

Grey Gable Surgery & Health Education West Midlands

Trainee GPs - Advice for Patients

This Practice has qualified doctors learning to be GPs. These doctors are with the surgery for four months, eight months or 12 months as part of their three years specialist training. Historically known as Registrars, they are now referred to as ST1, ST2 or ST3 according to their year of training.

Your participation in their training is greatly appreciated. However, this is entirely voluntary, no-one will mind if you would rather not see a Trainee.

You can also decline to see particular doctors, such as those of a different sex or those you have met outside the surgery.

Of course, the care provided to you by the practice will not be affected in any way.

If you are prepared to see a Trainee this leaflet may help answer some of your questions.

***Remember you can always say "No!"
or change your mind!***

When might I see a Trainee?

- A Trainee may be sitting with doctors or nurses at the practice. The receptionist should warn you about this and will tell the doctor if you would rather not see a student. Saying 'No' will not have any effect on the care you receive.
- You may be asked if the Trainee can do the consultation while your doctor or nurse watches. The Trainee may be asked questions. If something is said that you do not understand, please ask for clarification.
- You may be asked for consent for a Trainee to video record your consultation. This recording will be viewed by the doctor and student. With your specific permission, it may also be taken to a teaching session at another practice where a group of four to eight students and a GP tutor will view the recording and give feedback to the student. This is a valuable learning tool for both medical students and experienced doctors. You may say no at any time before or during the consultation. You can also tell us to erase the recording at any time either immediately after the consultation or weeks later. Such a request will not affect the care you receive from the practice. The recording will be deleted once training is complete or earlier at your request.

Can I ask a Trainee to explain things to me?

Trainees often have more time available to them and may be able to explain things in simple language. However, they are still learning so may not have answers to all your questions. What they can do is listen to your questions and ask a doctor or nurse to give you fuller answers if need be.

Do Trainees have access to my records?

It helps Trainees if they can read the history of your problem and see what doctors have found and we assume that agreement to see a Trainee implies permission to look at your records.

Trainees are, of course, bound by the same rules of confidentiality as any doctor or nurse.

If you don't want Trainees to look at your records please let us know.

Trainees may see the records of any patient when working with a doctor or nurse; this may include looking at results, dealing with hospital letters or reviewing notes as part of an audit.

Are my views about a Trainee's behaviour useful?

Yes, indeed! It is always helpful to have feedback both positive and negative about Trainees.

We like to know when they have been warm and helpful or if they have seemed cold or muddled. Please tell the doctor or receptionist whenever you feel it appropriate, or write a note if you prefer.

What happens if a Trainee upsets me?

That should be a very rare event. If it does happen please let someone in the surgery know at once. Be assured your concerns will be investigated and appropriate action taken.

Finally!

Trainees learn an enormous amount from the patients they meet.

Thank you for your help.

It could be very important in making sure we have excellent doctors in the future who are both knowledgeable & caring.