Dear sir

Thank you for allowing us to explain the dismay with which we read Pierra Gray and Sidaway-Lee’s ‘When I say…’[1].

We consider educational prescription [2] to be useful shorthand for the written feedback summary agreed between a learner and a tutor. Nevertheless the term has been criticised because of the connotation that a prescription is an instruction or ‘the doctor’s orders’ (… a medicine which a doctor has told you to take)[3] which does not adequately reflect the collaborative nature of the feedback conversation even though ‘prescription’ has a much more collaborative meaning '… a proposal or a plan which gives ideas about how to solve a problem or improve a situation’[3].

As the authors note, exposure has a neutral and useful meaning, namely ‘the way in which something is situated, a surface laid open to review’[1] which conveys much of the intention of situated learning in general practice. We thought the attachment of connotations such as ‘indecent’ or ‘toxic’ to ‘learning in general practice’ long consigned to the history of the struggle of the later 20th century for recognition of general practice as one of the essential settings in which medical students learn. As leaders of general practice education we now have much more important threats to address from ensuring the capacity to deliver the education entrusted to us to the survival of the general practitioner as a medical specialist. While we learn from history, we must not allow ourselves to be distracted by the past.

This explains our dismay: unless of course the authors’ tongues were firmly but covertly planted in their cheeks.

RK McKinley

H Alberti

1 Pereira Gray D, Sidaway-Lee K. When I say … exposure. *Med Educ* 2018;**52**:894–5. doi:10.1111/medu.13572

2 McAvoy PA, Fraser RC. Teaching the teachers at Leicester: the general practice approach. *Med Teach* 1990;**12**:33–8.

3 Prescription definition and meaning. Collins English Dict. https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/prescription (accessed 4 Oct 2018).