

## **Policy for placing students in general practice where they/family members are registered**

### **Why is this needed?**

All medical students are recommended to register at a GP practice where they are studying. These practices may change during the course, especially with students moving and spending large blocks of time out in academies.

Many of the central practices in Bristol and the academies are teaching practices so students may be inadvertently allocated a placement where they are registered, or they may be allocated a placement where a family member/close contact is a patient.

There was an incident in year 1 GP where a student was placed at a practice where her grandparents were registered.

**GMC. Good medical practice, domain 4, 97-** “You must, wherever possible, avoid providing medical care to yourself or anyone with whom you have a close personal relationship. “

GMC guidance, Bristol medical student mandatory training and declarations ensure that students are bound by a duty of **confidentiality**. Our students need to learn objectivity, and professionalism. However, students may feel less comfortable in a practice where they/close family members are registered, they may have inappropriate access to data, there may be conflicts of interest and it may limit their learning experiences.

### **Plan**

In **pre-course/travel to placement questionnaire** - add an additional question:

‘We try to avoid placing students in a practice where they, or anyone they have a close personal relationship with are registered. If you or anyone you have a close personal relationship with, are registered in a practice in Bristol or the teaching academies, then please write the name of the practice here.’

In **practice allocation letter to students**, we will ask:

- ‘Please advise if you are registered as a patient at this practice so that we can allocate an alternative if needed’
- ‘Please advise if you believe that anyone you have a close relationship with may be registered at this practice so that we can review this’

**If it occurs, then consider on case by case basis with general policy as below:**

If students are inadvertently placed at their **own practice**- discuss and try to switch practices

**First degree relatives/close personal relationship:** parents, partners, children - check practice policy, consider switching practices

**Less close relatives or other contacts** – discuss with student. Discuss with practice and check their policy. PHC happy for students to be placed where relatives are patients as long as practice happy and can put in strategies in place to avoid contact