



Practice Placements: Paramedic Apprenticeship

Placement Overview

- During the paramedic apprenticeship you will complete 5 placements in year 2 and 5 placements in year 3.
- Placements are one day long.
- Your cohort will be allocated a dedicated practice placement coordinator who will be responsible for allocating all your placements.

- Placements can be anywhere in the South West so you may need to travel. Accommodation can be booked if needed (if over 60 miles away), [here](#).

[Practice Placements Roadmap \(inc CAP and ROPP competencies\) PDF](#)

What placements can I expect to have?

Year two placements	Where in the academic year
Clinical Education day	At any point
EOC Dispatch	At any point
Simulation shift	Month 5-9 inclusive
Hart	After month 4
Tiverton UTC	After month 5

Year three placements	Where in the academic year
Clinical Education day	At any point
EOC Mental Health	After 3.5 months
EOC Clinical Support Desk x 2 days	After month 6
PROMPT	Month 4-9 inclusive

What can I expect from each placement?

Year 2

HART:

You will spend the day shadowing the HART day team.

You will be based in either Exeter (South) or Bristol (North).

Prior to your placement your Practice Placement Coordinator will contact you with joining instructions linked to your specific placement location.

Tiverton UTC:

Tiverton Urgent Care Centre is a very busy department and provides treatment for a wide range of minor injuries and urgent medical problems including:

Minor injuries

- Sprains, strains, muscle or joint injuries
- Suspected fractures
- Minor head injuries – bumps, bruises and wounds
- Cuts, grazes and wounds – needing sutures, steri-strips or wound glue
- Back or neck pain
- Minor burns and scalds
- Eye problems – infections, scratches and items stuck in the eye
- Removal of foreign bodies such as splinters, glass, or hearing aid tips

Minor illnesses

- Minor infections – sore throats, earache, high temperatures and urine infections
- Asthma and chest infections, coughs or bronchitis
- Allergies – hayfever, hives and reactions to bites and stings
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhoea and constipation
- Skin rashes, shingles and chickenpox
- Dental pain
- Pregnancy related conditions
- Conditions affecting young children, including those under the age of two

As you can see from the above list, the opportunities that present themselves here are vast. You will be able to observe and actively get involved in many areas. The skills and knowledge of the staff are extensive and you will have the added bonus of GP advice and knowledge at

hand. You may find yourself being able to conduct respiratory, cardiovascular, abdominal or neurological assessments, take a patient history, assess and treat wounds and so much more.

You may have the opportunity to assess and treat wounds but please remember that you can only carry out procedures that you are trained in so skills such as suturing or stapling are not available to you. You will however be able to watch, discuss and learn. Areas such as infection control are of paramount importance when treating wounds and therefore this is an area where you could perhaps have a professional discussion which could be written up and uploaded to pebble pad.

Clinical Education Day:

The content of the day is designed to both provide an update on contemporary clinical knowledge and allow you the chance to practice a wide range of clinical skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Below is a brief outline of areas covered during the day:

- Paediatric Life Support
- Medical Trauma
- Adult Life Support Medical Trauma
- Decision making in resuscitation
- Scenario based resuscitation skill refresher including Needle Skills Difficult Airway Management.
- Team leadership
- Acute Abdomen
- Neurological Syndromes
- Prednisolone
- ECG refresher
- Paediatric Assessment

EOC – 999 call handler/dispatch:

Your placement in the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is designed to give you both an understanding of the patient journey but also how different elements of the ambulance service work together to provide the best outcome for patients.

You will spend time sat alongside Call Takers as they receive all manner of calls from the public and listen to them trying to get the all important information to be able to pass the patient to the most appropriate system. You will also be able to listen to how they manage stressful and complex situations, all whilst maintaining a professional, caring attitude.

You will also spend time with the Dispatcher Team as they manage the resources they have available, attempting to get the right resources to the right places at the right time. You will gain an understanding of what goes on 'behind the scenes', resulting in crews being dispatched to numerous calls each day.

This experience will give you a greater understanding of the pressures felt in the EOC from all parties and why decisions are made the way they are. It will also help to inform how the wider NHS works giving you a broader insight into the role of the Ambulance Service and the other agencies it works alongside and how this connects with contemporary paramedic practice.

