

Critical Care & Anaesthetics Taster Week

Supervisor: Dr Sarah J Clarke

Your Critical Care & Anaesthetics Attachment

Welcome in advance! During your forthcoming week with us there is an opportunity for you to pick up & learn some of the basics of care of the acutely unwell patient, the critically ill and support of the patient in theatre. I am the Anaesthetic Lead for F1 training, but all consultants take part in the training process, and you will meet many of us.

Obviously you will not cover all of the areas which are in your Foundation Curriculum but the main areas in which you ought to get a good exposure are the acute care areas and practical skills. This especially includes basic airway management, venous access and assessment of the sick patient, with appropriate resuscitation. The Curriculum is a good starting point for you to use to focus your ideas and practise, and may be the basis of discussions on ward rounds and in theatres.

The majority of the assessments will be carried out by your parent specialty (surgery) but you should be able to complete several DOPS/CBD/CEX: the opportunities abound!

The day starts at 8.00am (prompt) on the Critical Care Unit, with handover/ward round. Similarly in theatres, patients are being pre-assessed on the wards from 8am, in order that theatre commences at 8.30am.

If you are rostered to be with the Outreach Team - please note they start at 7.30am.

On the next page is a general timetable for the week's activities – please attend the anaesthetic department on your first day to introduce yourself and ask any questions you may have about your week. A more specific timetable will be emailed to you on the Friday before you are due to attend.

Your attendance is compulsory, and I am notified of any unauthorised absences. If you are unable to attend any session or are going to be late, you should inform the Department Secretary, Elaine Filbin on 83744 (DDI 01254 733744) as soon as possible. Similarly if a rostered activity has been cancelled, the Secretaries will re-allocate you. It is also important that you follow your current procedure for reporting sickness/absence to your line manager.

Enjoy your time with us: the more you put in, the more you will get out of it!

Kind Regards
Sarah J Clarke

Example timetable (may vary dependent on leave and supervisor availability)

	AM	PM
Monday	Acute pain ward round Bleep 001 at 08.45am	Theatre
Tuesday	Critical Care – 08.00 for handover	Critical Care
Wednesday	Outreach - Bleep 113 at 07.30	Theatre 13.00
Thursday	Theatre 08.00	F1 Teaching 13.00-17.00
Friday	Theatre 08.00	Theatre 13.00

Learning Objectives for Taster week:

- Works as part of the critical care team and theatre team and appreciates the roles of each member of the team in patient care. (1.4, 7.9)
- Observes consultations with patients and families about management decisions and appreciates the views of the patient are central to every decision. (2.1)
- Understands the importance of communication skills in difficult situations or when difficult decisions are made (2.2, 2.3)
- Appreciate the importance of patient safety check lists and protocols in theatre and critical care (3.2)
- Take part in ward rounds and on critical care (7.3, 7.4)
- Assess patients theatre under supervision (7.2)
- Exposure to medical devices and equipment used for general anaesthesia and in critical care (7.6)
- Improves skills of airway management and managing an acutely unwell patient (8.1)
- Opportunity to manage patients with abnormal physiological parameters and improve knowledge of managing organ failure (8.2)
- Improves knowledge of the management of the unconscious patient (8.3)
- Manages pain (8.4)
- Manages sepsis (8.5)
- Recognises and manages the critically ill patient (9.1)
- Understands the principles and takes part in discussions regarding end of life care and DNAR orders (9.2)
- Appreciates the importance and anticipates the impact chronic disease can have on treatment choices (10.1)
- Understands the importance of addressing nutritional needs in critically ill patients (10.3)
- Improve investigative interpretation skills including blood results, ABGs, CXR, ECG, PFTs (11)