

# Placement profile

## Names and roles

Helena Goode,  
Oncology  
Physiotherapist

## Organisations

Velindre Cancer  
Centre, Cardiff



## Placement overview

Our student is based in the therapies department of the Velindre Cancer Centre. Previously our students would spend most of their time on the ward but we have now developed the placement so that the student spends time in a variety of different areas to increase the breadth of their experience and allow them to appreciate the different stages the patient may benefit from physio intervention. For some of the time the student works in the Acute Oncology Assessment Unit, providing physiotherapy assessment, treatment and advice but also screening patients for other AHP needs. The student is able to learn about the management of Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression (MSCC) and develop specialist assessment and treatment skills in this area. If a patient is admitted from the unit to the ward the student is then able to follow that patient and continue treating them on the ward, allowing the student to experience more of the patient journey. This model allows the student to work with a variety of therapists, including carrying out regular joint sessions with our unit and ward OTs. The student also spends time in the joint AHP clinic for neuro-oncology patients. All neuro-oncology patients referred to the cancer centre have the opportunity to attend the virtual clinic where they are able to see a specialist nurse, SLT, dietitian, OT and physio all in one appointment. The student has the opportunity to learn about the neuro-oncology patient's journey, from initial diagnosis, through treatment and after. The student is able to learn more about the other AHP disciplines and their roles and how we can work jointly together to get the best outcome for the patient. The student also has the opportunity to develop their video consultation skills.

**Supervision:** 1:1 Face to face , Whole team supervision

### Lessons learnt:

1. The students' really appreciated how diverse our skills can be and holistic our approach needs to be with this group of patients.
2. Good communication between clinical educators to keep track of student's progress.
3. Be flexible, if a student is finding it too varied, reduce the amount of clinical areas they are working in or allow them to observe some sessions.

### Top tips for others:

- Make a timetable for student so they know where they're expected to be and when .
- Clinical educators communicate regularly about the student's progress and timetable this is in at the start of placement
- Talk to the rest of your team and see if they are able to offer a different opportunity or experience