

Formal in-practice teaching of GP registrars: methods and confidence of GP supervisors

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Background

The apprenticeship model of general practice training in Australia is designed to foster safe and independent practice in GP registrars. Accredited GP supervisors can employ a variety of formal teaching methods to ensure that registrars are learning and practicing safely. The aim of this study was to advance understanding of the methods used by supervisors during in-practice teaching sessions with GP registrars.

Method

Invitations to participate in General Practice Supervision Australia's online national survey titled "ENGAGE 2025 - Stronger together: your voice, our mission" were disseminated to GPSA members via email and social media. Consenting respondents anonymously completed questions about their socio-demographics and supervision experience, the frequency that they employ a variety of teaching methods and their confidence to do so. Supervisors were also asked if and how they evaluate their teaching efficacy.

Results

Data collection is scheduled for 1-31st March 2025. On closure of the survey, descriptive analyses will be used to explore the socio-demographic and professional characteristics of the sample. Research questions that will be used to guide data analyses include:

1. What teaching and learning methods are used during formal teaching sessions and how frequently are they employed? Are the methods associated with the level of supervisor experience or registrar level of training?
2. How confident are supervisors to use various teaching and learning methods? Is confidence associated with the frequency that various methods are employed or the level of supervision experience?
3. Do supervisors evaluate the effectiveness of their teaching? What methods are used?

Discussion

Outcomes from this study will advance understanding of how supervisors use their protected in-practice teaching time with registrars. By exploring supervisors' confidence, this study will identify key training needs to ensure that supervisors are equipped with the knowledge and skills to optimise learning outcomes in GP registrars.

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