



Training Update



Welcome to a new term: Director of Education and Training update

Happy New Year and start of the 2018 training year! I'd like to welcome all of our new cohort of registrars starting this year and welcome back those of you that are well into GP training.

Online orientation module for 2018 cohort registrars

For new 2018 cohort registrars, you should have now completed the online orientation module sent in December. This module provides a solid start to understanding the requirements of GP training including what is required of you from day one. You should have completed this module even if you are on leave or in a hospital term.

Online resources

GP Synergy provides registrars with many online resources – available through the 'Quick Links and Subscriptions' tab on the top toolbar in GPRime.

These resources include [SupportGPT](#) for first and second term GP registrars (available one month before the start of GPT1/PRRT1).

ACRRM's suite of online modules 'RRMEO' (Rural and Remote Medical Education Online) is also available to all registrars. Therapeutic guidelines and the Australian Medicine Handbook are also popular resources.

*Hint – have GPRime open in the background at work for quick access to these resources during the day.

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 including where to find the emergency equipment and how to contact your supervisor.

Make one of your first teaching sessions a review of your learning – what do you already know? What do you need to know? What areas can you ask your supervisor to focus on? What can you do to make the most of this unique practice experience?

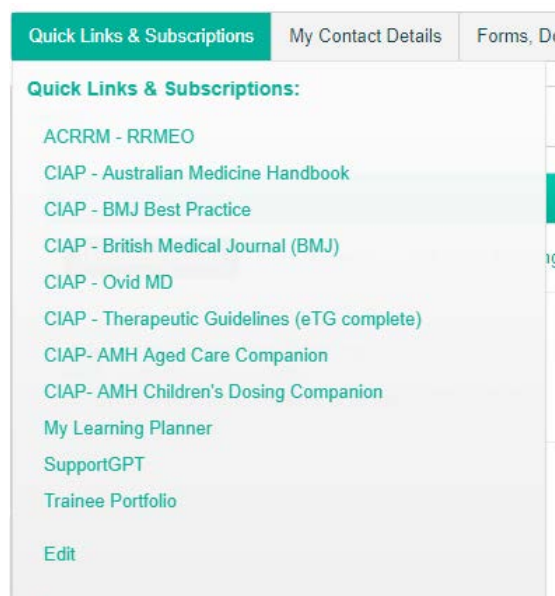
Most importantly, encourage your supervisor to observe your consultations, review your clinical reasoning skills and complete the competency assessments when they are required.

As daunting as it can be to have someone watching over your shoulder, direct observation of consultations is one of the most powerful learning tools.

Congratulations

Congratulations to all the registrars that have successfully completed their final assessments and are in extension awaiting fellowship. Good luck to the registrars in the midst of study and exams this term.

Dr Vanessa Moran | GP Synergy Director of Education and Training



Heading into a GP term in 2018.1?

If you are entering a GP term in 2018.1, don't forget there are a number of important activities that need to take place in the first few weeks of the term starting.

✓ Day 1: 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'.



✓ Week 1-2: Direct observation

To help supervisors assess your competence and level of support required, we strongly recommend supervisors spend some time observing your consultations in the first few weeks of term.

✓ From Week 2-6: 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 registrars 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-GP 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.

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'.

Requirement	Completed	Start Date	End Date	Supervisor	Notes
1. Clinical Teaching Visits (CTVs)	✓	1/1/2018	31/12/2018	Dr. Smith	
2. Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA)	✓	1/1/2018	31/12/2018	Dr. Jones	
3. Clinical Supervision Plan	✓	1/1/2018	31/12/2018	Dr. Brown	
4. Clinical Supervision Plan Review	✓	1/1/2018	31/12/2018	Dr. White	
5. Clinical Supervision Plan Update	✓	1/1/2018	31/12/2018	Dr. Green	
6. Clinical Supervision Plan Review	✓	1/1/2018	31/12/2018	Dr. Black	
7. Clinical Supervision Plan Update	✓	1/1/2018	31/12/2018	Dr. Grey	
8. Clinical Supervision Plan Review	✓	1/1/2018	31/12/2018	Dr. Blue	
9. Clinical Supervision Plan Update	✓	1/1/2018	31/12/2018	Dr. Yellow	
10. Clinical Supervision Plan Review	✓	1/1/2018	31/12/2018	Dr. Purple	

Supports for GP registrars

GP Synergy provides a range of different support for GP registrars during their training.

