

Longitudinal Integrated Foundation Training (LIFT) – FAQs

1. What is LIFT?

Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships recognise the improved learning that results from training regularly in different environments over an extended period compared to more traditional, compartmentalised, clinical attachments.

A few Foundation Schools in England have introduced LIFT programmes. For example, the North West of England Foundation School started a LIFT programme in 2016 under the guidance of Professor David Hirsh of Harvard Medical School.

Evaluation of the North West LIFT pilot showed high satisfaction rates from trainees and trainers. Trainees benefited from the educational support and broader clinical exposure offered by experiencing primary care. Moreover, their practical skills such as consultation skills, developing management plans, communication and administrative activity also benefited from time in primary care.

Further information about the North West's LIFT programme is available here <https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/foundation/LIFT>

2. How does LIFT work?

The Wales Foundation School is introducing a LIFT pilot scheme starting in August 2020 in four regions – Aneurin Bevan, Cwm Taf Morgannwg, Betsi Cadwaladr and Hywel Dda Health Boards.

In each pilot area, there will be a newly funded rotation involving three placements of 4 months each in hospital posts. Each F1 doctor will spend 1 day per week in a yearlong general practice placement.

3. Who employs LIFT trainees?

The F1 LIFT trainees are employed under a lead employer arrangement. NHS Wales Shared Service Partnership acts as the employer of these F1s. All enquiries about aspects of their employment should be directed to NWSSPSLE@wales.nhs.uk

4. When will the F1 trainees be released to general practice?

Participating training practices will each host one F1 doctor on a Friday for a whole year. The practice will host the same F1 doctor for the whole year.

5. Will the trainees still attend their generic teaching?

Yes, the F1 will be expected to attend teaching sessions with their peer group. Occasionally these peer group learning sessions may take place during the day when they would usually be in the general practice setting.

6. How are the Practices that take LIFT trainees selected?

The practices are all approved GP Training practices; and for logistical reasons they need to be close to the hospital base of the F1.

7. Who will allocate F1s to the LIFT rotations?

The Wales Foundation School will be responsible for allocating F1s to their rotations.

8. Who is the Educational Supervisor for the F1?

The supervising GP trainer acts as the F1s ES throughout the F1 year. The Educational Supervisor is encouraged to liaise with the F1s Clinical Supervisor in each of their posts to discuss the F1s progress and any other pertinent matters.

9. Does the Educational Supervisor of the F1 need to be an approved GP Trainer?

Yes, the Educational Supervisor will usually be an approved GP Trainer. An F1 and a GP Specialty Trainee placed in a general practice simultaneously may by necessity, be supervised by the same trainer.

10. How does the Educational Supervisor get access to the F1s eportfolio?

The GP Educational Supervisor will be provided with an account for the TURAS Eportfolio and login details will be emailed directly to them. Guidance on how to use TURAS will be provided by the local PG Centre.

11. What remuneration does the training practice receive?

The practice will receive a pro rata trainer's grant for each F1 hosted.

12. How does the practice claim for the trainers grant?

The grant will be paid in 3 instalments over the F1 year - in November, February and July. The Foundation School will complete a claim form and email it to the General practice, who will need to check, sign and date the claim form and return it by the specified date. Payment will then be made by BACS into the account details provided.

13. Can the F1 claim travel expenses for travel to and from the practice and for any house calls?

Yes. These should be claimed via the E-expense system from NWSSP who is the lead employer for F1s.

14. Will there be any training for Educational Supervisors of LIFT trainees?

The Wales Foundation School will arrange a meeting to brief all Educational Supervisors in advance of the F1 LIFT placements starting.

15. Who does the GP Trainer contact with questions during the LIFT placement?

The local Foundation Programme Director should be the first contact for any questions about the LIFT placement. Contact details for the FPD are available here:

Dr Phil Evans	Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB	Philip.MS.Evans@wales.nhs.uk
Dr Alison Ingham	Betsi Cadwaladr UHB	Alison.Ingham@wales.nhs.uk
Dr Will Mackintosh	Hywel Dda UHB	William.Mackintosh@wales.nhs.uk

Dr Helen Fowles/Dr Ashok Vaghela	Aneurin Bevan UHB	Helen.Fowles@wales.nhs.uk / Ashok.Vaghela@wales.nhs.uk
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16. What level of supervision is required for F1s in practice?

F1s should work under arrangements which recognise their stage of training with appropriate support and supervision. Robust processes to ensure such support and supervision must be in place in the general practice setting.

After a period of induction, F1s will consult with patients; and patient contacts will need to be reviewed and 'signed off' by a more senior GP.

17. Can the F1s sign prescriptions when they are in practice?

The General Medical Council permits F1s to prescribe as part of their learning to achieve full registration. The practice must ensure that all prescriptions are checked, by a fully registered doctor or other fully registered appropriate health care professional such as a pharmacist.

For this reason, F1s may generate prescriptions but they should not sign them. Having checked them, an authorised prescriber in the practice will need to sign these prescriptions.

18. Will the F1 perform home visits?

FY1 trainees could participate in joint or supervised visits in conjunction with other practitioners, but this will depend on any prevailing Covid pandemic considerations and restrictions.

19. What educational activity will the F1s have in practice?

GP placements are particularly valuable in providing opportunities to acquire many of the curriculum requirements mandated by the GMC for F1.

https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/outcomes-for-provisionally-registered-doctors-jul15_pdf-61407158.pdf

- In their first 4 Fridays, F1s should sit in on or otherwise shadow clinical activities during each morning and afternoon session.

With a supervising GP selecting all the F1's consultations:

- For at least Fridays 5 to 8, sitting in could extend, in part, to also carrying out some telephone, video and face to face consultations, with a supervising GP listening in to or directly observing each consultation the F1 undertakes.
- In certain circumstances, (if their Educational Supervisor considers a particular F1 is ready) supervision might be able to evolve to an in depth review of the F1's consultations at the end of each clinical session.

Aside from these scheduled clinical activities, F1s will benefit from other scheduled and opportunistic learning activities such as practice meetings, and individual or joint tutorials or discussions.

Practices within a LIFT area may decide to collaborate occasionally and one practice host all the F1s together for an educational session.

20. What procedures can the F1 perform in practice?

Many procedures specified by the Foundation programme curriculum can be carried out under supervision in the GP setting.

Further details of the core clinical and procedural skills for F1s are contained in the GMCs document https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/outcomes-for-provisionally-registered-doctors-jul15_pdf-61407158.pdf

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