Dear Colleague,

Following a pilot including KSS and Southwest Deaneries the General Medical Council has established the use of senior Postgraduate Doctors in Training (PGDiTs) as Clinical Supervisors for FY2 Doctors to be a business-as-usual programme in the UK. This programme involves senior PGDiTs (ST6+) acting at the Clinical Supervisors for selected FY2 Doctors. The ‘displaced Clinical Supervisor’ (dCS) (Consultant or SAS doctor who would ordinarily provide the supervision) remains available for support in a hands off role and the CS role, including Horus requirements, becomes the responsibility of the Senior PGDiT CS.

In brief, senior Registrars (ST6 or above) can volunteer to take on the role of Clinical Supervisor for an FY2 Doctor in your department. You will need to complete PGDiTs the standard deanery Clinical Supervisor training (Modules 1-3) DETAILS OF WHICH CAN BE FOUND HERE XXXXXXXXXXX.

You must have passed your own most recent ARCP with an outcome 1 and ensure that your own current Education Supervisors has no concerns regarding your participation. You will need to be due to stay in the same trust for the entire duration of the FY2’s rotation. If successful, you will be matched with an FY2 Doctors who has progressed though FY1 with no concerns or adverse outcomes at ARCP and is willing to take part in this programme.

The evaluation and analysis of the most recent pilot in the southwest demonstrated support and advantages to the pilot at all levels.

The PGDiT CS (Registrars) were extremely enthusiastic regarding the advantages of their participation in this pilot. 100% said they enjoyed it, found it rewarding, learned something and felt better prepared for supervision in the future. All of them said they would recommend it to other colleagues to take part. They enjoyed the opportunity to supervise and mentor FY2s and felt they could bring different and valuable perspective as they were still in training. They felt they developed not only generic professional skills but also supervision specific ones as well as an understanding of the FY curriculum and requirements. It was personally rewarding and satisfying with positive career implications including being a useful experience to discuss at consultant interviews. Ultimately, they felt better prepared to take on clinical supervision in the future.

The FY2 Doctors overwhelmingly found it a rewarding and enjoyable experience and recommend it to colleagues. Themes identified were that the registrars provided a readily available and mentoring presence with beneficial learning and development opportunities. This method of supervision, with a senior Registrar performing the day to day clinical supervision role and dCS support available, was not only acceptable to the FY2 but many reported that they preferred it to the traditional method.

Ultimately, if matched correctly, FY2s are not disadvantaged by having a PGDiT as a Clinical Supervisor, in fact there are numerous benefits to them of it. The Registrars experienced personal development of both generic skills and supervision specific skills and will be better prepared supervisors as they move into consultant practice in the future.

If you would like to take part in this programme then please sign up for your supervisor training and also contact XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX to put your name forward for matching or for any further questions.

Thank you for your time and we hope that you will find participation in this programme enjoyable and rewarding.

Yours Sincerely,