

Prevocational Accreditation Committee Position Statement

Home and other offsite visits

This position statement was developed to provide guidance in relation to the circumstances relating to the attendance and role of prevocational trainees in home visits or other residential facilities.

Through recent surveys as well as new and revised term description reviews, it has been identified that there is a need for specific guidance to address these circumstances.

It is acknowledged that there has been evolving models of care including an increase of hospital-in-the-home services. These are an important development for patients. In some, but not all instances, visits to home and other locations are led by nurses or other health professionals, often with specialist skills in the specific condition, e.g. palliative care or rehabilitation.

1. As an Observer

The PAC does not consider that a prevocational trainee accompanying a non-medical health practitioner for observation purposes of the patient care undertaken by other health practitioners is a suitable training activity in a home or other residential location. Additionally, the presence of the trainee (as a medical practitioner) may confer inappropriate responsibility upon them given duty of care expectations should a patient be identified as requiring medical attention on arrival, or during a visit.

2. As the most senior doctor attending and undertaking clinical activities

The PAC does not consider that a prevocational doctor should be the most senior doctor onsite where there is an expectation of a medical review of the patient.

For all visits to home or other residential locations away from the primary training location, it is expected that PGY1s and 2s will not be the only medical practitioners in attendance and would be attending with a more senior medical practitioner. This expectation reflects the supervision and support required for a prevocational trainee, and the duty of care required of a medical practitioner.

This position statement applies equally to terms based in hospital or General Practice environments.