Simulation shift:

The aim of the session is to create a simulated shift which would support your learning and working with ambulance clinicians. The simulations have been matched to your placement portfolio.

Simulation training provides an opportunity to apply theory and gain experience in skills or procedures that would otherwise be difficult without potentially putting patients at risk, such as managing emergency situations and resuscitation.

Simulation can play a valuable role in offering experiential support that is personalised to individuals and specific to their role and the responsibilities.

The activities will include:

- Simulation
- Facilitated debrief and discussion
- Further education as required

The learning objectives for each of these sessions have been developed with a continued focus on:

- Safeguarding
- Human factors
- Clinical decision-making
- Resuscitation skills
- Communication

Year 3

EOC – Mental Health:

The mental health placement is 12 hours long (first 6 hours in the mental health car followed by 6 hours in the call centre).

The aim of the first part of the shift is to expose you to the Mental Health Car response we have within SWAST and the varied jobs that the car responds to.

The second part of your shift will be completed at Bristol EOC.

The aim of this part of your shift is to expose you to the variety of mental health calls received by SWAST every day.

EOC – Clinical Support Desk (2 days):

You will spend two days with the EOC CSD. This is an opportunity to learn how the Clinical Support Desk provide care and support to patients remotely as well as providing help and advice to crews. You will gain an understanding of the processes used and the various tools which can be used to support decision making.

It will also be an opportunity to review your own clinical decision making skills alongside an experienced member of the team and to listen in to conversations with patients and other healthcare professionals.

This will help to support your understanding of the wider NHS and various sister agencies and support groups the Ambulance Service interacts with on a daily basis.

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 - Trauma
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- Decision making in resuscitation
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 - Needle Skills
 - Difficult Airway Management
- Team leadership
- Acute Abdomen
- Neurological Syndromes
- Prednisolone
- ECG refresher
- Paediatric Assessment

PROMPT day:

This placement is led by a midwifery team. The areas covered during the day include:

- Maternal assessment
- Haemorrhage during pregnancy
- Normal birth
- Managing birth complications
- Postpartum haemorrhage
- Basic newborn resuscitation

- Pregnancy induced hypertension and eclampsia
- Maternal collapse/arrest

Hands on workshops include:

Cord prolapse

Vaginal breech

Shoulder dystocia

How will I know when my placements will be?

Placements will be allocated throughout the course of each year to align with your academic studies.

Your practice placement coordinator will be in contact when you have been allocated a placement and will provide you with your joining instructions for the day. We work closely with ROC students to ensure the placements fit around your other work commitments.

You will hear about your placement allocation throughout the year.

Will I need to travel to placement?

Placements can be anywhere across the South West so you may need to travel to placement. If you need accommodation the night before the placement please complete the form [here](#).

Please note, accommodation must be booked a **minimum of 4 weeks ahead** of the placement day, unfortunately accommodation requests after this point will need to be booked by the apprentice and claimed back via expenses, up to a maximum of £100.

How will my practice placement coordinator support me?

You initially meet your practice placement coordinator at your cohort induction day, here they will provide a brief overview of all things placement.

Your practice placement coordinator will also attend one of your study days at the end of year 2.

You can contact your practice placement coordinator anytime via email and if we aren't able to help we will signpost you to someone who can support.

What if I am unable to attend (or miss) a placement day?

If you are unable to attend a placement day please contact your practice placement coordinator, paramedicapprenticeship@swast.nhs.uk, your line manager and the placement provider.

Your practice placement coordinator will rearrange your placement day.

Quality assurance and feedback

Following your placement day you will be asked to complete a short survey regarding your experience on placement.

We really value your feedback and this information will help us plan future placements and ensure we are offering the best possible learning experience during placement days.

Useful Contacts

If you need any further advice around placements and allocation please contact your practice placement coordinator who will be able to support you:

sian.burnett@swast.nhs.uk (Sian works Mondays and Tuesdays)

beth.small@swast.nhs.uk (Beth works Tuesdays and Wednesdays)

You can also contact our apprenticeship inbox: paramedicapprenticeship@swast.nhs.uk