

## Student Placements and Snow

January 2010

We are aware that snow can cause issues for students attending placement or that students may be sent home early for various reasons. This is the University of Birmingham's Physiotherapy Department advice:

1. As would be expected of any qualified member of staff the student should make every effort to *safely* attend placement. Contact should be maintained with the placement to inform them of any likely lateness, or that they are genuinely unable to get in. Likewise, the placement should also inform the student if the department is likely to be closed.  
(N.B. this is also a reminder that both educator and student should have each other's contact details, if not prior to placement then certainly by induction on the first day).
2. It may be appropriate for the student to be sent home early e.g. if the weather is looking threatening and it may become difficult for them to get home safely. This is particularly applicable if other staff are also being sent home. Alternatively if patients are cancelled due to the weather and there is no other useful work that can be done at the placement site, it may also be deemed appropriate to send the student home.
3. In either of these cases the student should be set some work to do that is related to clinical. On their return they should show evidence of having completed that work, and the hours they were away from placement may then be counted as clinical hours.
4. Alternatively, if patients are cancelled but there is work elsewhere on the placement site where the student could usefully work, e.g. on another ward, the student could be deployed there. This would be dependant upon there being adequate supervision for the student and on the student's level of ability and adaptability – it would probably not be appropriate for a 1<sup>st</sup> year, for example.
5. Any further queries should be directed to the Clinical Tutor for your placement area, or to Jacky Conduit (Lecturer with Responsibility for Practice Education) or Christina Anderson (Lead Clinical Tutor in Physiotherapy) at the University.

Christina Anderson MCSP  
Lead Clinical Tutor in Physiotherapy  
8<sup>th</sup> January 2010