Starting with CP1 in February 2017, the Medical School is moving to a mobile device-based app to deliver the interactive elements of the clinical phase logbooks which were previously found in the paper logbook carried by students.

The system has been piloted in CP3 over the past two years which has allowed us to make improvements to how we use the app. The introduction of Myprogress is just one way that we aim is to improve the student and staff experience of in-course assessment and logging of their clinical learning.

We appreciate your patience during this introductory period and ask that you bear with the inevitable learning curve involved. We hope that this will become less of an issue as staff and students get used to using the app.

We are constantly looking at ways to enhance the use of the app in order to make it more efficient and we welcome feedback from staff and students.

This short guide aims to cover the main questions that staff may have about Myprogress, but I would welcome any other questions, comments or suggestions and can be contacted by email on james.ellison@nottingham.ac.uk.

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How does the app work?
All the forms that the student needs for their clinical placement are downloaded to the app via a Wi-Fi connection. However, once the forms are on the student’s device an internet connection is not required. All forms completed are stored on the device and are sent to the server when the student next syncs via Wi-Fi. This was a key reason for choosing this app as Wi-Fi access could not be guaranteed at all hospital and community sites.

Why aren’t we using a web-based portfolio like those used in postgraduate training?
The numbers of postgraduate trainees attached to each senior clinician is lower and fewer WPBAs tend to be required of postgraduate trainees. The large number of undergraduate students rotating through departments, each requiring several Workplace-Based Assessments (WPBAs) and other forms to be completed, would place too great a demand on NHS computers. A ‘ticketing’ system would also be impractical as the postgraduate experience is that there is often a significant delay before such assessment requests are completed which would not be appropriate for relatively short undergraduate placements and would be contrary to the ethos of undergraduate WPBAs and other forms which are designed to be contemporaneous. If completion of forms on a desktop computer is necessary (e.g. in clinical areas where mobile devices are not allowed such as forensic psychiatry settings) this is possible by having the student log into the Myprogress web portal at Nottingham.mkmapps.com.

What devices are students using?
Myprogress works on iOS and Android smartphones and tablet computers. We have gone with a ‘bring your own device’ approach to avoid students having to carry an additional device. However, students may be loaned a device if they do not own one. Students are aware that although they are using a mobile device for Myprogress, they are still expected to use their devices in a professional manner. Although the use of mobile devices is now commonplace in clinical environments (e.g. Nervecentre e-obs), students should be able to explain why they are using their device to staff or patients.

How secure is using my name and email address to sign off MACCS and other forms?
This approach is more secure than a signature on a paper form for two main reasons. First, the assessor will receive an email receipt when the student syncs allowing any suspicious forms to be flagged up soon after completion. We ask that assessors use work
email address (e.g. trust.nhs.uk, nhs.net or Nottingham.ac.uk) as verification of staff using other email addresses (e.g. Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, doctors.org.uk) is unreliable and we will be chasing up assessors who use these addresses. The second reason is that with the paper logbooks, central checks of signatures could only take place at the end of the attachment when students handed in their logbooks. Even sampling 10% of these logbooks is a significant administrative task for a cohort of 300+ students and if a suspicious signature is spotted at this stage (and the likelihood is that it wouldn’t be) then often a significant amount of time has passed since the date of the signature, making verification with the assessor even harder. While no system is entirely invulnerable to subterfuge, we are confident that this system gives us more way to check students’ forms and in a more timely and contemporaneous manner.

How do I know who I am completing an assessment on?
If you wish to check which student the app is registered to, before opening a form tap the menu icon (≡) and the student’s name will be displayed in the top left hand corner of the screen.

How do I complete a form for a student?
As with the paper logbook, the student will approach an assessor and ask them to complete a MACCS assessment on them. The student will then open the relevant form on the app and hand their device over to the assessor. The assessor then taps the relevant checkboxes to answer all the questions. When the form is complete, tap the Save/submit button in the top right hand corner (Android devices currently have a □ icon) and tap ‘Complete this assessment’. Enter your name and email address and tap OK. The form will be stored on the student’s device and sent to the server next time they sync.

What are dashboards?
The app is set up with a number of dashboards which help students and their assessors track what they have completed and what is still outstanding. Once an item on the dashboard is completed, it changes colour. (There is a slight delay in this updating but it usually happens on the next sync) The dashboard entry only changes colour if certain criteria are met, e.g. the MACCS entries only turn green if the completed MACCS is marked as a ‘Pass’. This means that dashboards completion of forms and assessments to be checked at a glance.

How do I see the content of previously completed forms?
If you want to see more detail than the dashboard allows (i.e. the detailed content of a form rather than just that it has been completed), this can be done via the app or by having the student log into Nottingham.mkmaps.com. On the app, tap the menu icon (≡) and scroll down to ‘Responses’ where all the forms sent from the device are stored. Clicking on a form will allow the contents to be read, but forms cannot be edited once submitted. If the student has logged into the web interface via a web browser, all completed forms are available by clicking the ‘Completed assessments’ section on the left hand side of the screen.

What forms are delivered via Myprogress?
In CP1 all forms are delivered via the app. In CP2 (with the exception of DOE, which will pilot the system later) and CP3 only MACCS and End of Attachment Sign-offs are completed via Myprogress. MDD MACCS currently remain in the paper logbook as completion via the app in their current form (i.e. completed together in a single session) would be impractical. They remain, nevertheless, mandatory during the MDD attachment. All other CP2 and CP3 forms remain in the paper logbook. This is to ensure that all summative data is available centrally without student needing to physically hand forms in. The paper logbook contents and progression with electronic MACCS should inform the End of Attachment Sign-off completed on Myprogress.

Why aren’t more detailed instructions/training available for staff?
The app is so simple and intuitive that training for staff is not necessary. We understand that those unfamiliar with smartphone technology may be intimidated at first, but we are sure you will soon get used to it. Also, students will be able to help explain how to use the app which will help them develop the valuable skill of explaining IT to senior colleagues!