

The role of the FY trainee in ongoing patient care in the ward situation

Patient safety must always be a top priority. Foundation trainees should only undertake work which they are either competent in, or are learning competence under supervision. FY will need the closest support of any trainee doctor.

No-one should be put in a position of working beyond their competence without appropriate support and supervision.

FY trainees, as of course do all doctors, must:

- be aware of the limitations of their practice
- work within their competence
- have access to senior colleagues for clinical advice at all times
- ask for senior help when needed

FY trainees must not:

- act if unsure of their ground
- work in an environment where their only assistance is off the premises
- discharge patients without appropriate, documented senior review (ST3 or above)

Robust processes to ensure this must be in place in all departments. Clearly, FYs need to see patients but every patient should be seen again and 'signed off' by a senior trainee (ST3 or above) or consultant.

FY trainees undertaking ward rounds: It is acceptable for FY trainees to see individual patients, however all patients should be reviewed during a consultant delivered ward-round at least every 24 hours, seven days a week, unless it has been determined that this would not affect the patient care pathway. This standard has been set by NHS England¹ in their work on NHS services, seven days a week (appendix B, standard 8).

It is recognised that clinical areas use the board round at the start of the day to highlight concerns regarding patients. FY trainees can reasonably be

expected to see patients after a board round provided they have senior support on site to report their finding to and that a consultant delivered ward round occurs within the 24 hour period and that the FY trainee is able to present their findings.

The Foundation Schools recognise that Standard 8 is to be actively worked towards by all Trusts and therefore we recommend an interim position until **1st January 2017**; all patients should be reviewed by a senior clinical decision maker such as a ST or SAS doctor if a consultant is not available within the 24 hour period.

Dr R Powell
Director of Foundation Training for the East Midlands

Dr C Mackaness
Foundation School Director LNR

Dr C N Spittle
Foundation School Director Trent

References:

1. NHS England. NHS Services seven days a week.
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/brd-dec-13.pdf>. Accessed 17th February 2015