

Rural Hospital Term Guidelines & Attendance

Phase 3

The needs of rural patients and the health resources available to them are often very different to those in urban areas. Learning about these differences requires moving out of the hospital environment for some of the term. The further you move from the regional hospital, the more obvious these differences become.

Goals of the Rural Hospital Term

This is an ideal time in your course to experience GENERAL Medicine and Surgery, Emergency, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Psychiatry in a Rural or Regional Hospital. Closer contact with the rural community will also allow you to experience Medicine in its social context. The goals of the Rural Hospital term are to:

- ✓ Develop an understanding of rural hospital practice. There should be direct involvement in clinical care, from the presentation in the Emergency Department, to subsequent investigation and management and experience with basic clinical procedures;
- ✓ Recognise and describe the differences between rural and urban health care provision, including resource availability and access, health delivery system, relationship between primary, secondary and tertiary health services;
- ✓ Consider aspects of the rural environment, cultural and geographic that impact on the provision of health care. These might include situations such as the particular stresses to a family and patient by referral to an urban centre;
- ✓ Understand and discuss differences in health profiles between rural and urban populations;
- ✓ Identify special issues for health service providers in small towns and remote areas. These will relate to the geographical, economic and social characteristics of these places; and
- ✓ Demonstrate an awareness of Indigenous health issues (where applicable), including knowledge of the requirements for effective communication with Indigenous people in the rural community and for delivery of health care in the Indigenous population.

What to do during the attachment

- ✓ Get to know your way around the hospital and town. Find out where all the community health care facilities are and the available transport.
- ✓ Introduce yourself to all the members of the health care team as soon as possible. The Academic Coordinator at your rural hospital will help organise these links but much of the success of the term will depend on your own initiative.

- ✓ Consider your goals for the term and how you can fulfil them. You will have many opportunities in the rural hospital and community to gain some of the most valuable medical experience in your course.
- ✓ Plan how you will get around the area. The term's goals require you to travel beyond the hospital environment and the further you travel into the rural area the greater the potential for learning.
- ✓ Take every opportunity to relate to the rural community. You may be asked, for example to present information on medical careers to the local high school students. This is a chance for rural students to consider a more challenging career as well as for you to meet people in a rural setting.

Attendance

If there are issues with your placement, or if there are exceptional circumstances that require you to leave before the end of the term, please contact your Sydney Clinical School or the Rural Clinical School - Sydney campus **BEFORE** you leave.

Please refer to the UNSW attendance and absence policy (*available at:* <https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/AttendanceAbsence.html>) that states that "If students attend less than eighty per cent of their possible classes they may be refused final assessment"

All students will be required to have the following attendance sheet signed by their academic supervisor.

Contact Details

If you have any problems during your term, please contact:

Genevieve McKay

Rural Clinical School – Sydney Campus

Telephone: 02 9385 3210

Email: g.mckay@unsw.edu.au



UNSW Medicine, Rural Clinical School

Attendance Sheet

Year 5 /6 Rural Hospital Attachment

Student ID _____ **Student Name** _____

Attendance: *(please circle)* **Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory**

This includes punctuality and attendance at agreed sessions or activities

Comments:

Performance: *(please circle)* **Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory**

This relates to the level of the student's communication with staff and clients and involvement with the learning experience i.e., asking questions, responding to issues discussed etc.

Comments:

Supervisor Name _____

Signature _____

University/Hospital Stamp

Date _____

Please fax or scan on the last day of term to:

Rural Clinical School – Sydney Campus

Fax: 02 9385 1970

Email: g.mckay@unsw.edu.au