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

**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**

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