➔ Financial supports and subsidies

GP Synergy provides support for registrars to attend GP Synergy educational activities, as well as subsidies for registrars training in rural locations such as relocation assistance and emergency skills courses.

Find out more:

1. Login to GPRime2.
2. Click on 'Forms, Documents and Links' in the top left-hand corner.
3. Search '[Registrar Support Guidelines](#)'.

➔ SupportGPT – in-practice online teaching tool for first and second term GP registrars

If you are entering your first or second GP term, don't forget about SupportGPT a comprehensive, modular, in-practice teaching online resource for registrars and supervisors.

Find out more: [SupportGPT factsheet](#).

➔ RRMEO

GP Synergy provides subscriptions to Rural and Remote Medical Education Online (RRMEO) modules from ACRRM. These are an excellent resource for rural and urban registrars. All registrars will be emailed their new login (or reminder of their login) in early February.

➔ Free eTG, AMH online and other subscriptions for registrars

GP Synergy provides registrars access to the following subscriptions:

- British Medical Journal (BMJ) Best Practice and BMJ online
- full electric Therapeutic Guidelines (eTG)
- Australian Medicine Handbook (AMH)
- Ovid MD (ebooks) and more!

How to access:

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

➔ Rural Support Officers

If you're training in a rural area, make sure you get to know 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.



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New England/Northwest | North Coast
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Maria Logan
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Sue Hefren
Murrumbidgee
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April McFadden
South Eastern NSW
april_mcfadden@gpsynergy.com.au

Are you an ADF registrar?

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

- **Felicity Gemmel-Smith** | Special Education Programs Manager - felicity_gemmel-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

Do you know someone interested in becoming a GP?

If you know anyone interested in becoming a GP, please let them know the application dates for the 2019 Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program are now available:

**2019 AGPT applications open:
26 March 2018 – 10.00am AEST 30 April 2018**

We have kicked off the year attending many intern orientation sessions around the state (such as Tamworth pictured), with more AGPT information sessions and webinars to come.

Further information about how to apply and useful resources will be available from our [website](#).



ReCEnT (Registrar Clinical Encounters in Training)



The Registrar Clinical Encounters in Training (ReCEnT) project is a flagship general practice education and training project.

The project is the first of its kind to document Australian general practitioner (GP) registrars' educational and clinical experience over time by measuring:

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

ReCEnT is an important tool to aid reflection on practice and registrar's reflection can be facilitated by comparing their data with that of other registrars and 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 consecutive consultations, in each of their three GP training terms (~1-2 minutes to complete per form)
- complete registrar and practice characteristic questionnaire (~5-10 minutes at a workshop)
- repeat the above process in each of their three GP training 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 and their medical educators. If registrars provide consent, a copy of their report will be sent directly to supervisors. Feedback reports are accessible in GPRime2 by medical educators and discussion of feedback reports is recommended.

When a training practice has had at least five registrar rounds of ReCEnT data, the supervisor and practice manager will receive an annual practice report. This report enables them to see the registrar's clinical exposure as well as aspects of their clinical and education practice. It also provides comparisons with other training practices. At least five registrar rounds of data per practice report are used so that individual registrars are not identifiable in the report and provides a more valid comparison with other practices.

Which subregions are participating in ReCEnT in 2018?

ReCEnT is being rolled out across all of GP Synergy's training regions.

2018.1 ReCEnT timetable

	HMCC	NE/NW	NWNS	CESWS	M/ACT*	WNSW*	SENSW*	NC*
Term 1: ReCEnT Orientation	2 Mar (Workshop)	9 Apr (workshop)	21 Mar (workshop)	14 Mar (workshop)	8 Feb (workshop)	6 Feb (mail)	6 Feb (workshop)	10 Apr (workshop)
GPT1/2 and PRRT1/2: Distribute encounter forms	6 Apr (workshop)	9 Apr (workshop)	6 Apr (workshop)	6 Apr (workshop)	12 Mar (mail)	3 Apr (workshop)	22 Mar (workshop)	10 Apr (workshop)
GPT1/2 and PRRT1/2: Collect encounter forms	4 May (workshop)	8 May (mail)	23 May (workshop)	9 May (workshop)	12/13 Apr (workshop)	2 May (post)	10/11 May (workshop)	11 May (workshop)
GPT3 and PRRT3: Distribute encounter forms	8 Mar (mail)	9 Apr (mail)	8 Mar (mail)	1 Mar (mail)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GPT3 and PRRT3: Collect encounter forms	13 Apr (mail)	8 May (mail)	13 Apr (mail)	6 Apr (mail)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*only GPT1 and GPT2's are participating

Assistance:

- questions about receiving or handing back your ReCEnT packs: Katie Mulquiney on 02 8321 4242 or Katie_Mulquiney@gpsynergy.com.au
- overall project queries: Parker Magin on 02 8321 4540 or Parker_Magin@gpsynergy.com.au.

