

Student engagement for quality improvement or research activities

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This document provides information related to a Queensland Health Hospital and Health Service (HHS) engaging a student on clinical placement in quality improvement activities or research activities.

Who is considered a student on clinical placement?

A clinical placement student is a student undertaking a placement within a Queensland Health HHS clinical unit or facility for the requirement of completing a qualification into a clinical health profession. Additional information and definitions of clinical placements can be found within the Queensland Health [Student Placement Deed](#).

Can a student on clinical placement lead or participate in a research project?

Students on clinical placements within a Queensland Health HHS clinical unit or facility are not able to lead research projects as an Investigator. However, a student may support research activities within the unit as part of their placement. These activities need to be considered as usual clinical duties of the placement site, consistent with the requirements of the Queensland Health [Student Placement Deed](#), and supported by the Clinical Educator who identifies that:

- a) the student is competent to engage in the activities,
- b) student supervision is maintained,
- c) engaging in the activities aligns with the placement objectives, and
- d) engaging in the activities does not negatively impact the clinical placement learning experience.

Students must also be included on research delegation logs (required for research studies) which detail the activities associated with the research project that the student will engage in. The local HHS Research Ethics and Governance office can provide advice on the requirements for an appropriate research delegation log.

Can a student on clinical placement lead or participate in a quality improvement, service evaluation or service development project?

A student on a clinical placement can participate in, or lead a quality improvement, service evaluation or service development project as these activities are aligned with the usual role requirements of clinical staff within a Queensland Health HHS. These activities need to be considered as the usual clinical duties of the placement site, consistent with the requirements of the Queensland Health [Student Placement Deed](#), and supported by the Clinical Educator who identifies that:

- a) the student is competent to engage in these activities (particularly if the student intends to lead the activity),
- b) student supervision is maintained,
- c) engaging in the activities align with the placement objectives, and
- d) engaging in the activities does not negatively impact the clinical placement learning experience.

A clinical placement student has produced or contributed to a quality improvement, service evaluation or service development project during placement. Can the department publish this?

A completed quality improvement, service evaluation or service development activity within a Queensland Health HHS unit or facility can be published by the Queensland Health HHS, where:

- a) a student on clinical placement has led or contributed to the activity,
- b) the outputs or material produced by the student are not for the sole purpose of assessment related to their course or module of study, and
- c) the activity has been defined as part of the clinical placement by the clinical educator.

The Queensland Health team that has provided oversight of the quality improvement, service evaluation or service development activities, must seek appropriate local approvals for the dissemination of project outputs and findings external to Queensland Health. Contributing clinical placement students may be identified as an author but are recognised as a student of the Queensland Health HHS unit or facility for the purposes of publication or dissemination within, or external to Queensland Health (not their University affiliation).

The Intellectual Property Rights for any project outputs generated (for example, the creation of resources, tools, reports, business cases etc.) reside with the HHS in alignment with the [Student Placement Deed](#).

I am still unsure about student engaged in research or quality improvement activities in my HHS. Who should I talk to?

For research-based queries, please speak to your local ethics and research governance office. For quality improvement-based queries, please speak with your local quality improvement team or committee.