

## KUMEC Guideline on student use of computers in the teaching practices

Students have sometimes given feedback that they have limited access to computers and computer systems in the practice. The statement below clarifies the requirement for computer use as noted in our other guidelines for teaching practices. This is especially important in Stage 3 where students will see patients independently and enter notes accordingly.

Under supervision, pertinent to their stage of training, students should be permitted to access the practice's computer systems to ensure that they gain experience sharing case notes, moving towards case management and taking clinical responsibility. This should include the availability of the internet to check their university email, search online journals and access patient records for note-keeping as appropriate. This provides a good opportunity for tutors to review the confidentiality agreement with students.

The GMC supports the view that students on placement are part of the clinical team and have the same rights and responsibilities as other team members with respect to access to notes and you may wish to explicitly gain informed consent from patients. However this also relates to the students' stage of training and needs.

Outcomes for graduates, (GMC 2018) states that graduates must be able to:

“Communicate effectively with patients and colleagues in a medical context:

- communicate by spoken, written and electronic methods (including in medical records) clearly, sensitively and effectively with patients, their relatives, carers or other advocates, and colleagues from medical and other professions.
- use methods of communication used by patients and colleagues such as technology-enabled communication platforms, respecting confidentiality and maintaining professional standards of behaviour” (Page 15)

“Newly qualified doctors must be able to use information effectively and safely in a medical context, and maintain accurate, legible, contemporaneous and comprehensive medical records” (page 19)

This is particularly crucial for final year (Stage 3) medical students who will be consulting independently, under supervision, and are required to enter data from these real patient encounters into our GP clinical systems. Best practice would be for final year students to have their own log-in ID which identifies them as medical students, so their contributions are explicit.

More junior (Stage 2) medical students' learning of case management and documentation would be benefitted by supervised sharing of case notes for their “illness scripts”. Students really appreciate these opportunities to begin to learn about our patients and the electronic health records systems we use.

Please feel free to contact the relevant Stage Lead, Deputy or Administrator for further clarification if required.

[Outcomes for graduates \(gmc-uk.org\)](https://www.gmc-uk.org) can be found here