

# HEE East Midlands

## Primary Care Newsletter

### June 2022

---

#### **RCA Prep course and RCA 1:1 sessions**

This will be a reminder to some and news to other but RCA Prep sessions are still being offered as well as RCA Examiner 1:1s to anyone who has had the misfortune to fail the RCA.

So that GP Postgraduate Doctors in Training have the maximum opportunity to employ any learning they have from the sessions the timescale from the results coming out to the half-day session is short and is about two weeks at present but we plan to move to three weeks from July onwards.

Would Clinical and Educational Supervisors please help facilitate the release of the GP Postgraduate Doctors in Training for the sessions to help increase their chances in the next round of the exam.

#### **RCA Prep Session**

This is an online half day preparation session with experienced HEE educators and a small group of trainees. Common areas of difficulty in communication skills encountered by GPRs (identified from RCGP feedback) are discussed. There will also be an opportunity for you to practice and develop skills using simulated patients (actors) and receive targeted feedback.

#### **Online 1:1 with an RCA examiner**

The examiner will meet with you to discuss previous exam feedback and any specific challenges you may be encountering. They will then review up to 6 recorded consultations and then meet with you and your trainer to give you specific feedback. (Please note due to the examiner code of conduct, examiners will not be able to tell you if a particular recording will pass or fail the exam.)

[https://www.eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/general\\_practice/trainees/csa\\_preperation\\_course](https://www.eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/general_practice/trainees/csa_preperation_course)

RCA Saturdays consist of a 2-hour small group training session with an experienced RCA examiner carried out over Microsoft Teams. Each delegate will need to bring a recorded patient consultation (audio or video) which they are able to share and discuss in the small group. Delegates will also be sent a presentation giving an overview of the RCA prior to the training session, and there will be an opportunity for Q&A during the training.

Places are limited so trainees will only be able to book one course each.

Upcoming RCA Saturday dates (dependant on availability):

Saturday, 24 July 2021

Saturday, 31 July 2021

Saturday, 14 August 2021

Saturday, 18 September 2021

## ARCP hints and tips

As we approach our busy ARCP season, the assessments team thought it might be helpful to share some hints for a successful ARCP:

- ESR - make sure you contact your ES to book in a meeting and complete the self-assessment in a timely fashion. It is expected that the ESR should be available 2 weeks before the ARCP panel.
- Form R – remember to complete and upload to the compliance passport section of the e-portfolio.
- Mandatory training should be up to date, safeguarding training at level 3 and BLS should also include AED (although the RCGP is allowing online training not including AED till September 2022).
- There should be separate leadership and QIP activities – presenting your QIP results does not count as a leadership activity!
- Ensure that the QIP meets RCGP guidance: <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/gp-training-and-exams/training/workplace-based-assessment-wpba/assessments.aspx>

Indicators of unsatisfactory QIP:

- No team engagement
- No engagement of stakeholders (people affected by change including patients)
- Minimal measurement (we would usually expect 2 cycles of data collection).
- No real attempt at implementing change – just a discussion that change should happen.
- UUC – ensure that you have completed an UUC summary evidencing some experience in the OOH setting as well as UUC in daily practice.
- Summarise any relevant support from services such as PSW or occupational health in a reflective log.

Also, a quick reminder that the RCGP launched the new schedule of WPBA in August 2020 – there are still a few doctors on the old schedule, and they will all be expected to have moved to the new schedule by the 5.8.22.

---

## Postgraduate Doctors in Training News

### Workplace Based Assessment (WPBA): Requirements from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

The requirements for WPBA have recently been reviewed and please note that **WPBA requirements stand and postgraduate doctors in training need to demonstrate an understanding of the GP capabilities and would potentially be disadvantaged and unable to progress in training, if their supervision, which includes their assessments, stopped during this time.** Postgraduate doctors in training should comply with the WPBA requirements, irrespective of whether they are following the old or new programme. Where COVID-19 has impacted on the ability to complete any requirements, this should be recorded in the log and educators notes and the ES will need to state what compensatory evidence is being used to show the postgraduate doctors in training has progressed and fulfilled all the requirements.

#### **Flexibility in the WPBA programme during COVID-19 Pandemic**

Assessments including CSRs: Depending on the progress of the pandemic, postgraduate doctors in training may need to be deployed to 'frontline' areas within the acute hospital setting, but educational provision should still be part of any deployment. If unable to complete any aspects of WPBA, such as a placement planning meeting, an assessment, or their Clinical Supervisors Report (CSR) then they must contact either their Educational Supervisor (ES) or Training Programme Director (TPD). This also needs to be documented in the educator notes of the e-portfolio so the ARCP panel can be made aware of any shortfall and the reasons why.

**Clinical Examination Skills** are a key skill for any GP. Whilst there is less opportunity to demonstrate these skills, due to the balance of face to face consultations and remote consultations, **the requirement to meet the capability remains and is mandated by the GMC.** Postgraduate doctors in training are reminded that this includes a range of examinations and procedural skills relevant to General Practice, in addition to the 5 mandatory CEPs.

