



Government of Western Australia
North Metropolitan Health Service



Clinical Observerships

(Unremunerated Clinical Placements)

Guidelines (Ver6)

Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group



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Introduction



Sir Charles Gairdner and 'sister' Osborne Park Hospitals are comprehensive adult hospitals in the centre of Perth. SCGH sits on the QE11 medical precinct which includes Perth Children's Hospital, over 40 research and health institutes and staff from Perth's 4 Universities, offering opportunities for doctors at all levels to be involved in collaborative learning and research. It is 4 km from the city and the beach and 1km from UWA.

SCGH has 600 beds, treating more than 420,000 pts/year. It has WA's comprehensive Cancer Centre, state stroke service and Liver Transplant Unit. OPH is based 14km north of the CBD, has 186 beds and treats over 95,000 pts/year with Rehabilitation and Aged Care Services, Younger Adult Rehabilitation, Surgical Services and Women's and Newborn Services.

In 2021, SCGH and OPH were given top ratings and are fully accredited with Australian Council on Healthcare Standards

MISSION

To improve, promote and protect the health of Western Australians within the North Metropolitan Health Service catchment by:

- Caring for individuals and the community
- Caring for those who need it most
- Making the best use of funds and resources

VALUES

- Care
- Excellence
- Respect
- Integrity
- Teamwork
- Leadership

VISION

Committed staff, Clever researchers – Caring for Patients

The vision encompasses intents such as:

- Future orientated
- Excellence, being the best
- Academic, Research & Teaching
- Patient focused (customer focused)
Centre for Care
- Efficient
- Sae
- Vibrant

Clinical Observerships

SCGOPHCG welcomes clinicians, academics, and students to join the hospitals in educational activities with the aim of developing and sharing knowledge and skills and improve patient care within and beyond our hospitals. These unremunerated positions are open to clinicians working elsewhere in Australia and the world through to students interested in exploring health care careers.

These positions have clear requirements and are closely monitored to ensure patient safety and avoid excess load in a busy clinical setting. Covid-19 restrictions in a cramped hospital environment means we must be aware of social distancing and plan accordingly.

The following categories of Observerships are available:

- 1) High School Student - for work experience or career exploration. You would be attached to a clinician or Team and follow their direction, attend educational meetings and with patient permission observe clinical care. You will be an observer only with no patient contact. Usually 1 or 2 weeks.
- 2) Scientist – exposure to clinical work to inform research. Through your University we would organise an attachment in a relevant clinical area with a senior clinician who is research active. The setting would generally be in outpatients, offering a chance to observe, talk to clinicians and attend clinical and educational meetings. You will be an observer only with no patient contact. Usually 1 or more half days
- 3) Medical Student - for approved clinical attachments, required as part of your course. Usually for 4 weeks or less, but specific requests can be made depending on course requirements. Interaction with patients will be under the direct supervisor of the senior clinician and their team.
 - a) Interstate
 - b) International
- 4) International Medical Graduate (IMG) prior to completion of AMC registration to provide clinical experience in an Australian setting for resident doctors who are working towards full registration. These limited places offer the opportunity for 3 month work experience with the option for an extension in a different clinical area. You will be attached to a clinical Team (Medicine or Surgery) with all patient interaction under the direct supervision of the senior clinician and their Team. Such interaction may include taking a history, performing a clinical examination, writing notes (countersigned by the Team), minor procedures (taking blood, cannulation), with the level of involvement determined by the senior clinician.
- 5) Senior Registrar/Fellow/GP (Registered with AHPRA) for skills development. These placements involve qualified doctors (not currently employed by the Health Department) who are looking to upskill in a particular area through observation only under direct supervision by the clinical team. The length of these Observerships is usually weeks.
 - a) Local
 - b) International

