and talk to your supervisor about learning planning for the term. What areas can you ask your supervisor to focus on? What can you do to make the most of this unique practice experience? What special interests does your supervisor have that you can learn from? Most importantly, encourage your supervisor to observe your consultations, review your clinical reasoning skills and complete the competency assessments when they are required.

Lastly – good luck with assessments!

To all the registrars sitting summative assessments this term for ACRRM and RACGP I wish you good luck and a good night’s sleep the night before.

Dr Vanessa Moran | Director of Education and Training - ACT and NSW
Getting started in your new term

If you are entering a GP term in 2017, don’t forget there are a number of important activities that need to take place in the first few weeks of the term starting:

Practice orientation

When you start in a new practice, it is important you are properly orientated. To help practices orientate registrars to a practice, we have developed some orientation resources which registrars can also access. Head to GPRime and look under ‘Forms, Documents and Links’ – just search ‘orientation’.

Discuss your learning plan needs and the supervision plan with your supervisor

Within the first four to six weeks of term your supervisor will spend time reviewing your learning needs to help you build your learning plan.

Supervision plan

As part of this process, your supervisor may complete a supervision plan and consider how to assess your current level of competence, especially with regard to high risk or red flag areas. The aim of the plan is to identify areas requiring closer supervision to optimise training and minimise the risk of adverse outcomes for patients and registrars.

The supervision plan covers a comprehensive range of presentations and procedures that are common to general practice. There are two distinct sections:

1. A section which lists potentially high risk presentations. These require review by a supervisor, initially before the patient leaves the room, and then at the end of the day as the registrar’s competence and confidence in managing these important presentations increases.
2. A list of presentations and procedures which may be signed off without first being observed, depending on the level of previous experience and confidence of the registrar in dealing with these issues.

Pre-Term Assessment Report (PTAR)

If you have already commenced in a GP term, your supervisor will have reviewed your Pre-Term Assessment Report (PTAR) prior to you starting. The PTAR is a summary of your training. It includes your contact details, a history of your placements, and all the competency assessments completed on you during GP community based terms, such as Clinical Teaching Visits (CTVs) and competency assessments completed by your other supervisors. Please note: If you joined GP Synergy from another RTP, your information will only appear from 1 January 2016 onwards.

You can access your PTAR at any time in GPRime – go to your ‘Trainee Portfolio’ and click on the ‘Summary tab’.

Ongoing in-practice requirements – at a glance

A summary of all the in-practice training requirements can be found in the ‘In-practice training requirements at a glance’ document available in GPRime (and also attached to the rear of this document). Remember – to access the resource links you will need to be logged into GPRime.

To access:
1. Login to GPRime2
2. Go to ‘Forms, Documents and Links’ in the top toolbar
3. Search ‘requirements’
Introducing a new online in-practice tool: SupportGPT

SupportGPT is a new online in-practice teaching resource for supervisors, and registrars in their first or second GP term. When undertaking your learning and supervision planning with your supervisor, registrars in their first or second GP term are encouraged to review the modules and consider which ones might be useful.

What’s included in SupportGPT?

SupportGPT has many features:

1. **Registrar modules**: There are 16 modules that can be completed by registrars prior to an in-practice teaching session, and activities that can be completed during in-practice face to face teaching time with their supervisor.
2. **Weekly in-practice teaching planner**: This planner can be used in a flexible manner and may be used by a supervisor to guide in-practice weekly teaching sessions.
3. **ResourceGPT**: An index of over 1,300 clinical resources which are searchable and can be used in any order as problems present.

Who can access SupportGPT?

SupportGPT is only accessible by registrars in their first or second GP term.

How can you access SupportGPT?

1. Login to GPRime2
2. Go to the ‘Quick Links’ tab in the top toolbar
3. Select ‘SupportGPT’

How can you find out more about using SupportGPT?

1. View the [SupportGPT flyer](#)
2. View the [5-minute instructional video](#)

Both resources are also available in GPRime2 under ‘Forms, Documents and Links’. Just search ‘SupportGPT’.

Examples of how to use SupportGPT

**Registrar Michael**

Michael’s supervisor is really great at helping out with all those little problems as they arise during the day. He is a fountain of knowledge and teaches a lot on the run. Michael is finding that his protected teaching time is not as useful as he would like. He asks the supervisor if they can use the SupportGPT modules and follow the weekly activities outlined in the term planner. Michael now has a structure to follow which suits his kind of learning. He now has a great learning plan which keeps him on track.

