

**Delegation to students**

***Practice* Based Scenario**

**About this document**

This document is designed to take you through a practice-based scenario to help you reflect on what you might do if faced with a similar situation. It can be used to guide your thoughts and prompt discussion with your colleagues. Working through this document counts towards your continuing professional development (CPD). Your reflections on this document are not assessed and you do not have to send your responses to the RCSLT.

You can work through it on your own, with a colleague or supervisor, or in groups, eg as part of an RCSLT Hub or Clinical Excellence Network.

This document is broken into five parts:

1. **The scenario:** for you to read
2. **The issues to consider:** for you to gather your thoughts on practice issues relating to this scenario
3. **Next steps:** for you to plan out what you would need to do next
4. **Prompts for consideration:** RCSLT prompts for further consideration
5. **Sources of further information:** links to professional guidance
6. **Update your CPD diary:** for you to do
7. **The scenario**

**You are offering a practice education placement in your busy paediatric service where you are the only SLT.**

**Halfway through the placement, you discover that you unexpectedly have to be at a meeting away from the clinic on one of the days your student will be with you.**

**After consideration, you decide that, in order to avoid inconveniencing your clients and your student, you will allow the student to manage the appointments in your absence.**

**The student has met some of the families and children before but there are 2 initial appointments scheduled for the afternoon. You ensure that you have discussed the day’s list with your student in advance, that they have a contact number for you and agree that you will discuss how things went when you next meet the following week.**

**Is this sufficient to meet your obligations?**



1. **The issues to consider**

**What do you need to consider?**

Think about the above scenario and its implications and jot down your notes about issues you may need to consider. Please feel free to use extra sheets of paper if you need. Or, if you are in a group, you may like to record on a whiteboard or flipchart.

1. **Next steps**

**What steps do you think you need to take next?**

1. **Prompts for consideration**

It is recommended that you think about the following prompt questions and formulate a considered strategy to deal with the problem.

Remember that if you are faced with a similar situation you will need to think about it in relation to the frameworks within which you work, such as the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards, RCSLT professional guidance and resources, local and national policies and also policies of your employer (or your own policies if practising independently). See related information on these webpages and consider the list of prompts to help with your thinking.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive and does not constitute legal advice.

1. What factors should influence this decision?
2. Who else in the service might be able to offer supervision and would any training be required?
3. How has an assessment of the student’s competence been conducted?
4. Are there safeguarding issues? If yes, for whom?
5. To whom do you have a duty of care in this situation?
6. What are the issues around consent for this situation?
7. What are the potential issues from the student’s point of view?
8. What training might be appropriate?
9. What guidance could you refer to inform your decision in this case?
10. What documentation of decision making should be completed?
11. If a different decision were made, what practice education activity could the student be offered instead of conducting all the appointments?
12. What appropriate support networks for practice educators are available to you to learn from others?
13. If this was a role emerging placement where you were supervising a student remotely how would this influence your thinking?
14. **Sources of further information**

**The following information in the professional accountability and autonomy, and professional guidance sections of the RCSLT website is also particularly relevant:**

4 – [Delegate appropriately](https://www.rcslt.org/delegation-guidance#section-11)

**Other resources**

[Supervision](https://www.rcslt.org/supervision)

1. **Update your CPD diary**

Working through this scenario counts towards your continuing professional development (CPD). Once you have completed this scenario, please record this learning and your reflections in your CPD diary.