

2024-25 Setting Description

Placement Setting: Social Work Services in Medical Setting

Target Group(s): Patients receiving or have received medical treatment in hospitals or clinics, and their families; Volunteers serving in hospitals (for patient/health resource centre)

Purpose and Nature of Service:

Purpose of service:

Through working with the individual, and collaborating with the medical/paramedical team, the family, community partners, and even volunteers, to:

- ✧ facilitate physical, psychological, social and spiritual rehabilitation or recovery of individuals suffering/suffered from illnesses, including the improvement or maintenance of their quality of life despite the illnesses.
- ✧ enhance acceptance and coping with illness, including counselling for patients facing impending death and bereavement support for their families

Nature of work:

Casework – Pre-admission planning, psycho-social assessment, discharge planning and follow up service, referral for practical assistance, counseling for individual and/or the family, psycho-education on illness and its course, consultation and collaboration with other health-care professionals

Group work – Therapeutic, developmental, educational, mutual support groups for patients and/or their caregivers; volunteer training group in patient/health resource centre

Mass program/Project – Developmental, educational, recreational programs/ projects for patients and/or their family; May involve in some large-scale project conducted in partnership with the Hospital or Community

Probable setting-specific nature of work:

- ✧ In medical social service units (both general unit and psychiatric unit): Case and group work mostly
- ✧ In some specialist clinics/centres (e.g. Adolescent Medical Centre, Hospice Centre): Casework and group work is predominant, with chances of conducting programs

- ✧ In patient/health resource centres (e.g. Patient Resource Centre, Cancer Centre):
Groups /programs /projects are the usual practice
- ✧ In Family Medicine Ap Lei Chau Clinic (only casework)

Unique Feature of Possible Learning Opportunities:

- Multi-disciplinary approach is adopted: there may be opportunities for team collaboration with other clinical professionals and for involvement/participation in ward rounds and case conferences; reporting to the team on work handled by placement student is expected.
- Principal clientele: mostly patients and their family members in adjusting to illness or illness specific health condition, e.g. various types of cancer, renal failure, stroke, diabetes, chronic pulmonary diseases or heart diseases etc.; while at other times, a wider spectrum of illness types would be assigned for broader exposure of students' learning opportunities, e.g., in a psychiatric setting, cases with different illness, like schizophrenia, depression, anxiety disorder, etc., would be assigned.
- Other possible clienteles:
 - Volunteers, e.g., training in peer counseling, formation of volunteer group, and during summer block placement, students may be involved in organizing "Health Summer School" for volunteers of secondary school students.
 - the public, e.g., in some mass programs/projects, like health promotion activities.

Working Hours:

- Normal office hours for medical social service units operated by SWD (5-day work practice: Monday to Friday from 9:00-17:48/ 8:30-17:18)
- Most medical social service units operated by HA would also have normal office hours.
- For Adolescent Medical Centre (in QEH), it only operates from Monday to Friday. For concurrent placement, the placement days are restricted to Monday and Friday from 9:00 to 18:00; with the possibility to work on Thursday from 13:00 to 21:00. For summer block, 9:00 to 18:00 on weekdays except from 13:00 to 21:00 for Thursday would be the placement period.
- Patient/health resource centre: normal office hours, some operate till 18:00 in the evening, but would not open at night; very occasional Saturday & Sunday opening due to programs and activities.

*Evening or weekend duty may be required for running groups and programs or for home visits in the different units/ centres.

Special Characteristics/ Requirements:

Since team approach is strongly emphasized and the cases tend to be more serious in nature in psychiatric and some specialist clinic (like Adolescent Medical Centre and hospice settings), with the possibility of sudden turn of events, like death and suicide, the student must be **mature, independent, and able to relate well with other professionals**. Some service units would only accept Masters students and/or students in their final placement.

Students who want to work in medical-related fields but cannot attend placement during the daytime should expect that there would be very limited choices of placement setting for them. Interested students could consider choosing the rehabilitation service, where there would also be service users having illness-related issues, including chronic illness and mental illness in residential service as well as in the community (For example: Community Rehabilitation Network; Halfway House; Integrated Community Centre for Mental Health, etc.)

There is a very fast pace of work in acute settings, like the general wards of major hospitals, in which a case needs to be handled within one or two days. Students would need to work efficiently and at a quick pace, with readiness to handle crisis situations or sudden turn of events in the medical condition of the patients.

Placement settings/ agencies and corresponding websites:

Social Welfare Department (for Schedule I Hospitals and Psychiatric Services):
<http://www.swd.gov.hk/>

Current/Previous placement settings: *Medical Social Services Units at Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (Psychiatric Unit), West Kowloon Psychiatric Centre, Western Psychiatric Centre, Queen Elizabeth Hospital (General Unit), Tuen Mun Hospital (General Unit), Yung Fung Shee Psychiatric Centre*

Hospital Authority (for Schedule II Hospitals or Patient/Health Resource Centres): <http://www.ha.org.hk>

Current/Previous placement settings: *Caritas Medical Centre (Health Resource Centre), Yan Chai Hospital (Medical Social Services Unit & Health Resource Centre), Pamela Youde Eastern Hospital (Community and Patient Resource Centre), Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Patient Resource Centre; Cancer Patient Resource Centre; Hospice), Grantham Hospital (Medical Social Services Unit; Hospice Centre; Patient Resource Centre), Queen Mary Hospital Cancercare and Support Unit, Apleichau Out-patient Clinic, Adolescent Medical Centre, Haven of Hope Hospital (Medical Social Services Unit), Kowloon Hospital + Hong Kong Eye Hospital*

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