

# The successful implementation of electronic placement forms in a Scottish university postgraduate pre-registration radiography programme.



## Background

Review placement assessment documentation format

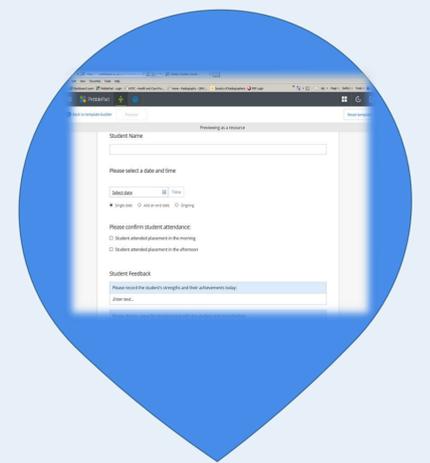
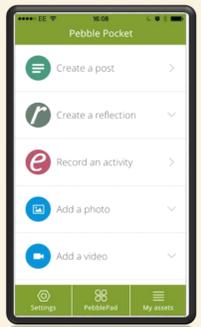
Reduce hard copies and associated storage

Convert to electronic format

Consider Data Protection Act / GDPR<sup>1</sup>

Requirements: accessible, works offline, secure, easy to use

## Pebble Pocket App



## Preparation

Liaised with PebblePad to convert paper forms to Pebble Pocket digital forms. Create PebblePad workbook to store electronic forms

Training session with Year 1 postgraduate pre-registration radiography students (n=12) introducing the PebblePocket App and PebblePad workbook

Placements supervisors informed of electronic forms, students disseminated App training to supervisors

## Implementation

12 Students, 5 NHS Boards, 12 Hospital sites, 204 Placement weeks

4 NHS Boards used PebblePad App , 1 NHS Board continued with paper due to device restrictions



## Feedback

Supervisors (placement feedback meeting)	Students (Bristol online survey n=7)
Completing forms on the student's personal device a concern	Initial technological issues retaining data storage on App and transferring to PebblePad workbook
Only able to complete the forms when the students' devices are on site	Supervisors not always completing the forms
Loss of access to previous day's feedback	Easy transfer from App to PebblePad workbook
Quick and secure; able to lock form content (written feedback and grades) offline	Less likely to lose forms, easy to access and review feedback
Forms easy to complete	Training essential before use on placement

## Discussion and Conclusion

The development and implementation of the electronic forms initiated a review of the current assessment documentation content and process. Original paper forms did not automatically translate to the digital format. The length and complexity of a few of the forms impacted on practice educator engagement. Revisions to the original Pebble Pocket forms and reverting to paper documentation were required for more complex forms. The paper copies were then scanned and electronically submitted in the PebblePad workbook.

As the placement weeks continued less concerns were raised by staff and students; particularly the use of personal devices. The Pebble Pocket App proved to be a reliable method of securely collating and submitting electronic feedback to the students' PebblePad accounts. Supervisors commented on the benefit of completing the forms offline and locking the forms so the student could not alter the comments and grades provided<sup>2,3</sup>. Placement providers and students agreed to further implementation of the electronic forms into the undergraduate programme.



## References

1. Information Commissioner's Office. Guide to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)[online]. 2018. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk>
2. Health and Care Profession Council Leads Group. Health and Care Professions (H&CP) Practice Education government/publications/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation. [Accessed 25 July 2018]. / Guidance. London: British Dietetic Association; 2016.
3. NHS Education for Scotland. Quality Standards for Practice Education. NHS Education for Scotland; 2008.

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