**Registrar Tiffany**

Tiffany is feeling overwhelmed by all that there is to learn as a registrar. She has heard that the fellowship exams are tough and that some of the exam components have a low pass rate. She is in a large group practice, and the in-practice teaching is often shared with other registrars. She finds a lot of the teaching useful, but sometimes feels that she needs to address her own learning needs a bit better. She works her way through all of the support GPT modules on her own and finds the activities and references very useful.
Medicare provider number reminder

This information is important for any GP registrar entering a GP term in 2017.1 (Feb-July).

All registrars entering GP terms must check the letter they have received from Medicare advising them of their provider number approval. Registrars should confirm that they have been issued with a number with full billing rights before they commence billing patients. Registrars with refer and request rights will only be able to refer patients and request investigations for them, until a provider number with full billing rights is received.

Important college membership reminder for 2017 cohort registrars

If you are a 2017 cohort you must be a member of either/both RACGP or ACRRM from the start of term.

If you are on Category 1/2/3 leave you are exempt from this requirement.

If you are in hospital you must be a GP registrar member (otherwise the year will not be counted towards your training).

Have you just finished a hospital based term?

- If you have just completed an Extended Skills in Hospital term – please send your report to your Medical Educator.
- If you have just completed your hospital terms – please send your Education Coordinator your Hospital assessment forms and/or statement of service.

Emergency skills reminder

ACRRM registrars must complete a REST course and other emergency medicine courses during their training. Registrars are strongly encouraged to complete the REST course before working in a rural or remote GP term.

RACGP registrars must have a valid CPR (within one year) of starting their GPT1 term. If you are working in a rural or remote location registrars are strongly encouraged to also complete an ALS course before starting the term.

If you are a RACGP registrar nearing Fellowship you must have a valid ALS (within 4 years) and CPR (within one year) prior to completion of training.

For more information on these requirements please refer to the “CPR and ALS requirements and guidance document for GP registrars” available on GPRime in Forms, Documents & Links.
2017 AGPT policy changes

There have been a number of AGPT policies changes that have come into effect from 1 January 2017.

GP Synergy is currently reviewing these policy changes and any impact on current GP Synergy policies.

A summary of the policy changes will be made available to all registrars, supervisors and practice managers shortly.


Free eTG, AMH online and other subscriptions for registrars

GP Synergy provides supervision (and registrars) access to the following subscriptions:

- British Medical Journal (BMJ) Best Practice and BMJ online
- Full electric Therapeutic Guidelines (eTG)
- Australian Medicine Handbook (AMH)
- AMH Aged Care Dosing Companion
- AMH Children’s Dosing Companion
- plus 100+ ebooks and 33+ journals via OVID premium advantage.

How to access:

1. Login to GPRime2
2. Click on ‘Quick Links and Subscriptions’ in the top left hand corner.

Rural registrar support

GP Synergy offers a range of supports to registrars training in rural locations.

Rural support officers – relocation, networking and pastoral support

If you are currently training in, getting ready to move to or changing rural training locations, you might like to get in touch with your local Rural Support Officer (RSO). RSOs are staff dedicated to helping registrars and their families relocate and settle in to their new rural communities. They are also there to provide ongoing pastoral support for registrars in rural placements.

How to contact your local RSO:

Kerry Robins
New England/Northwest | North Coast | Hunter Manning & Central Coast
kerry_robins@gpsynergy.com.au

Maria Logan
Western NSW
Maria_Logan@gpsynergy.com.au

Sue Hefren
Murrumbidgee
sue_hefren@gpsynergy.com.au

April McFadden
South Eastern NSW
april_mcfadden@gpsynergy.com.au

What other supports are available to registrars training in rural areas?

The Registrar Support Guidelines outline the support and reimbursements available for registrars, including:

1. Subscriptions
2. Travel and accommodation to attend compulsory GP Synergy workshops
3. Advanced Life Support (ALS) and emergency course education support for registrars training in rural locations
4. Rural relocation and education support

Are you an ADF registrar?

GP Synergy provides individualised support for ADF registrars. For assistance, please contact:

- Felicity Gemmell-Smith | Special Education Programs Manager - felicity_gemmell-smith@gpsynergy.com.au
- Dr Anne Eastwood | Deputy Director Education and Training - anne_eastwood@gpsynergy.com.au
- Dr Nicole Leotta | Senior Medical Educator - nicole_leotta@gpsynergy.com.au
The Registrar Clinical Encounters in Training (ReCEnT) research project is a flagship general practice (GP) education and training project. The ReCEnT project is the first of its kind to document Australian GP registrars’ educational and clinical experience over time by measuring:

- what registrars do, the types of patients and conditions they see and the advice they provide
- how registrars’ practice changes during their training.

ReCEnT is an important tool to aid reflection on practice. Reflection can be facilitated by a registrar comparing their data with that of other registrars, with that of established GPs, as well as with the registrar’s results in previous terms. Critical evaluation is encouraged – was this a typical week? Are the results unexpected? Am I different from other registrars? If so, why might that be? Am I getting an adequate range of clinical presentations for optimal learning (and exam preparation)? Do I need to reconsider any aspect of my practice?