2018.2 Re-enrolment and term placement dates

Every six months, all registrars (including those going on leave or entering hospital or extension terms), are required to re-enrol.

Dates for your diary:

- **3-10 April:** 2018.2 re-enrolment period
- **19 April:** Registrars notified of grouping allocation
- **23 April:** Enrolled registrars seeking GP terms can start applying to placements in their assigned grouping.

More information about re-enrolment and term placement will be circulated to registrars in the coming weeks.

College membership reminder for new registrars

If you are a new cohort registrar, commencing your training in 2018, you must be a member of your respective college/s (RACGP and/or ACRRM) from the start of training 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).

Emergency skills requirement reminder

ACRRM registrar requirements:

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

RACGP requirements:

- RACGP registrars must have valid CPR (within one year) before starting their GPT1 term. Registrars are strongly encouraged to complete an ALS course prior to commencing training in a rural or remote GP term.
- RACGP registrars eligible to apply for Fellowship must have a valid ALS (within four years) and CPR (within one year) prior to completion of training.

To ensure ACRRM/RACGP emergency skills requirements are met please refer to the 'CPR and ALS requirements and guidance document for GP registrars' available on GPRime in 'Forms, Documents & Links' or the relevant college handbook/guideline.

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.

Key dates

5 Feb: Start date term 1 2018

Check your Medicare provider number before you start seeing patients!

3 Apr: Re-enrolment opens for term 2 2018


10 Apr: Re-enrolment closes for term 2 2018

19 April: Registrars notified of grouping allocation

23 Apr: Registrars can start applying to practices in their allocated grouping

22 Jun: Deadline for Medicare provider number paperwork

5 Aug: End date term 1 2018

 For a list of important training dates, see the new key dates calendar on our [website](#).



College fellowship assessment enrolment*

ACRRM fellowship assessments:

- 2018.1: Enrolments closed
- 2018.2: Assessment enrolment closes 4 June 2018.

For more information visit the [ACRRM website](#)

RACGP fellowship assessments:

- 2018.1 AKT/KFP: Enrolments closed
- 2018.1 OSCE: Enrolments close 29 March 2018
- 2018.2 AKT/KFP: Enrolments open 19 March – 18 May 2018
- 2018.2 OSCE: Enrolments open 19 March – 7 September 2018.

For further information visit the [RACGP website](#)

*Dates are subject to change. Always check the RACGP and ACRRM websites for the most up to date information.

Medicare provider number reminder

If you are a GP registrar going into a GP term in 2018.1 (Feb-Aug), make sure you check the letter you have received from Medicare advising of your provider number approval. Please ensure you have been issued with a provider number with full billing rights before you 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.

NEW! Clinical pearls

Each edition we will present a clinical pearl from the medical education and research teams. This month is a focus on rational test ordering of ESR and CRP.



The ESR (Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate) and C-Reactive Protein (CRP) are commonly ordered pathology tests. In the ReCEnT project, registrars order ESRs in 1.2% of consultations and CRP in 2.1% of consultations and both ESR and CRP in 0.9% of consultations. There is opinion that CRPs, and especially, ESRs are over-ordered. These are not screening tests, but should be ordered when detection or monitoring of the acute phase response will affect management. **ESR and CRP should seldom be requested simultaneously.**

CRP should be preferred to an ESR in almost all situations as it is specific for the acute phase response, rises more quickly and falls more quickly in response to onset and resolution of inflammation and, unlike ESR, is mostly not elevated due to other causes (anaemia, red blood cell variants, renal disease, age etc). It thus has fewer false positives and false negatives and is more responsive to change.

In a very few situations, though, ESR is superior – in detecting low-grade bone and joint infections, in some aspects of monitoring Lupus (and for some other autoimmune diseases such as dermatomyositis and some forms of vasculitis). In other circumstances, disease diagnostic criteria/guidelines may include an ESR (e.g. giant cell arteritis and polymyalgia rheumatica). ESR may also have a non 'acute phase' role – in detecting paraproteins.

