

NHS England East Midlands

Primary Care Newsletter

August 2023

On behalf of all of us in the East Midlands GP School

We would like to especially welcome those of you who are new starters, whether ST1s or educators.

We produce this newsletter every 4-6 weeks to keep everyone updated and to avoid filling up your inboxes with copious emails!

We welcome contributions from all readers as well as using this to share important information that we receive from other sources such as the RCGP, GMC, etc. Please ensure that you do read each edition carefully and don't be afraid to ask us, or your local TPD, if there is anything you don't totally understand.

Best wishes

Nigel Scarborough and Sarah Layzell – Primary Care Deans

Also, we have 3 separate year group learning hub folders (ST1, ST2 and ST3) all merged onto one link.

<https://learninghub.nhs.uk/catalogue/emgptraining>

This is to reflect the fact that some information is repeated and some colleagues progress at different rates to the traditional August changeover. We wanted you to be able to easily access the information, anytime of your training. The content is like last year for any doctors in training who have previously accessed the learning hub. We hope you find this a helpful improvement to enable your NHSE East Midlands GP Training.

RCGP Chief Examiner Message on SCA

We are delighted to have received approval from the General Medical Council (GMC) for the Simulated Consultation Assessment (**SCA**), the new clinical module of the MRCGP to

replace the Remote Consultation Assessment (RCA). It is important to note that the first SCA examination diet in November 2023 is subject to providing assurance to the GMC in August that the technical pilot met our approval.

The SCA is designed to be reflective of 'real life' general practice, more convenient for candidates and their trainers, more sustainable and more accessible for GP trainees who rely on adjustments to their work environment.

As requested by the UK's Statutory Educational Bodies, candidates will no longer need to travel to London to sit the SCA. This will significantly reduce the inconvenience and cost for candidates while also reducing the examination's carbon footprint by 4.5 times. Instead, candidates will complete the SCA in their surgeries, with the majority of consultations taking place on video and the remainder on audio. A new IT examination platform, which includes remote invigilation technologies, has been procured and is currently being thoroughly tested in GP surgeries across the UK.

It is important that candidates have more examination opportunities, **and we intend to deliver the examination in at least nine months of the year**, while also ensuring we deliver results to trainees within a month of the examination. To enable this to happen we will be introducing a new examination reservation process so that candidates are able to plan their examinations up to 12 months in advance.

The examination itself will consist of twelve simulated consultations each lasting twelve minutes, with an additional three minutes of reading and preparation time between each case. Consultations will examine a GP trainee's ability to integrate and apply clinical, professional and communication skills. As the MRCGP examination is a tripos, the GMC has agreed with us that physical examination is more authentically assessed in Workplace Based Assessment (WPBA). We believe this will be fairer to all candidates.

The SCA has been developed in close consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including COGPED (representing Deaneries/GP Schools), senior GP representatives from each of the four UK nations, newly qualified GPs, Associates-in-Training, Lay Advisors, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity experts, and one of the UK's leading psychometric and assessment specialists. The new assessment is a product of listening to this huge amount of feedback.

The development of the SCA has required a huge amount of time and effort from teams right across the College. My gratitude goes to the College's Examinations team, a small but very dedicated group of individuals who have delivered this work while concurrently managing the current examination diets, and to our MRCGP Examiners for their patience, professionalism, and continued commitment. I am confident that we will deliver a truly excellent examination from November.

[Simulated Consultation Assessment \(SCA\) \(rcgp.org.uk\)](https://rcgp.org.uk)

**Professor Rich Withnall KHS OStJ MA MD MSc MBBS FRCGP FAcadMed
RCGP Chief Examiner**

The SCA at a glance:

- An assessment of twelve simulated consultations, each lasting twelve minutes
- Conducted remotely in a local GP surgery.

- Sat only during ST3 training year
- Delivered across 9 months of the year - [see full info on exam dates and booking windows](#)
- The exam fee will be £1,180- [see the full exam fee breakdown and explanation](#)

Key dates

	Booking period	SCA test date	Results published* (all 17:00 hours)
SCA November 2023	18 September - 22 September 2023	7 November - 9 November 2023	7 December 2023
SCA January 2024	20 November - 24 November 2023	9 January 2024	25 January 2024
SCA February 2024	11 December - 15 December 2023	6 February 2024	29 February 2024
SCA March 2024	15 January - 19 January 2024	5 March - 8 March 2024	27 March 2024
SCA April 2024	12 February - 16 February 2024	2 April - 5 April 2024	25 April 2024
SCA May 2024	18 March - 22 March 2024	8 May - 9 May 2024	30 May 2024
SCA June 2024	15 April - 19 April 2024	4 June - 5 June 2024	27 June 2024

[See full info on exam dates and booking windows.](#)

We are holding trainer and trainee webinars to help you prepare for the new exam:

- [View the recording: Trainers' live webinar - 22 June 2023](#)
- Trainees' live webinar - 10 August 2023, 12:30 to 14:00. [Register on our website.](#)
- Trainer FAQs - 7 September 2023, 12:00 to 13:00
- Trainee FAQs – 7 September 2023, 18:00 to 19:30

We will be updating this webpage with all the information you need to prepare for the SCA.

Autumn RCA and future SCA

The College continues to work on the replacement assessment for the RCA, the SCA.

The last full sitting of the RCA is in April 2023. **After that the SCA will be the only assessment available for candidates on their first attempt.**

There will be a resit diet available in September 2023 for any trainee who failed the RCA previously, however these trainees may choose to sit the SCA instead.

Moving to the SCA

It is important to remember that the RCA was created as a temporary assessment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The SCA enables a return to a standardised clinical consultation assessment, and an examination which no longer requires the collection of real-life consultations.

The SCA is conducted remotely on an online IT platform, which is not face-to-face, in that trainees will not be expected to travel much further than a local GP surgery. It is vitally important that the National GP Licensing examination is robust enough to be able to run without further interruptions such as weather, pandemics, or travel disruptions and contributes to greater planetary sustainability. By delivering the examination remotely we are also able to provide a much greater number of assessment opportunities each year for trainees. We intend to run the examination in nine of the twelve months.

Update Programme BRAND NEW Essential knowledge Update 2023.2

Designed to update your knowledge on the latest changes within primary care and highlight your learning and service needs, each of the modules take just 30 minutes to complete and can be accessed in practice, at home or on the go.

This new edition to the EKU Programme focuses on:

- Common causes of hair loss.
- Investigating abnormal uterine bleeding in reproductive aged women.
- Self-harm: assessment, management and preventing recurrence.
- Osteoarthritis in over 16s: diagnosis and management.
- Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC).

<https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/>

This provides high quality, interactive, peer-reviewed modules packed with clinical scenarios, practical tips and learning points.

GP Registrar Forum Update

We have started 2023 with some new members to the forum, bringing different ideas and perspectives on how we as postgraduate doctors in training would like to see positive changes to our training across the East Midlands.

The **GP Registrar Forum** provides the opportunity to discuss and feedback matters and concerns related to training, to the GP school. We can then truly represent all areas across the East Midlands, ST1s to ST3s, UK and International Medical Graduates. We would love to hear from you regarding your experiences in training.

Please email us at gpreistrarforum@gmail.com.

We are also looking to involve new members who have an interest in creating positive changes to training in East Midlands.

Please send any ideas for future content to - christine.johnson@nottingham.ac.uk

NHS England work with partners to plan, recruit, educate and train the health workforce.