

## Preparation for placement

You are probably looking forward to this the most; many students find this the most exciting aspect of the course. For some the reality is quite different to expectations, no one can predict what you are going to see or experience during shifts in any clinical environments.

Your safety and that of your colleagues is of paramount and you will be given a safety briefing from your practice placement educator (PPE).

The ambulance placement will not only be an enjoyable experience in which you will get to practice and refine your skills it will be your longest ever **INTERVIEW**.

Please be aware everything you say or do is constantly being assessed in order to ascertain your ability to be a professional, furthermore you are representing not only the profession but also the university.

Up to 50% of your time will be on placement in either Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) or East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS).

These are some of the areas your practice placement educator (PPE) and other ambulance staff will be looking for: -



- Time keeping
- Appearance
- Attitude
- Progression

You will also be expected to do the following: -

- Maintain patient confidentiality
- Maintain a professional relationship towards
  - Colleagues
  - Mentors
  - Patients

## **Where to start**

You have time to learn the expectations and requirements of your placements. This will be introduced in sessions in your Work Based Learning 4 (WBL4) module.

You will also have an induction day with your allocated ambulance trust; this may be done at the university or at an educational department in the trust.

You will be given a check sheet to complete on your first day of each placement area. These will include fire safety, lockers and local induction.

Look at this website and read all of the documentation prior to going on placement. There are placement leads who you will meet prior to your first placement, they are available for any questions or issues prior to your first placement. They are the first contact for placement issues.

## **First Placement**

Your first placement will be in a community setting such as nursing home, day care centres or patient transportation service. You will be allocated your shifts and contact details at least 3 weeks prior to your placement. It is your responsibility to contact your practice placement educator (PPE) prior to your first shift.

## **Ambulance Placement**

You will be allocated your ambulance station and placement practice educator (PPE) when you start the course. You may have received the area you would be working in during your AHP pre-course day over the summer.

You will be given your placement practice educator's contact details (usually mobile and email address). It is your responsibility to make contact with your PPE prior to going on your first placement.

If you are in Yorkshire you have the opportunity to use the Healthcare Placement PPQA website, they will have profiles of your placements areas. In the East Midlands you will have a link to the Trusts' websites.

## **Further reading**

Blaber,A. (2015) *'The student paramedic survival guide'*. Open University Press, Maidenhead.