**How does ReCEnT work?**

The project requires GP registrars to:

- complete encounter forms, recording details of 60 consultations, in each of their GP training terms. These take around 1-2 minutes to complete per form (i.e. up to 2 hours in total each term)
- repeat the process in each of their three GP terms.

GP registrars are provided with a feedback report that compares their consultations to the larger group of registrars and, in some cases, national GP data. Registrars are strongly advised to share this information with their supervisors. If registrars provide consent a copy of their report can be sent directly to supervisors.

When a training practice has had at least five registrars participate in ReCEnT, the supervisor will receive an Annual Practice Report.

The practice report enables supervisors to see registrars’ clinical exposure as well as aspects of their clinical and education practice. The report also provides a comparison with other training practices.

**Which subregions are participating in ReCEnT in 2017?**

ReCEnT is being rolled out in stages across GP Synergy’s training regions.

In 2017, registrars in their first, second or third GP term in the following subregions will be participating:

- Hunter, Manning and Central Coast (HMCC)
- New England/North West (NE/NW)
- Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney (NWNS)
- Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney (CESWS)

Remaining GP Synergy subregions will be joining the program in 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Subregion</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>Distribution</th>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Feedback</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>HMCC</td>
<td>3 March</td>
<td>5 May</td>
<td>20 March</td>
<td>18 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NE/NW</td>
<td>7 Feb</td>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>28 April</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NWNS</td>
<td>15 March</td>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>17 May</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CESWS</td>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>HMCC</td>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>23 April</td>
<td>18 April</td>
<td>20 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>NE/NW</td>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>28 April</td>
<td>22 April</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>NWNS</td>
<td>17 May</td>
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<td>24 April</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>CESWS</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>NE/NW</td>
<td>28 April</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>CESWS</td>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>7 May</td>
<td>10 May</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have any questions about receiving or handing back your ReCEnT packs, please contact Katie Mulquiney on 02 8321 4242 or by email, Katie_Mulquiney@gpsynergy.com.au.

If you have any questions about the overall project, please contact Parker Magin on 02 8321 4540 or by email, Parker_Magin@gpsynergy.com.au.
Need some help?

Education Coordinators

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
  Sonia Cattley - 02 8321 4028
  sonia_cattley@gpsynergy.com.au

- **Hunter, Manning and Central Coast:**
  Heidi Heinz - 02 8321 4238
  heidi_heinz@gpsynergy.com.au

- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**
  Sonia Cattley - 02 8321 4028
  sonia_cattley@gpsynergy.com.au

- **New England/Northwest:**
  Natasha Junge - 02 8321 4015
  nataasha_junge@gpsynergy.com.au

- **North Coast:**
  Joanne Sayer - 02 8321 4128
  joanne_sayer@gpsynergy.com.au

- **Western NSW:**
  Grace Murray - 02 8321 4214
  grace_murray@gpsynergy.com.au

- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
  Catherine Daly - 02 8321 4149
  catherine_daly@gpsynergy.com.au

- **South Eastern NSW:**
  Renee Jamieson - 02 8321 4164
  renee_jamieson@gpsynergy.com.au

Registrar Liaison Officers (RLO)

- **Western NSW:**
  Hugh Le Lievre - RLO_western@gpsynergy.com.au

- **Nepean, Western and North Western Sydney:**
  Sama Balasubramanian – RLO_NESydney@gpsynergy.com.au

- **North Eastern NSW:**
  Bob Vickers - RLO_HNECC@gpsynergy.com.au

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
  Rebekah Hoffman - RLO_LESydney@gpsynergy.com.au

Whilst we continue to recruit to regions, please contact one of the RLO team listed above who will be able to assist in the interim.

Positions Vacant:

Are you interested in becoming an RLO? Find out more by visiting our website under employment opportunities or contact Nicky Doneva on nicky_doneva@gpsynergy.com.au

Expressions of interest are currently being sought for the following RLO positions:

- **South Eastern NSW**
- **North Coast**
- **Murrumbidgee and ACT**

Activities of interest

**ALS/EMST courses:**
- STEMI ACLS | 11 Mar | Sydney | More information
- ACRRM REST | Various - More information

**Other activities:**
- Sydney Annual Women’s and Children’s Health Update | 18 February | Darling Harbour | More information
- FPAA National Certificate in Reproductive and Sexual Health for Doctors | 27 Feb – 3 Mar | Ashfield | More information
- Cremorne GP Group | Last Tuesday every month from 28 Feb | Cremorne | More information
- Black Dog Institute Workshop: Dealing with Anxiety Disorders | 25 Feb | Wollongong| More information