**Basic Life Support:** Online evidence of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation will remain acceptable **until August 2022** with an online BLS certificate **alone** accepted but with the return of courses face to face, hands on BLS will be **mandatory from August 2022.** **ALS** though lasting for 3-4 years needs to be updated annually with evidence of competence in CPR and AED. Certificates should be added to Supporting Documentation and the Compliance Passport. Postgraduate doctors in training should ideally provide past evidence of hands-on practical training as either BLS or ALS and endeavour to complete a practical course as soon as possible if only completing online BLS until August 2022

### **Educational Supervisors Review (ESR)**

It is important that postgraduate doctors in training continue to meet with their Educational Supervisors. The annual ESR in the new Portfolio reduces the time taken to complete an ESR. If the postgraduate doctor in training has rated themselves correctly, justified this rating and there is linked evidence for each of the capability areas, the ES can simply agree, stating that they have confirmed this to be correct.

### **Postgraduate doctors in training who are shielding**

For those who are vulnerable and shielding, it is hoped they will have access to IT equipment to be able to continue consulting with patients. Where not possible they should contact their ES and /or TPD to escalate this further to their employers and their Associate Dean or Head of School.

### **ARCP panels where mandatory evidence is missing**

In order to be issued with a **Satisfactory Outcome, all mandatory evidence must be provided by the postgraduate doctors in training.** However, panels should exercise discretion over the timing of receipt of the evidence. The panel may use their discretion and require small amounts of missing evidence to be made up in the next training phase and review at the next ARCP panel.

## **ARCP Guidance – Valid 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

### Background

The rules which govern the ARCP process are contained in The Reference Guide for Postgraduate Foundation and Specialty Training in the UK (Gold Guide Eighth Edition – GG8 v 31 March 2020)<sup>1</sup>.

### *What are the ARCP panels guiding principles when reviewing the evidence?*

ARCP panels should consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic including taking a flexible approach to the available evidence, due to the different patterns of working for postgraduate doctors in training enforced by the pandemic. ARCP panels should make a holistic judgement on the progress made based on a review of the evidence provided by postgraduate doctors in training and ESs against the minimum data set and agreed compensatory evidence.

---

<https://www.copmed.org.uk/gold-guide/gold-guide-8th-edition>

### *What is the Minimum Mandatory Evidence required?*

Full guidance for the new WPBA assessment numbers can be found [here](#), and on the old numbers [here](#).

### *Do postgraduate doctors in training still need an ESR?*

Postgraduate doctors in training will still need an ESR every 6 months (either full or interim). At the end of training they **must** provide sufficient evidence to be rated as **competent for licensing** in all 13 capabilities in a light touch ESR which should normally be carried out within 8 weeks of the panel. Guidance on a light touch ESR can be found [here](#).

Guidance can be found on the RCGP website <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/gp-training-and-exams/training/workplace-based-assessment-wpba.aspx>

---

## Exam dates confirmed for 2022-2023

**AKT:** AKT exam dates have been published for the 2022-2023 academic year- the last Wednesday in October 2022, January 2023 and April 2023.

Please familiarise yourself with the AKT page on the RCGP website where you can find lots of useful resources, including preparation advice, past exam reports and a mock AKT paper.

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/training-exams/mrcgp-exam/mrcgp-applied-knowledge-test-akt.aspx>

	Booking period	Submission deadline for RA1 form	Submission deadline for reasonable adjustment supporting evidence	AKT test date	Results published* (all 17:00 hours)
AKT October 2022	31 August - 2 September 2022	2 September 2022	5 October 2022	26 October 2022	24 November 2022
AKT January 2023	30 November - 2 December 2022	2 December 2022	4 January 2023	25 January 2023	23 February 2023
AKT April 2023	1 - 3 March 2023	3 March 2023	3 April 2023	26 April 2023	25 May 2023

**RCA:** The RCA dates for 2022-2023 have been confirmed up until April 2023. As for Summer 2022, there are no plans for an RCA between May-August 2023 either. Please look at the RCA page on the RCGP website which contains useful information including the spread of recordings required and common pitfalls noted by examiners where candidates could improve their performance and chances of successfully passing the RCA.

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/training-exams/mrcgp-exam/mrcgp-recorded-consultation-assessment.aspx>

	Apply via website	Submission deadline for RA2 form	Submission deadline for reasonable adjustments supporting evidence	Consultations submission deadline (all 13:00 hours)	Assessment period*	Results published* (all 17:00 hours)
<b>RCA September 2022</b>	10 August – 23 August 2022	23 August 2022	2 September 2022	21 September 2022	23 September– 8 October 2022	20 October 2022
<b>RCA November 2022</b>	4 October - 18 October 2022	18 October 2022	28 October 2022	16 November 2022	18 November – 1 December 2022	15 December 2022
<b>RCA January 2023</b>	13 December 2022 – 3 January 2023	3 January 2023	13 January 2023	24 January 2023	26 January – 14 February 2023	23 February 2023
<b>RCA March 2023</b>	6 February – 21 February 2023	21 February 2023	3 March 2023	21 March 2023	23 March – 13 April 2023	27 April 2023
<b>RCA April 2023</b>	14 March – 28 March 2023	28 March 2023	7 April 2023	24 April 2023	26 April – 24 May 2023	8 June 2023

\* Subject to change if large demand for places

---

Please send any ideas for future content [christine.johnson@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:christine.johnson@nottingham.ac.uk) or [jonathanmills1@nhs.net](mailto:jonathanmills1@nhs.net)

**HEE is part of the NHS, and we work with partners to plan, recruit, educate and train the health workforce**

---