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Elective Placement Summary

For my elective placement, I lead a service development project at my base hospital, Ninewells in Dundee. This project was aimed at introducing an isolated category 2 facility with a biochemistry point of care analyser to use for samples from patients with low to high possibility of VHF, as well as other Hazard Group 3 and 4 pathogens. I set out aiming to develop skills in leadership, organisation and communication, as well as gaining a better understanding of the structure of the NHS and the procurement process. As this elective was carried out at my base hospital, I did not require any funding for travelling or accommodation and it was very easy to organise with my colleagues.

The project involved organising meetings with relevant members of staff both within and outside of the department to discuss the structure and organisation of the project, timeframes, cost considerations and team roles. After deciding that the point of care analyser which fitted the criteria for our category 2 facility was the Piccolo Xpress, I carried out an evaluation on this using QC material and patient samples and compared results to our laboratory analyser using statistical software. I discussed the results with the project team and after deciding to purchase this piece of equipment, I obtained signatures for the equipment requisition form from different members of staff from across the hospital. I met with the Finance Department on several occasions to discuss the justification for purchasing the analyser and this was a particularly valuable experience in understanding the procurement process and what information is required for purchasing equipment in the NHS. I also met with the estates department on several occasions to discuss the changes that needed to be made to the room we had designated as our high-risk sample facility and the cost implications associated with these changes. We have now received the analyser, which will now undergo a full validation and members of staff will be trained in how to use this piece of equipment.

I really enjoyed this elective and found it incredibly valuable in learning about how to lead a project of this kind. I also really enjoyed getting to know other members of staff in different departments at my hospital and that has been very useful outside of this elective.