

Table 6 Peer Group Clinical Supervision

Benefits of Peer Group CS	Challenges of Peer Group CS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each group member can offer and receive wisdom, experience and ideas from the group (i.e. enjoy both 'teacher' and 'student' roles) • Shared influence and responsibility regarding how the group is run • Group-owned: Success of the group is dependent upon how group members exercise their responsibilities • Avoids the chance of getting stuck with an unwanted supervisor • Can be mutually agreed membership • Opportunities for personal growth via group dynamics • An alternative to line manager providing clinical supervision • Participants as equals encourages lateral help and peer support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group members may avoid challenging a member in order to prevent anxiety • Group must agree on structure, format and roles and keep to these in order to offset the absence of a designated leader, or facilitator • In an effort to support and empathise, one view may be reinforced rather than alternatives being offered (i.e. consensus collusion) • Potential for unconscious designation of more experienced/skilled member as de facto supervisor • Success is dependent upon how group members exercise their responsibilities • Mutual trust, openness and respect are essential and this takes time. Usually requires that the group remain a closed one, at least for a period of time • Competition, defensiveness and criticism between peers can occur • Need for all members to be aware of and to address group processes, especially if they get in the way of group functioning • Clinical case discussion frequency, depth and intensity is limited by the time available and the number of members participating in the group

References for this section: The Bouverie Centre (Moloney, Vivekananda & Weir, 2007).