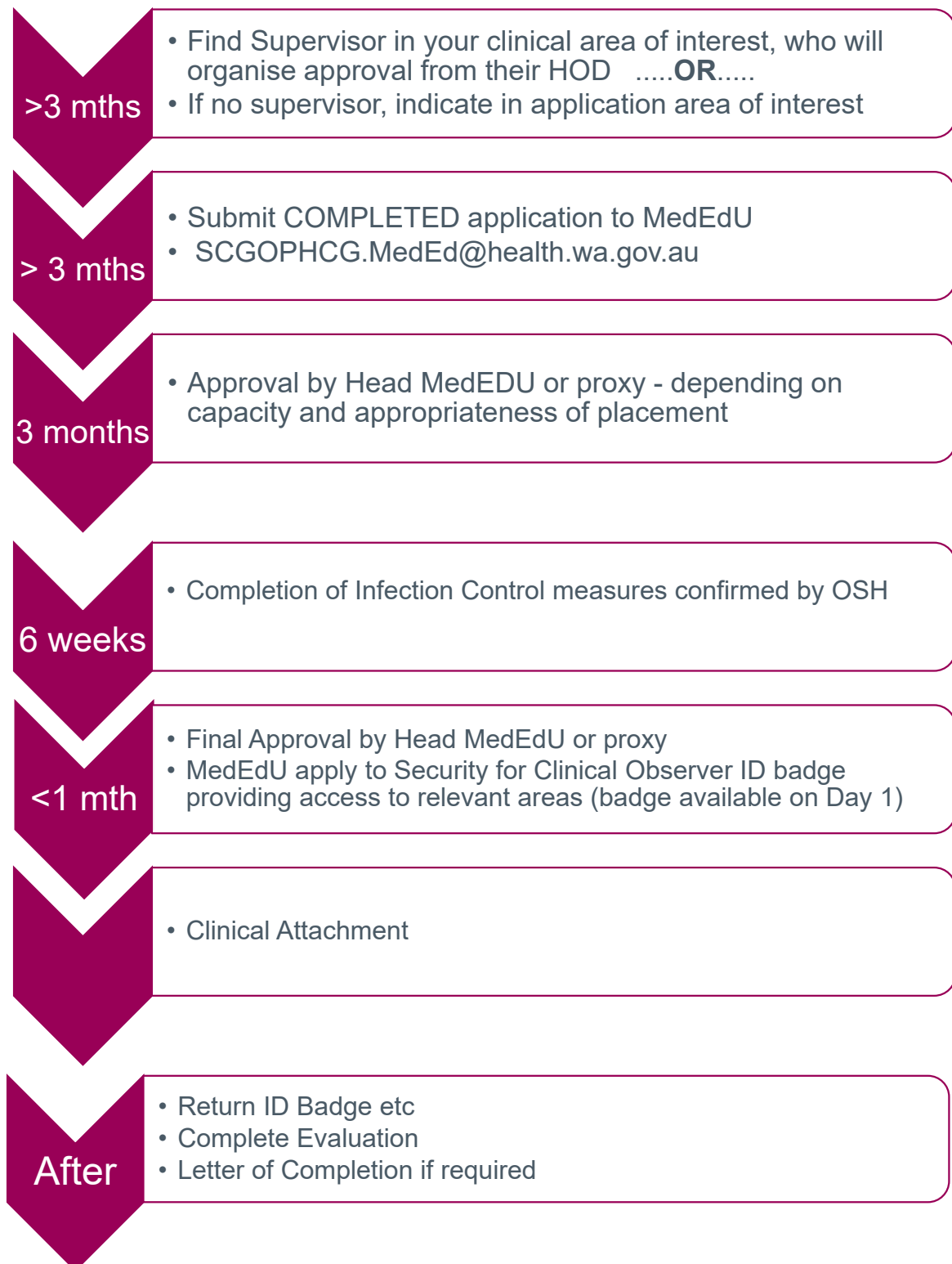
Doctors currently employed through The Health Department looking for Professional Development should apply through Professional Development Pathway (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: SCGOPHCG Clinical Observership Process

For someone interested in Clinical Observerships/Professional Development at SCGOPHCG



Figure 2: SCGOPHCG OBSERVERSHIP PROCESS



The Observership Pack includes the following documents:

- Application Form
- Unremunerated Placement Health and Immunisation Screen OSH 2021
- Confidentiality agreement
- NMHS Security Badge Access Form

Additional documents to include:

- Letter from School (Cat 1) or University (Cat 2, 3a, 3b) confirming status
- Evidence of Status with APHRA (Cat 4 and 5)
- 2 x Referee reports attached (if > 2 week attachment)
- Copy of personal health insurance or travel insurance OR applicants Organisation indemnity
- Personal Medical Indemnity (Cat 4 and 5)
- Passport and evidence of Visa (Cat 3b, 5b)
- Letter of Good Standing (Cat 1,2,3) from organisation OR
- Police Clearance AND Working with Children (Cat 4,5)

Explanation of Requirements as part of the Application

- **Personal or organisational Insurance or Medical Indemnity:**

Categories 1, 2 and 3 will require organisational cover (from school or University) that provides personal health insurance

Category 4 and 5 will additionally require personal medical indemnity

- **Infection Control:**

Please note, you must be double vaccinated against COVID with a recognised vaccine to enter the hospitals.

Applicants must meet the requirements in the NMHS policy on Immunisation for Health Care Workers and Operational Directive on Tuberculosis and Health Care Workers to ensure that no Clinical Observer commences who is not immune to preventable diseases and/or who may have active pulmonary tuberculosis.

If the observer does not have the serological evidence of immunity they will need to book an appointment with their GP to have the relevant tests done. The tests can NOT be carried out by the SCGOPHCG Occupation Safety and Health (OSH) clinical nurse

The OSH nurse will review documentation, and if a booster shot (or similar) is required the observer will be directed to their GP for the relevant boosters and provide evidence of completion to OSH Nurse.

- **Referees Reports:**

Students will require evidence they are enrolled with an educational provider and a letter of good standing from their educational institution.

IMG applicants and doctors upskilling will require Police Clearance and Working with Children

- **Compliance with Hospital Policies:**

Clinical Observers must comply at all times with Hospital policies and procedures regardless of the duration of their appointment. These include meeting professional standards, health and safety requirements and abiding by the confidentiality agreement.

- **Security Access.**

High school students and scientists will not be provided with card access to any clinical areas as they would always be accompanying a member of the clinical team during normal working hours.

Medical Students, IMG Observers and doctors will be provided access to relevant areas for the rotation as well as the medical library and afterhours access.

If access to Theatres is required (surgical attachments), the MedEdU will inform Theatre nurses the period of attachment. A theatre orientation will be required. Access is through Level 2 Theatre Office (Yellow lifts) where they will be required to sign in and be guided by the Duty CNS.

We look forward to working with you on your clinical observership. Any questions please contact us through SCGOPHCG.MedEd@health.wa.gov.au