



Dear foundation doctor

COVID-19 and your training

You will all be very aware of the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges it is presenting to the NHS. Many trusts are already in major incident mode.

A letter was sent out earlier in the week to all trainees, from bodies including HEE and the GMC, outlining plans for the management of medical training rotations. These include asking doctors to stay in their current placements, rather than rotating to their next planned placement on the 1st April.

These and other aspects have been discussed with foundation director colleagues nationally, and we are writing to you to outline the implications for foundation training across London and KSS.

1st April rotations

Doctors will no longer rotate to your next planned placement. If there are exceptional extenuating reasons then these can be discussed firstly with your Trust, and then with the Foundation School Director but the Postgraduate Deans decision will be final.

The only exceptions agreed are where trainees are in community placements, excluding GP, which are largely supernumerary. In such instances foundation doctors may instead be asked to support colleagues in other specialties in their acute trusts.

Trainees in academic foundation placements will be redeployed back to their acute trusts.

Some areas will be very busy, and the presence of additional foundation doctors will be

enormously helpful both for patient care and reducing the burden on colleagues.

Trainees in both General Practice and Mental Health placements will remain in these.

Programme balance and sign off

Decisions to support sign-off will be made primarily on whether a doctor is performing to the expected standard, rather than on the make-up of the posts carried out.

The make-up of teaching may also change locally, for example with COVID-related training being prioritised.

ARCP and teaching hours requirements are currently under discussion nationally, with guidance expected shortly.

Supporting yourselves and each other

This will be a difficult time for many of you and your colleagues. Please do your best to look after yourselves, and feel able to access support locally, for example via Occupational Health or the Guardian of Safe Working, or via the Professional Support Unit. <https://www.lpmde.ac.uk/professional-development/professional-support-unit>

We wish you all well during this period of unprecedented uncertainty.

With all best wishes

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