

NHS England East Midlands

Primary Care Newsletter

June 2023

RCGP Chief Examiner Message on SCA

Dear Colleagues

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 and I would like to thank everyone for the expertise and teamwork they have demonstrated. 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 MRCPG Examiners for their patience, professionalism and continued commitment to the College and our trainees. I am confident that we will deliver a truly excellent examination from November.

We will be communicating with all stakeholders, including trainees, with further updates ahead of the six months lead-in for the first examination in November.

Thank you for your support throughout this process.

Professor Rich Withnall KHS OStJ MA MD MSc MBBS FRCGP FAcadMed SFFMLM CMgr

RCGP Chief Examiner

ARCP due!

ESR DUE DATES

It is that time of year where we start to think about summer ARCP panels.

For many of you this is when you will have your ARCP panel. However, this may be at a different time of year if you are out of Sync or have had Time Out of Training (TOOT).

This also includes those awaiting the results of examination (AKT/RCA) sittings, or who have not passed and are likely to need additional training time. This is to ensure an ARCP panel can be completed in time, for your expected CCT date.

ST1 and ST2 ESRs are required by the start of June 2023.

You will shortly receive the date of your ARCP panel, it is vital that you have all evidence you would like to be assessed entered **2 weeks before the ARCP panel**. This can often catch out GP Registrars, so I hope this reminder allows you to start planning your ESR meeting now.

Please ensure all evidence is entered in good time to allow your ES to process this before the ESR meeting. Please also ensure you have filled in the required **Form R**.

GP OUT OF HOURS

GP Out of Hours has caused some confusion for some.

The key points are the following:

- **Urgent and Unscheduled Care** is assessed across multiple areas of evidence (including across primary care, secondary care, and GP (OOH)).
- There remains a **contractual requirement** to attend GP Out of Hours when working in a GP placement.
- There is an **educational requirement** to attend GP Out of Hours, across all GP ST years. This is very specifically at an approved provider, contracted for GP Out of Hours work (and not usually extended access, routine appointments).
- **GP Training Practices are required to release GP Registrars to attend OOH**, this is traditionally at a rate of 6 hours per month while in General Practice, this however is not the basis on which OOH is assessed. This is to maintain a 40-hour working week.
- Experience of **at least 72 hours of GP Out of Hours** is considered a very minimum amount of time GP Trainees would usually spend in GP OOH, this may be much more for GP Registrars who have had additional training time in a GP training placement, particularly Additional Training Time.
- **Most Registrars are in a position to get enough experience in GP OOH** to allow for a CCT. Where this has been disrupted this needs to be caught up with at the earliest opportunity.
- **Evidence of signed GP OOH forms should be clearly uploaded in the portfolio**, and visible to the ARCP panel. This should also include a **UUC ESR Summary**, which signposts where the evidence is provided, and give a tally of evidence provided particularly OOH.
- You are **not required to list times when you have acted as the Duty/On call GP in hours**. This is considered an essential and usual part of GP Registrar usual working hours, especially approaching CCT.

We recognise some of the issues which has prevented some GP Registrars from booking sessions in OOH as often as they would like, but please ensure that you keep trying and note that most StRs are able to complete this area in good time.

On behalf of the ARCP Team
Dr Jamie Green

Sent on behalf of the GP Programmes Team

The Less Than Full Time (LTFT) procedure has recently been amended and it has been agreed by the GP Dean and the Heads of School that all changes to working hours will now need to be approved prior to implementation, in accordance with sections 3.129 and 3.130 of the 2020 Gold Guide.

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

Should you wish to make any change to your working hours, or return to full time working from LTFT, you should complete the LTFT form in the usual way and send it to GPProgrammes.em@hee.nhs.uk with the appropriate signatures and supporting

documents, for approval by the APD. The LTFT form and policy can be found at <https://www.eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/policies/lftf>. You should not change your hours until you have received written approval from the APD via the GP Programmes team, nor before your Programme Manager has confirmed the date the change in hours can be accommodated.

I should remind you that the Gold Guide states that applications for LTFT should be submitted **with three months' notice** to ensure that the necessary checks and approvals can be put in place.

The GP Programmes Team

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 ECU 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. This year the forum will be focusing on two main areas of improvement:

ePortfolio

We recognise the challenge of regularly adding reflective entries into our e-Portfolios, and so some additional support with 'how to write a reflective entry' could be useful. We are open to ideas on how you would want this to be delivered. We hope to incorporate this into local teaching programmes by the end of the year.

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.

If you would like to be a part of the forum, please email katie.hickin@hee.nhs.uk

Rini Shah and Reema Akhtar (Co-chairs of GP Registrar Forum)

Medical Performers List

Calling all ST3's -are you on the performers list??? PLEASE READ.

This need was removed during the pandemic but the requirement is now crucial before you can commence work post CCT. See information from the NHS Appraisal and Revalidation team below.

"I am the Programme Manager for NHS England Midlands responsible for the performers list locally. We have had a couple of newly qualified GPs start work without being on the National Medical Performers list, so I am in the process of emailing those we believe are due to qualify in 2023 along with Practice Managers to ensure other newly qualifying doctors don't fall into the same trap.

Most ST3s will not be on the performers list as they will have started their training after April 2020 when the need to be on the performers list for training purposes was halted to support the efforts in the pandemic. **As a result, those due to qualify will need to apply to be on the performers list before they can undertake any NHS GP practice once they qualify.**

Unlike, as PGDiT had three months to get their application in and in the meantime could work at the start of their GP training, as qualified GPs this is **NOT** the case and if they are not on the performers list when they qualify, they can't work.

We are asking all of our ST3s to apply to the performers list six months before their expected CCT and not less than three months before. This will give us time to process the 200+ expected applications over the next few months. **The ST3 can be entered onto the performers list as a PGDiT which then gives them 28 days to update their status to full GP performer once they qualify and they CAN work whilst their status is updated by PCSE.**

It can take six weeks or more to process and approve a full application, so we are asking ST3s to apply early.

Please check if you are on the performers list already as a precaution: [Search - Performers List for England](#) and if not to apply here: [Primary Care Support England - Primary Care Support England](#)

If the ST3 started their training before April 2020 and are not showing on the performers list as a GP PGDiT, please contact my team before starting your application so we can check to see if you were included when you started training using the old system england.midlands-performerslist@nhs.net

If you have any queries, please get in touch and I will be happy to help.

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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.