For further information please see the External Education Activity Noticeboard.
## In-practice training requirements at a glance

### Timeline per 26 wk term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Hospital*/ES-Hospital</th>
<th>GPT1/PRRT1 first GP term</th>
<th>GPT2/PRRT2 second GP term</th>
<th>GPT3/PRRT3 third GP term</th>
<th>ES-GP/PRRT4 fourth GP term</th>
<th>Mandatory Elective/Extension Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Before term starts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Become a member and maintain membership of your fellowship college</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(or your training time will not count).</td>
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<tr>
<td>RACGP: Complete CPR course within 12 mths of GP term starting (or training time will not count)</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Re-enrool</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participate in term placement if entering a GP term</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor reviews your Pre-Term Assessment Report (PTAR)</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-GP Term Assessment (prior to entering your first GP term)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation to practice</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First day in practice</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Discuss your learning needs and learning plan with your supervisor.</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your supervisor will also complete a supervision plan for you for the term.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your supervisor should directly observe you seeing patients.</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1-3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Receive on-site supervision</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive weekly in-practice teaching*</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete weekly practice logs</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in Training Advisory (TA) contact with GP Synergy ME</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Participate in Clinical Teaching Visits (CTVs)</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor formative assessment of your consultation skills using the</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competency Assessment**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete a formative assessment of your supervisor</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in mandatory GP Synergy workshops***</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete online research module (available in late 2016.2)</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Aboriginal health requirements***</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory completion of Extended Skills (ES) learning plan criteria</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RACGP: Complete ALS within four years of applying for fellowship</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACRRM: Complete ACRRM emergency course requirements</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACRRM: Complete and update ACRRM training plan and procedural logs</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in ReCEnT where applicable</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Registrars in mandatory elective or extension assessment terms may have other specific term training requirements. Speak to your medical educator.

**Competency assessments for part-time registrars should be staggered across a 12 month period i.e. GPT1/PRRT1 & GPT2/PRRT2 - competency assessments to take place at 4mths, 8mths and 12mths.

***Optional activities may be available in other terms.

****This requirement may be met in either GPT1/PRRT1 or GPT2/PRRT2.
## Common training activity terminology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term used</th>
<th>Name of activity</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Other terms this activity may be known as:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| CTV       | Clinical Teaching Visit                       | A scheduled visit by an experienced general practitioner arranged by GP Synergy, who sits in with a registrar for a session (approximately 3 hours), observing the registrar’s consultations, and providing feedback. | In-practice teaching visit  
ECTV - External Clinical Teaching Visit  
MEV - Medical education visit  
FACT - Formative Assessment and Clinical Teaching Visit |
| CA        | Competency Assessment                         | A competency assessment is an assessment of specific competencies that a registrar gains relevant to their stage of general practice training. GP Synergy uses a competency grid to provide a framework for giving feedback to registrars about their progress in training. Competency assessments are used by the supervisor and clinical teaching visitor as part of their formative assessment process and requires direct observation of registrar consultations. | Direct Observation of the Registrar                                                                       |
| FARS      | Formative Assessment – of a Registrar by a Supervisor | A GP Synergy online feedback mechanism in GPRime2 where GP supervisors provide feedback about their GP registrar which is linked to the Competency Assessment Grid. | Supervisor formative assessment                                                                         |
| PGA       | Pre-GP Term Assessment                        | A GP Synergy assessment conducted by registrars prior to entering their first GP term.                                                                                                                    | Learning needs analysis                                                                                   |
| PL        | Practice logs                                 | A weekly requirement in which GP registrars in community based terms complete an online log detailing the number of patients seen, patient contact time, teaching time and participation in GP Synergy educational activities. |                                                                                                                                                          |
| PTAR      | Pre-Term Assessment Report                    | A report provided to GP supervisors prior to each term commencement summarising the registrar’s competency assessments to date.                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                          |
| TA        | Training/Teaching Advisory contact            | A formal contact between a registrar and GP Synergy medical educator which is recorded on GP Synergy’s online training management system, GPRime2.                                                       | Training Review Meeting                                                                                   |
| Re-enrolment |                                                | All registrars must re-enrol prior to a new term commencing (this includes registrars going on leave, Extension Awaiting Fellowship, hospitals). Re-enrolment generally opens bi-annually in March and Aug/Sept. |                                                                                                                                                          |
| Term placement |                                              | All registrars seeking GP terms must participate in term placement which generally opens prior to a new term commencing in April / Oct. Only enrolled registrars can participate. For more information please see Term Placement Information for Registrars on GPRime2. |                                                                                                                                                          |

GPRime2 (GP Registrar Information Management System 2) - GP Synergy’s online training management system.

ME - Medical Educator

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