FAQ - Deva

Answers to the Questionnaire

## Advanced ability to work effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team in the planning, delivery and coordination of patient care.

I have extensive experience as a senior ICU and ED registrar in various hospitals, where I have routinely worked in multidisciplinary teams to plan, coordinate, and deliver patient care. Although I have observed some variations, the essential aspects of this collaboration are:

- Daily rounds, during which the team discusses the patient's status, assesses for complications and adjusts the treatment plan as necessary.

- Shared decision-making, working closely with the patient and family and involving them in discussions about treatment options, goals of care, and rehabilitation plans.

- Open and effective communication among team members.

The treatment of a patient with a ruptured brain aneurysm who is admitted to the ICU following emergency neurosurgery represents a good example of this type of collaboration. As the ICU doctor, I manage the patient's critical care needs, focusing on maintaining stable vital signs, monitoring for bleeding or swelling, supporting brain function, and preventing further complications.

The neurosurgeon provides ongoing expertise on the patient's neurological condition, interprets imaging studies and makes decisions about ongoing brain function monitoring, imaging, and any additional surgical needs.

The neurologist assesses the patient's neurological function regularly to track recovery, identify deficits, and recommend interventions to optimise recovery.

The respiratory therapist manages mechanical ventilation for intubated patients, ensuring proper oxygenation and ventilation.

Critical care nurses provide continuous bedside care, closely monitor neurological assessments, administer medications, and report any changes in the patient's condition to the team.

The pharmacist optimises medication management, including antibiotics, pain management, and sedatives, ensuring there are no harmful drug interactions that could compromise recovery.

**The dietitian a**ssesses the patient's nutritional needs and develops a plan to optimise nutritional support, which is crucial for brain healing and recovery.

Once the patient is stable enough, the physical therapist assesses the patient's mobility and develops a plan to prevent complications such as muscle weakness, contractures, pressure ulcers, and respiratory complications.

We may also have a social worker and a psychologist to provide emotional support to the patient and family and facilitate discussions around care planning, the patient’s needs post-ICU discharge, and potential long-term rehabilitation.

After ICU discharge, we also have speech and occupational therapists to treat eventual speech or swallowing difficulties and help the patient regain independence in daily activities.

I understand work structures and styles vary across countries and workplaces, and I am keen to learn and adapt to the Australian professional culture and medical system.

## MBBS or equivalent, currently registered with the Medical Board of Australia in an appropriate registration category with at least three years experience in a Public Health setting.

I have extensive experience in public health in Brazil and am eligible for limited registration with the Medical Board of Australia.

## Advanced written and verbal communication skills and ability to communicate effectively and respectfully with patients, family members and other members of the health care team.

Having worked in a wide variety of hospitals, both private and public, from secondary regional hospitals to the largest hospital specialising in oncological diseases in Latin America, I have routinely:

* maintained detailed and accurate medical records for my patients,
* managed and discussed patients' treatments within multi-disciplinary teams,
* coordinated patients' transfers to other facilities when needed, and
* communicated with patients' families on treatment plans, prognosis, updates and discharge instructions.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic provided me with an exceptional opportunity to substantially improve my collaboration and communication skills to face the unprecedented scale and intensity of the work.

On the one hand, I had to quickly expand my responsibility to manage the treatment of many more inpatients while collaborating with and kindly guiding numerous medical staff from different hospitals and specialties who helped the hospitals treat an unprecedented number of patients. On the other hand, the severity and fatality of the disease required delicate conversations with a large number of dramatically impacted families.

Respectful, clear, and effective communication was the cornerstone of all that work. As a professional and human being, I feel very proud to have played a key role in this process for each one of the teams I worked with.

## Advanced organisational and time management skills and ability to manage competing priorities in a complex environment.

The practical experience of working extensively in a wide variety of hospitals was quite instrumental in the development of my time management skills. The work in Emergency Medicine, in particular, requires constant balancing of multiple patients and simultaneous tasks in a fast-paced environment to ensure effective and efficient patient care.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic in the second-most affected country in the world provided me with an exceptional opportunity to improve my organisational and time management skills substantially.

In order to adapt to the rapid changes, I had to quickly expand my responsibility to manage the treatment of many more inpatients, directly performing the most high-risk invasive procedures. Furthermore, throughout those 2 years, I continued teaching and supervising junior doctors, collaborated with and kindly guided numerous medical staff from different hospitals and medical professionals not commonly working in the ED and ICU, who helped the hospitals treat an unprecedented number of patients.

## Demonstrated commitment to quality improvement, patient safety and risk management.

The commitment to patient safety, risk management, and overall service quality underpins the daily routine in the hospitals where I have worked most of my career. This commitment translates to an attitude of full respect for our patients and colleagues, as well as consistent training and adherence to processes and methods that were institutionalised for this purpose.

Additionally, we systematically analyse our environment, work, and patients’ results, searching for new opportunities for improvement. These opportunities are usually first mentioned as observations or ideas in our daily meetings, which focus on discussing and managing the treatment of all inpatients. At the end of each fortnight, we have a special meeting to discuss new improvement opportunities, design appropriate improvement experiments, and evaluate the experiments underway. The changes that prove effective via experiments are then incorporated into our revised processes and methods.

## Evidence of continuing professional development and commitment to self-education.

I have consistently invested in my professional development after my graduation in Medicine and my residency in Cardio-Vascular surgery with the following:

* Completed the “Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support” (ACLS) course provided by the American Heart Association (AHA).
* Completed the “Advanced Trauma Life Support” (ATLS) course provided by the American College of Surgeons (ACS).
* Completed the “Mechanical Ventilation” course provided by the Albert Einstein Hospital, Brazil.
* Currently taking the professional update courses on “Emergency Medicine” and “Intensive Care” provided by the “Hospital das Clínicas” (the largest hospital in Latin America with more than 1.5 million ambulatory consultations per year, more than 232,000 emergency room visits per year, and more than 50,000 surgeries per year) at the University of São Paulo.
* In Australia, my CPD home is the RACGP.

Dr Deva consistently invests in her development. She has completed the “Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support” (ACLS), “Advanced Trauma Life Support” (ATLS), and “Mechanical Ventilation” courses. She is currently taking the professional update courses on “Emergency Medicine” and “Intensive Care” provided by the “Hospital das Clínicas” – the largest hospital in Latin America.

Ethic / Reliability / Punctuality:

Deva is 100% punctual and reliable. Deva’s ability to handle the pressure of surges in the workload is legendary. The colleagues at Hospital Pedreira still remember her exceptional resourcefulness and kindness during the peak of the Covid pandemic with an extremely large number of patients in severe conditions.

Communication

Deva is very diligent with electronic records, and compassionate, clear and respectful with staff, patients and families.