

Placement profile

Names and roles

Albert Ashley,
Physiotherapy
student

Organisations

Coventry University
Lyng Medical Centre,
West Bromwich



Placement overview

During my most recent placement I spent time with the 'own bed instead' virtual ward team who are based at the Lyng Medical centre in West Bromwich. The team review patients in their own home to offer intense physiotherapy 2-3 times a week. The working days were Monday to Friday 08:00-16:00 but there were opportunities to observe some of the evening shifts. Typically, we would review 3-4 patients each day. Patients on the caseload presented with a wide variety of conditions such as orthopaedic, neuromuscular, or cardiac. We also frequently reviewed individuals presenting with general frailty and a falls risk. The variety of conditions presented lots of learning opportunities for assessment and management. The multidisciplinary team includes physiotherapists, occupational therapists, therapy support workers, case managers, and advanced clinical practitioners. The opportunity to work with different team members was helpful for furthering my understanding of the MDT. I was also able to spend some time working with the admissions avoidance team. This contributed to improving my adaptability during treatments because you have less information available to you prior to reviewing patients. The team here are very friendly and welcoming and made placement an incredibly enjoyable experience. As stated there are a variety of opportunities available to progress your practice skill and learning and the team did a fantastic job in supporting my learning throughout.

Supervision: In person, 1:1

Lessons learnt:

1. Community work gives you a great insight into how individuals manage at home especially with equipment
2. Community work offers great insight into time management throughout the day. When reviewing patients you have to consider travel time, therapy intervention time, and notes.
3. This placement provided the opportunity to work with the MDT.
4. Working with community allows for the opportunity to see how teams communicate and work together to support individuals living at home.

Top tips for others:

- Make sure you plan work to complete during 'down time' between visits.
- It is important to consider the environment when reviewing patients in the community as it can be unpredictable. This will help to ensure safety for the patient and yourself.