

Clinical Education Fact Sheet #12

Student support

On occasions, students may present with a personal situation that requires support. The University has a range of student support avenues through UQ Student Services. Please encourage students to seek support through the appropriate channels. Students can contact [Student Services](#) through the [UQ website](#). Clinical Educators (CEs) are not expected to provide support beyond the scope of the role of a CE.

It is possible that the CELMs are aware of some additional information pertaining to some students who have sought support from Student Services. CELMs will communicate in advance of the placement any agreed information that forms part of their support plan. In addition, students are encouraged to discuss their needs with the CE at the start of the placement.

Though support strategies and adjustments may be implemented, the student must demonstrate the required standard of skills and competencies to succeed in the placement by the end of the learning period. The assessment standards are fixed and are not to be changed to accommodate support needs.

Some students who do not have formal plans in place may also require support or referral to student services. It is important that any factor affecting the student's ability to satisfactorily meet the required learning outcomes should be drawn to the attention of the CELMs, such that the appropriate supportive strategies may be considered. Students may signal they wish the information to be confidential. Specific details need not be communicated to the CELM, though CEs must signal to the student and the CELM that their clinical performance is affected, and the personal issue needs to be addressed.

Fitness to undertake clinical practice/risk assessment.

In some instances, it may be appropriate to undertake a risk assessment of the student's capacity to engage in learning on placement. This process is intended to assist the CE in identifying appropriate actions in the event the student presents with a limitation (e.g., physical/psychological/emotional/educational) that will affect their ability to participate fully in the assigned learning activities or responsibilities during their clinical immersion. These may include (for example) fatigue, injury or illness, emotional distress, mental health issues, effects of medication etc.

CEs are asked to consider the following:

- Discuss with the student the limitation that presents.
- Notify the CELMs.
- CELMs may request that a *Fitness to Undertake Clinical Practice Form* be completed.
- Complete the form in consultation with the student.
- Implement the appropriate actions.
- Return the form via e-mail to the CELMs.
- Monitor the impact and review controls as indicated.

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Accidents and incidents

All reportable incidents involving students are logged at UQ as part of O H & S protocols therefore if an incident involving a student occurs during a clinical immersion, please follow the host facility's guidelines for documentation and logging the incident including any medical attention for the student if required. In addition, contact the CELMs and forward a copy of all documentation regarding the incident making them aware of any follow up required by relevant parties. If necessary, CEs may be contacted by the CELMs to clarify details of the incident.