We are writing to you jointly on behalf of the University of Nottingham, GP Task Force Derbyshire and Derbyshire LMC. We wish to gauge your interest in having assistance at your practice from a senior medical student during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our medical students have been keen to get involved and contribute to the challenges we face in a meaningful way. Some have expressed an interest in helping within a Primary Care setting and we are working to support them to do this.

Nationally there has been some guidance produced by the Medical Schools Council and the RCGP have published a useful document (attached) that suggests how the guidance might be used in practice.

Role of the medical student:

**Non-clinical roles:\***

One key recommendation is that if students perform non-clinical roles then these can be done on a voluntary basis, with a practice or organisation reimbursing the student for travel expenses and lunch.

**Clinical roles:\***

If the roles undertaken are clinical in nature, such that would require the specific skills of a senior medical student, then this work should be a paid role with terms of employment.

\*Generally, we would suggest that if the work could be undertaken by a layperson then this would be considered non-clinical. There are examples of what constitutes clinical and non-clinical activities within the RCGP guidance document.

All students would require a brief induction and a nominated supervisor. There is no expectation for teaching, but any clinical work should be supervised appropriately and indemnity would be covered by the National Clinical Negligence Scheme for GP. PPE should be provided by the organisation if required. The University would arrange mentoring and pastoral support for the students involved.

The Medical Schools Council recommended a maximum of 20 hours per week. This may vary during student holidays or if studies are temporarily suspended. We do not currently know when any clinical placements may resume for Nottingham students, but we have been advised that we will receive at least 2 weeks notice of this and it may be that the students wish to continue in any role alongside their course if time and flexibility allowed.

**What to do next:**

We would be grateful if you could reply to us via this [link](https://nottingham.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/practice-questionnaire-students-interested-in-roles-in-p) even if you do not want assistance from a medical student at this time. This will enable us to quickly ascertain the needs of individual practices and of those clustered within existing networks.

Please reply **as soon as possible**(ideally by Monday 27th, but there is no cut-off date) in order for us to support practices and best utilise the student volunteers in the community.

We will try to move quickly in implementing this programme and we will endeavour, wherever possible, to match an appropriate student to a request made. However, we cannot guarantee this as it depends on the volume of requests received from practices.

If you have any queries regarding the offer, then please do not hesitate to contact us. Please email paula.hopwood-carr@nottingham.ac.uk

With very best wishes

Dr Gail Walton

Dr Jaspal Taggar

Dr Gemma Wilkinson

Mrs Paula Hopwood-Carr