

## NHS England East Midlands

### Primary Care Newsletter

February 2024

#### GP Registrar Forum Update

Hi all

We are the GP registrar forum for NHS England East Midlands. We are a group of GP registrars who are focused on improving our training opportunities and experiences by identifying common issues and liaising with the School Board and our senior educators to challenge these issues and develop solutions.

We attended the latest School Board meeting where some important points were raised. **We would like to remind registrars to keep absences up to date on their portfolio for purposes of ARCP and to inform Lead Employer.**

We would also like to encourage registrars to fill in the GMC NTS and NETS surveys, when they are released, because the data is reviewed by senior educators and improvement requirements are raised through these surveys.

An issue we have been addressing for a long time is the study leave budget and inconsistencies across the region, and in comparison, to other regions in the UK our cohort of registrars face multiple barriers to accessing the study leave budget. We have raised this issue once again with the School Board and **they would like to hear of examples of where registrars have struggled with applying for or having approval given for the study budget.**

We have created a survey, and we would appreciate your feedback regarding the study budget. Please follow the link to complete: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TU7GTC/>

If you are interested to know more about the GP registrar forum and would possibly be interested to join the forum as a member, please contact [gpregistrarforum@gmail.com](mailto:gpregistrarforum@gmail.com)

Best wishes,

Dr Reema Akhter  
GP Registrar Forum Chair  
GPST3 Derby

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## **AKT Support Sessions**

We are delighted to announce that, starting 30 January 2024, we'll be rolling out an intensive AKT support programme for PGDiTs, across the East Midlands. This programme has been specifically designed to help those who have struggled at previous AKT attempts with their exam preparation.

The programme will include two hourly teaching sessions (Tuesdays 7-8pm and Thursdays 7-8pm) per week for a total of 12 weeks. It will cover high yield AKT topics, practice questions and reading plans for the topics.

**The programme will run on a 3 monthly basis throughout the year.**

The first session is designed for PGDiTs planning to resit the AKT in April 2024. There will be subsequent sessions for PGDiTs planning to resit the AKT in July 2024, October 2024 and January 2025.

**PGDiTs, eligible for this support, will be contacted directly by the Primary and Community Care (Faculty Support) team.**

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**Workforce, Training & Education Directorate**  
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## **Essential Knowledge Update and Challenge 2024.1**

The new **Essential Knowledge Update and Challenge 2024.1** has just been launched and provides high quality, interactive, peer-reviewed modules packed with clinical scenarios, practical tips and learning points. 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 ECU Programme focuses on:

- cardiovascular disease
- atopic eczema
- chronic venous disease
- managing raised ferritin
- obesity
- breathing difficulties after COVID-19

**Essential Knowledge Challenge 2024.1** provides a brand new twenty question self-assessment knowledge test with instant answers and a certificate of completion. The questions included within the Challenge are sourced from the content of the modules and reference material found within the associated Update, ECU2024.1. Learners can choose to take an EKC before the associated update to assess their learning needs or after to reinforce the new information they have gained from the Update.

To access or learn more about the ECU Programme please visit the RCGP Online Learning Environment:

<https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/course/index.php?categoryid=2>

Take part in the new Update and Challenge today update and test your knowledge and highlight your learning and service needs!

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### **RCGP Message on CEPS**

Clinical Examination and Procedural Skills (CEPS) – **new guidance** from August 2023.

It has always been a requirement to provide evidence of competence in Clinical Examination and Procedural Skills (CEPS) within WPBA.

In addition to the GMC mandated 'intimate' CEPS that all postgraduate doctors in training need to be competent in by the end of ST3, postgraduate doctors in training should also complete a range of 'non-intimate' CEPS.

When grading postgraduate doctors in training within the CEPS capability, Educational Supervisors agree that **“By signing the postgraduate doctor in training off as competent you are satisfied that you have seen the postgraduate doctor in training examine patients and you have no concerns in their ability to examine patients correctly across a wide range of systems”**.

As such, the Clinical Examination and Procedural Skills section in the postgraduate doctors in training Portfolio will include **seven additional observed and assessed CEPS categories from August 2023**.

The guidance and documentation will also encourage the use of these CEPS to provide evidence for Educational Supervisors when grading the CEPS capability. While these additional CEPS will not initially be mandatory, completion of a range of them along with the GMC mandated CEPS will allow postgraduate doctors in training to demonstrate competence in the CEPS capability and defines more clearly what is meant by a range of non-intimate CEPS.

**The seven CEPS categories that will be introduced from August 2023 are:**

- **Respiratory system**
- **Ear Nose and Throat**
- **Abdominal system**
- **Cardiovascular system**
- **Musculoskeletal system**
- **Neurological examination**
- **Child 1-5 years**

The full guidance on CEPS and all other WPBA Assessments can be found on the RCGP website: <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/wpba/assessments>

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## RCGP Message on SCA

Candidates will have more examination opportunities, with the examination taking place in at least nine months of the year. To enable this to happen there will be a new examination reservation process so candidates are able to plan up to twelve 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 postgraduate doctor in training ability to integrate and apply clinical, professional and communication skills.

The MRCGP examination is a tripos, so the GMC has agreed that physical examination is more authentically assessed in Workplace Based Assessment (WPBA).

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

- An assessment of twelve simulated consultations, each lasting twelve minutes
- Conducted remotely in a local GP surgery
- Undertaken only during ST3 training year
- Delivered across nine 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)
<b>SCA April 2024</b>	12 February - 16 February 2024	2 April - 5 April 2024	25 April 2024
<b>SCA May 2024</b>	18 March - 22 March 2024	8 May - 9 May 2024	30 May 2024
<b>SCA June 2024</b>	15 April - 19 April 2024	4 June - 5 June 2024	27 June 2024

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

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

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Please email any ideas for future content to [christine.johnson@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:christine.johnson@nottingham.ac.uk)