For more information: <https://www.nps.org.au/australian-prescriber/articles/erythrocyte-sedimentation-rate-and-c-reactive-protein>

Commonwealth Games baton holders congratulated



Congratulations to Dr Anna Windsor (GP Synergy Regional Head of Education Western NSW and former Olympic swimmer) and Dr David Howe OAM (GP supervisor and Orange GP) for being baton holders for the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton on its journey to the Gold Coast.

OAM winner, Dr Marjorie Cross congratulated



Congratulations to our Murrumbidgee & ACT Supervisor Medical Educator, Dr Marjorie Cross on receiving an OAM, for service to medicine, particularly to doctors in rural areas!

Dr Cross is also a long-term GP supervisor in Bungendore and has been inspiring rural GP registrars for many years.

National ten year apology anniversary

13 February 2018 marks ten years since the National Apology to the Stolen Generations.

Relive this important chapter in history by reading or viewing the apology delivered by former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd MP in 2008: <https://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/our-country/our-people/apology-to-australias-indigenous-peoples>



Upcoming GP Synergy events

Registrars in their first or second GP term workshops

- **Western NSW Node 1** – Western NSW | 5-7 Feb | Canberra
- **Western NSW Node 2** – Murrumbidgee and Riverina | 7-9 Feb | Canberra
- **Western NSW Node 3** – Sth Eastern NSW & ACT | 7-9 Feb | Canberra

- **Lower Eastern NSW Node 1** – Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney | 5-7 Feb | Liverpool
- **Lower Eastern NSW Node 2** – Sth Eastern NSW and Wollongong | 5-6 Feb | Wollongong
- **Lower Eastern NSW Node 3** – Sth Eastern NSW and ACT | 7-9 Feb | Canberra

- **North Eastern NSW Node 1** – North Coast | 7-9 Feb | Yamba
- **North Eastern NSW Node 2** – New England/ Northwest | 5-7 Feb | Armidale
- **North Eastern NSW Node 3** – Hunter, Manning and Central Coast | 5-6 Feb | Newcastle
- **North Eastern NSW Node 4** – Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney | 5-7 Feb | Liverpool

Exam preparation workshops

- GP Synergy RACGP exam preparation workshops are now being planned for registrars sitting the exams in 2018.1 only. Please email Shirleen Chand for further information: shirleen_chand@gpsynergy.com.au
- GP Synergy ACRRM assessment preparation workshops are currently being planned for registrars sitting ACRRM assessments. Please email Claire Doyle for further information: claire_doyle@gpsynergy.com.au

External activities of interest

- Kidney Health Australia and Central and Eastern Sydney PHN - Polycystic Kidney Disease | 21 February | Belmore | [More information](#)
- Ballina Byron Clinical Society and North Coast Primary Health Network - Stroke Management: Before, during and after | 1 March | Byron Bay | [More information](#)
- Black Dog Institute and Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health - Advanced Training in Suicide Prevention | 3 March | Inverell | [More information](#)
- University Centre for Rural Health, North Coast PHN and University of Wollongong - Health Innovations Conference | 10-11 March | Kingscliff | [More information](#)
- The Ballina Byron Clinical Society, Byron Central Hospital and North Coast Primary Health Network - Byron Bay Speed Networking | 22 March | Byron Bay | [More information](#)

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
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- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**
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- **New England/Northwest:**
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- **Western NSW:**
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- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
Catherine Daly - 02 8321 4149
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- **South Eastern NSW:**
Amanda Piatek - 02 8321 4164
amanda_piatek@gpsynergy.com.au

Registrar Liaison Officers (RLO)

- **Western NSW:**
We are currently recruiting for this role. Contact Nicky Doneva (nicky_doneva@gpsynergy.com.au) for more information.
- **Nepean, Western and North Western Sydney:**
Sama Balasubramanian –
RLO_NESydney@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Hunter New England Central Coast:**
Bob Vickers - RLO_HNECC@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Rebecca Chan - RLO_LESydney@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
Jessica Tidemann (Acting SENSW RLO) -
RLO_MurrumACT@gpsynergy.com.au
- **North Coast:**
Jessica McEwan -
RLO_Northcoast@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
Jessica Tidemann -
RLO_MurrumACT@gpsynergy.com.au

Rural Support Officers (RSO)

- **New England/Northwest | North Coast | Hunter Manning & Central Coast:**
Kerry Robins - kerry_robins@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Western NSW:**
Maria Logan - maria_Logan@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee:**
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