

05 March 2012

Medical School Deans

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Dear Colleague

Re: Shadowing for Foundation Year 1 (F1) Doctors

Following our discussion at the Medical Schools Council, the NHS Operations Executive has agreed that all new appointees should undertake a period of paid shadowing immediately before they take up their F1 post, starting this year. I would be grateful if you could forward the attached letter to your medical students advising them of the new arrangements in England.

Our aim is to ensure that all appointees to F1 spend a minimum of four working days shadowing the F1 job that they will be taking up and completing trust-based induction. This shadowing period will equip our new colleagues with the local knowledge and skills needed to provide safe, high quality patient care, from their first day as a F1 doctor. It builds on a range of developments that you and your colleagues have introduced in undergraduate medical education including student assistantships.

In England, we have agreed that new appointees will be remunerated on a pro-rata basic F1 salary. Individual employers will contact appointees directly to advise them of the start date. Appointees should ensure that they are available for at least the last week of July 2012.

Different arrangements exist in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales and further information will be provided for new F1 doctors in these countries.

I am grateful to you and your colleagues through Medical Schools' Council for your advice about the implementation of shadowing. There is an enormous amount of work to be done to make this happen in time for the end of July. I am sure that SHAs, employing organisations and postgraduate deaneries would benefit from your expert input.

With thanks and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



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NHS Medical Director**

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