The Harold Hopkins Department of Urology is a major urology centre in the region led by 6 Consultants. It provides services to patients requiring inpatient care at Hopkins Ward (23 beds), day surgery patients in the Adult Day Surgery Unit and has a Urology Procedures Unit where a comprehensive set of urology procedures/investigations (e.g. flexible cystoscopy, ESWL, urodynamics, TWOC clinics) could be performed in an outpatients setting. The Urology Department also hosts a strong team of multidisciplinary members such as uro-oncology nurses, dedicated ultrasonographers and experienced nurses, who together as a team provide excellent care to patients.

The type of work to expect and learning opportunities

A urology FY1’s role includes the running of the wards (ward rounds & jobs), pre-operative assessment & preparation of patients as well as the clerking & management of acute admissions.

Most of the FY1 Educational Objectives (as set out in the Foundation Year Portfolio) could be met. Particular strong learning points include:

a. Working across a diverse age group of patients (paediatric patients, adults & the elderly).
b. Multidisciplinary team working – Working together with a diverse range of professionals, including the surgical, radiology, microbiology, intensive care & oncology colleagues, as well as physiotherapists, dieticians, occupational therapists & pain team members.
c. Effective communication with healthcare professionals working in the Community Setting, such as GPs & District Nurses.
d. Management of acutely unwell patients.
e. Lots of clinical skills, both generic & specialised (e.g. SPC insertion) – depending on personal initiative.
| Main duties of the placement | A F1’s role include the running of the ward, such as participating in ward rounds, completing jobs, liaising with other teams, and following up of the results of investigations etc. There are ample opportunity to provide both acute & non-acute clinical care to patients. Urology F1s are also responsible for accepting acute admission referrals (both paediatrics/adults) from GPs, and providing the initial clerking as well as management of the patients. In addition, a Urology F1 is rostered for 1 week in every 4 weeks to be in charge of pre-operative assessment of Urological Surgery patients, in conjunction with the consultants/SpRs, anaesthetists & nurses to ensure patients are optimally/safely prepared for their listed operations. |
| Typical working pattern in this placement | 9 hours a day, 5 days a week. F1s currently rotate across the following shifts: A. 7am – 4pm (Monday – Friday) B. 7am – 4pm (Monday – Friday) C. 8am – 5pm (Monday – Friday) D. 12pm – 9pm (Sunday – Thursday) No further on-calls outside the hours listed above. |
| Employer information | The employer for this post is The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust. The post will be based in Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, Reading which is one of the largest general hospital foundation trusts in the country. It provides acute medical and surgical services to Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire and specialist services to a wider population across Berkshire and its borders and is also the biggest employer in Berkshire. RBH has • over 4,800 staff • 607 acute, 44 paediatrics and 57 maternity post natal beds • 204 day beds and spaces • an annual budget of £290 million, without PFI arrangements. |

It is important to note that this description is a typical example of your placement and may be subject to change.