Training the next generation of GPs
Becoming a GP supervisor
Getting involved in GP training

Why get involved in GP training?
Sharing your knowledge and expertise training GP registrars helps ensure Australia’s future supply of highly skilled GPs. It also provides many additional benefits to you and your practice:
• GP registrars often bring new ideas and enthusiasm into a practice. Many supervisors are surprised to find it is a two-way learning experience with registrars bringing the latest clinical treatment information.
• Being involved in teaching adds another dimension to your professional career, as well as professional development and networking opportunities.
• Having an extra doctor in the practice can benefit your patients with additional consultation times.

How does GP training work?
The most common way doctors become GPs is through the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program – a Commonwealth Government funded vocational training program. Doctors successful in applying to this program (known as GP registrars) undertake 3-4 years of training in a combination of hospital and general practice settings.

The general practice component of training is similar to an apprenticeship model, with GP registrars seeing their own patients under the supervision of experienced GPs. The level of supervision required varies as the doctor progresses through training.

Where do GP registrars train?
Registrars training with GP Synergy undertake their general practice placements in accredited training practices within one of two regions:
• Sydney region
• New England/Northwest region.

Which region a registrar trains in is determined at the point of entry into the AGPT program.

Is your practice in GP Synergy’s region?
Check the maps on the FAQ page to see if your practice is located within GP Synergy’s training boundaries. If you need further information, please contact us for assistance.
The role of the GP supervisor

Supervisors have four key areas of responsibility:
- supervision
- teaching
- professional development
- administration.

What does a GP supervisor do?
As most of a GP registrar’s training takes place in practice, GP supervisors play a critical role in their development.

Supervision requirements are determined by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), and the regional training provider.

GP Synergy supervisors have four key areas of responsibility:
1. Supervision
   During a general practice placement, although GP registrars see patients independently, they require on-site supervision and support by an accredited GP supervisor.
   A supervisor is required to be on-site for a percentage of time that the registrar is in the practice. The amount of time depends on the GP registrar’s stage of training.
2. Teaching
   Supervisors are required to provide in-practice teaching to GP registrars. The amount depends on the GP registrar’s stage of training.
   Teaching can be a combination of formal and informal teaching such as: set aside face-to-face teaching time, observation (the registrar of the supervisor and vice versa), corridor consultations and the like.
3. Continuing professional development
   Participating in continuing professional development is an important part of being a supervisor.
   As part of the accreditation process, supervisors are required to participate in an induction activity and clinical teacher training workshop.
   GP Synergy provides several ways supervisors can meet on-going professional development requirements, which are valuable educational and networking opportunities.
4. Administration
   In the role of a training practice, some administrative activities are required to be undertaken such as providing formal feedback, maintaining activity logs, participating in the term placement process, etc.

What support is available to GP supervisors?
Financial subsidies are available to practices training registrars in terms GPT1 & GPT2.

Supervisors and practice managers are supported by a comprehensive professional development program and a dedicated GP Synergy staff member to assist practices.

What other considerations are there to becoming a training practice?
Before applying to become a training practice you need to consider:
- Do you have time to teach?
- Do you have an interest in teaching?
- Is your practice accredited by AGPAL or GPA?
- Do you have a room available for a registrar?
- Do you have sufficient patient load for an additional doctor?

Practices should also understand that becoming accredited does not guarantee they will receive a registrar. See the FAQ section for more information.
How do I become a training practice?
Any practice located with GP Synergy’s training boundaries can apply to become a training practice.
Prior to applying, you should carefully review the GP Synergy Codes, Principles and Recommendations for Training Practices document located on the GP Synergy website (www.gpsynergy.com.au) to ensure you can meet the requirements for supervision and teaching.
Practices are also encouraged to contact our Practice Liaison Officer before applying for further advice and assistance.
Applications can be made from the GP Synergy website – www.gpsynergy.com.au

Am I guaranteed to get a registrar?
Becoming a training practice does not guarantee that you will receive a GP registrar. This is because, particularly in our Sydney region, there are often more training vacancies than there are registrars available.
GP Synergy’s registrar placement process is based on an open-market style system. Every 6 months accredited training practices advertise training placements. Registrars can then apply for those vacancies.
To ensure appropriate distribution of registrars around our regions, registrars are required to train in locations across their respective region (Sydney or New England/Northwest). This means registrars may only be able to train at a particular practice for 6 or maybe 12 months at the most.

Are registrar’s consultations covered by Medicare?
Yes. All registrars training in the AGPT program are treated by Medicare as if they were already Vocationally Registered (VR) doctors. This means they can bill Medicare as if they are a VR GP.

How many registrars can I train?
Each accredited supervisor cannot train more than 1.5 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) registrars.

How do I confirm if my practice is in GP Synergy’s boundaries?
Check the maps, or contact us on P: 02 9818 4433 or practicesupport@gypsynergy.com.au

Where can I find out more specific information about supervision and teaching requirements and financial subsidies?
You can find comprehensive information in the GP Synergy Codes, Principles and Recommendations for Training Practices document located on the GP Synergy website www.gpsynergy.com.au

Where can I go for more information?
Please contact us on P: 02 9818 4433 or practicesupport@gypsynergy.com.au for more information.

More detailed information about supervision requirements and support can be found on our website.
Whilst we try our utmost to provide the most comprehensive and up to date information available, due to periodic industry and policy changes, the information in this document is subject to change.