



SEPT 2023

**University of Brighton**

# MENTAL HEALTH PLACEMENT

SPECIALIST MENTAL HEALTH  
CARE, SUPPORT AND  
ASSESSMENT

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## PLACEMENT DETAILS

Duration: 1 week  
3 days/week (8-12hr days)

Location: Variable in Sussex, Surrey and Kent  
Please check your allocation

Completed in: Year 1

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

LO1: Observe and/or discuss a mental capacity assessment as per the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

LO2: Observe and/or discuss the safeguarding of adults with mental health presentations.

LO3: Gain an understanding of the Mental Health Team and the roles within the multidisciplinary team

LO4: Gain an understanding of what resources may be available to support someone with mental health needs in the pre-hospital environment and identify how the paramedic can contribute in the care of patients presenting with mental health emergencies.

LO5: Gain an understanding of the stigma that people with mental health diagnoses needs may face.

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# WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

## A MULTI-SPOKE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

*"Recognise that relationships with service users should be based on mutual respect and trust, and be able to maintain high standards of care even in situations of personal incompatibility"*

- HEALTH AND CARE PROFESSIONS COUNCIL (HCPC), STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY, 2014

This mental health placement has been integrated into the course to allow you the opportunity to experience the presentation, care and management of patients with a variety of mental health diagnoses in a secure and supportive environment.

The primary aim of this placement is to help you to develop confidence when interacting with, and assessing, patients who present in a mental health crisis. However, this placement will also allow you to gain a greater understanding of the holistic care required to support our patients and how to appropriately assess their capacity and their safety.

You will also gain insight to the roles of those involved in the multidisciplinary team.

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# WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

## TO BE ATTENTIVE AND RESPECTFUL

*“If confidential information raises concerns about the safety or wellbeing of someone, discuss this promptly with an appropriate member of staff at your education provider or practice placement provider.”*

- HEALTH AND CARE PROFESSIONS COUNCIL (HCPC), STANDARDS OF CONDUCT, PERFORMANCE AND ETHICS, 2014

This is your first interprofessional placement and it is imperative that you are attentive, present and engaged throughout your time there.

Under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified clinician you will have the opportunity to witness a patient's journey through mental health services and it is important to be personable, professional and respectful to allow yourself as many learning opportunities as possible.

## YOUR TO DO LIST:

- Contact placement to arrange shifts a minimum of 3 weeks in advance.
- Attend shift without fail and on time, except for extenuating circumstances.
- Maintain a professional attitude with enthusiasm and willingness to learn - remember, you represent ALL student paramedics!
- If attendance to a shift is affected by personal circumstances, follow normal absence reporting procedures ensuring the placement and your personal tutor are informed.

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# HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO STUDENT PARAMEDICS?

## EXPERIENCE, COMPETENCIES AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

In recent years there has been a noticeable increase in the number of mental health cases within paramedics' caseload. Paramedics are often the first point of contact for patients who are struggling with a mental health crisis and, due to this, are well placed to contribute to care.

This means that having a strong understanding of mental health services can only improve your performance as a pre-hospital clinician.

There are also high instances of mental health and wellbeing issues in emergency service staff. It is important to be able to recognise these and be able to offer support, or flag your concerns, when you see a colleague is struggling.

## PAD DOCUMENTS

Supervisors on any placement have no obligation to sign your PAD competencies. However, if you are seen by a supervisor to have met the competency in a safe and effective manner you can request;

A Summative sign off **if they have a Mentorship/Supervisor qualification.**



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## TIPS

### HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS PLACEMENT

To gain as much as possible from this experience, it is recommended you engage in any observations that are offered as part of this placement and actively seek opportunities to broaden your knowledge and understanding.

There are no formal assessments or assignments for this, but it may be helpful to seek answers to the following questions:

- How many people work in this department and what are their roles?
- What services are available out of hours in the pre-hospital environment? And how are they contacted/referred to?
- How are patients received, triaged and managed?
- What services are there available for Paramedics to contact directly?
- How can Paramedics work collaboratively with staff to ensure best patient care?
- How are the services changing?
- What tools do you use to risk assess your patients?

## HINT

Why not complete a short reflection to allow you to consolidate your learning and highlight areas of interest? It will look great in your continuing professional development (CPD) folder!



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## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Placement Lead

Jessica Rimmer – [j.e.rimmer@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:j.e.rimmer@brighton.ac.uk)

### Course Lead

Mark Durell - [m.durell@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:m.durell@brighton.ac.uk)

### Personal Tutors

Chris Matthews – [c.matthews3@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:c.matthews3@brighton.ac.uk)

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### Placement Admin Support

Lina Tichomirova - [l.tichomirova@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:l.tichomirova@brighton.ac.uk)

## LINKS TO HCPC STANDARDS

[HCPC Guidance on conduct and ethics for students](#)

[HCPC Standards of conduct, performance and ethics](#)

[HCPC Standards of proficiency](#)