

# Information for Junior Medical Officers

April 2020

## What's happening with term two rotations?

Term two rotations for junior doctors have been suspended to minimise disruption to medical teams during the COVID-19 pandemic and help with surge workforce plans.

This means you can be confident in your knowledge of the facility you are working in, familiar with its local policies, and across any guidelines it has implemented in response to COVID-19. This approach will also minimise movement within and between NSW Health facilities.

**Your experience is valuable and retaining it will provide stability to Local Health Districts and Specialty Networks as they implement their surge workforce plans.**

## What if staying in my current rotation doesn't work for me?

We appreciate you may have extenuating circumstances, such as carer responsibilities, that make it difficult for you to remain at your current location.

Rotations will be considered for trainees on a case by case basis. Please discuss your circumstances with your current facility and they will work with your home facility/training network to consider your request.

## What's happening about term three rotations?

No decision has been made about term three rotations. We will make a decision about five term rotations by Friday 29 May 2020.

A decision about four term rotations changing on Monday 3 August 2020 will be advised by Friday 3 July 2020. Trainee wellbeing and training will be considered as will the COVID-19 pandemic response.

## We recognise rotations are important for your registration and training

While gaining experience in different rotations is recognised as an important part of your training and key to getting registration, the Medical Board of Australia has waived the requirement for interns to complete mandatory rotations this year. The Board will accept clinical experience in any supervised rotations.

For more information go to: [www.medicalboard.gov.au/News/2020-03-30-COVID19-Board-response.aspx](http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/News/2020-03-30-COVID19-Board-response.aspx)

## What's happening with the preferred specialist training program?

Many trainees expect to complete a specific term as a prerequisite for entry into a preferred specialist training program. We are working with the specialist medical colleges and have asked them to be flexible in considering entry into training programs and progression in training. NSW Health will provide an update on progress.

## New opportunities for Assistant in Medicine roles

NSW Health is working with universities to employ final year medical students to support the medical workforce and free up other staff to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Assistants in Medicine will work under supervision as part of a medical team providing patient care in non-COVID wards. The Assistant in Medicine role is not an intern role. It is a new role that is being established specifically to respond to the pandemic. Assistants in Medicine will be paid at 75 per cent of an intern salary to reflect their experience, qualification, and the work that they will be doing.

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Final year medical students who are interested will be able to opt in by responding to an Expression of Interest run by their university. They will be assessed to identify if they have skills and capabilities for the role and those selected will be employed by Local Health Districts as Assistants in Medicine.

## What will happen with Junior Medical Officer Recruitment for 2021?

A decision has not been made on how the 2021 Junior Medical Officer recruitment campaign will be managed. NSW Health is considering options and working with other states and territories to align across Australia.

As with rotation decisions, the wellbeing, training requirements and service needs will be considered as will the views of all stakeholders.

We will advise you as soon as possible on the final approach.

Up to date information on JMO recruitment can be found at [www.health.nsw.nsw.gov.au/jmo](http://www.health.nsw.nsw.gov.au/jmo).

## More information about additional support

- Let your manager know if you have any concerns.
- The JMO Support Line is available on 1300 566 321.
- Contact your local Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider.

### Personal protective equipment (PPE) is an essential part of the COVID-19 response

Your safety is a priority at all times. You will be provided with PPE for any tasks that require it.

You are not to undertake or be required to undertake tasks requiring PPE if the PPE is not available for use. Any such tasks are not to proceed until required PPE is available.

NSW Health is working around the clock to ensure PPE is available to everyone who needs it.

**Your welfare is our care and concern**