

Wessex GP School Newsletter

July 2025

Welcome from Dr Manjiri Bodhe (Head of School) & Dr Nick Moore (Deputy Head of School)

Welcome to our July edition of the Wessex GP School newsletter. Thank you to those who completed our recent evaluation, and we hope you enjoy our refreshed format. We have updated our [website to include our Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Inductions

We would like to give a warm welcome to our August ST1s, we look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming induction sessions (Dates to follow). Our registrar induction handbook has also recently been updated, you [can access it here](#)

News

Tourette's Podcast

Dr Kate Szymankiewicz is a GP in Salisbury with a specialist interest in Tourette's syndrome and young people's mental health. To raise awareness around the syndrome and in particular the role of the GP in the patient's journey and diagnosis she has recorded with Wessex LMC a short podcast. [Wessex LMCs Podcasts - Tourette's Syndrome and the role of the GP](#)

GP School website – New IMG page

A new page, dedicated to resources for international graduate GP Residents themselves and those supervising international graduates, [has been added to the GP School website](#). It includes a variety of resources including GP-specific versions of the "Hello Supervisor" forms; the "Spend a Penny" booklet; and the recently created visa FAQ document.

Wessex Faculty

The Wessex Faculty now hosts a regular update from the Wessex GP Registrar Subcommittee which can be found here [RCGP Wessex Faculty](#)



AI and use in training

We have received a number of queries about the use of AI software in the training environment, particularly tools used to make consultation notes and generate reflections. NHS England and the RCGP have produced guidance about the use of AI which can be found below.

[RCGP Statement on the use of artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#)

[Generative Artificial intelligence: Guidance in GP Training](#)

[NHSE England guidance for the use of AI in healthcare settings](#)

For the training environment, our approach is that the use of these tools needs to be agreed between the individual trainer and resident doctor. For some resident doctors, use of technology may be useful from the outset, for example as an accessibility aid in dyslexia. Similarly, AI can be helpful in prompting areas for reflection on a real-life case. For note taking tools, our view is that these should be introduced only later on once a registrar has developed this capability and knows 'what good looks like'. Clearly this is a fast-moving area and guidance is likely to change in the future as tools become more sophisticated and more widely available.

Travel to and from the workplace

It has come to our attention that a number of Registrar Doctors do not hold a valid driver's licence and means to travel within their job.

We would like to remind you all, that the person specification that you signed when you applied to GP stated the following: "Hold a current and in date valid driving licence or provides an undertaking to provide alternative means of transport when providing emergency and domiciliary care to fulfil the requirements of the whole training programme."

When working in a full GP post, or an Integrated Training Post (ITP) which has at least part of the week in primary care, it is important to ensure that you have appropriate transport. Trainees can claim mileage expenses when working in a GP placement on days they are expected to do a home visit (up to 3 days per week), but apart from that there is no reimbursement of travel costs to and from the workplace. More information can be found on [GP Home to Base Mileage](#).

You may be eligible for your employer to apply for an emergency driving test for you, please see the [government website for further information](#).

For those who hold an international driver's licence, please ensure you check that the licence is valid. If you need help with getting a UK driving licence, our IMG welfare support team can help. [More information here](#):

If you have queries, please speak to your nominated Training Programme Director.

MPS Indemnity

As a doctor, you have a professional responsibility to ensure you are indemnified for your full scope of practice as a Resident Doctor (Please see the guidance on the [GMC website](#)). The NHS indemnity scheme does not provide advice or support in the event of a claim against you, so it is important to have this additional cover.

August 2025 cohort please keep an eye out for an email from Medical Protection Society (MPS) there will be actions to complete to complete your cover. If you do not have indemnity cover in place, please contact england.gp.wx@nhs.net.

Exams

Our patch teams receive a lot of queries about exam regulations. The RCGP website is an excellent and comprehensive resource, and we will usually signpost any questions to their pages. In practice a lot of issues can be resolved simply by checking their regulations and guidance first. There is also detailed information about the rules and deadlines to apply for reasonable adjustments. The link is [MRCGP exams](#)

FREE SCA webinars for GP Trainers

The RCGP is running two Trainer-focussed SCA webinars which are free to RCGP members. The first is an introduction to the SCA and the second covers some case examples and top tips on supporting Resident Doctors with preparation for the SCA exam. The webinars are on 11 and 18 September 2025, 19:00 via Zoom. They can be booked via the [RCGP website](#).

Voided examination attempts following a diagnosis of disability

Following the Judicial Review by Mr Justice Garnham on 26 August 2024, the RCGP has formulated a new policy on examination attempts for candidates who receive a late disability diagnosis who have previously failed an exam without reasonable adjustments in place. Candidates may fall into a number of categories and wonder how this impacts them. [The RCGP has published detailed guidance here](#)

If a resident doctor believes they have a justification for having an examination attempt voided, please contact the RCGP exams team as soon as possible so that any additional attempts awarded can be taken within existing training time.

NHS England have also produced detailed guidance for resident doctors both in training and for those who have been released from training. Please review the attachment to this newsletter.

ARCP

For ARCP guidance please speak to your TPD/ ES/ Patch and see below links.

[Annual Review of Competence Progression](#)

[RCGP Workplace Based Assessment \(WPBA\) Guidance](#)

ESR Feedback

All Educational Supervisors receive feedback from the ARCP panel chair about each ESR report they complete. We know completing the ESR can be difficult at times, and our feedback is aimed to be supportive. Our panel chairs have recently reviewed the wording of the feedback they give to ensure this continues to be helpful. If you have any comments on this process, please let us know. You can also include any feedback you receive from us in your own appraisal.

Applying to join the Medical Performers List

GPs are required to be included in the English Medical Performers List (MPL) to work independently in NHS general medical practice in England. The regulations were amended in September 2023, and as such GP Registrars are NOT required to apply to join the MPL until they are reaching the end of their training programme as outlined below.

For ST1 and ST2 doctors:

GPRs are not required to be on the Performers List whilst in training, no need to apply yet.

For ST3 registrars:

Your name may already be included on the List as arrangements may previously have been made for your inclusion on the List either before you started training or whilst you were in training. You can check if your name is already on the [Performers List](#)

If your name is not already included on the Medical Performers List you will need to make an application to join it, but NOT BEFORE you are within 6 calendar months of your CCT date.

ST3 trainees only should submit an application to join the Performers List no later than 3 months prior to CCT.

In other words, you should only complete your application between 6 and 3 months BEFORE your expected CCT date. If the application is started too late, it may result in you not being able to work immediately as an independent qualified GP.

Visa Sponsorship

Our AD for International Support, Dr Katie Collins, has recorded a podcast with Wessex LMCs on post-CCT visa sponsorship. This highlights a newly qualified GP's personal experiences and reflections from the Practice on becoming a visa sponsoring practice. The podcast is available from [PodBean](#) or via the [Wessex LMCs podcast channel](#). (It is the recording dated 02/08/24.)

Is your practice a visa sponsor? Reimbursement available for HIOW and BSW practices

As you are aware, increasing numbers of GP Residents are new to the UK when they start their GP training. To be able to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain, colleagues need to have been working in the UK for a minimum of five years. Therefore, a significant number of international graduates still require visa sponsorship in order to work in the UK post-CCT.

To be able to recruit a post-CCT GP who needs a visa, practices need to be registered as visa sponsors. This is a one-off application process to become a sponsor.

As present both Hampshire & Isle of Wight ICB and Bath Swindon & Wiltshire ICB providing reimbursement to practices for one-off application fee involved in becoming a visa sponsor.

Details of the process involved in becoming a sponsor are available from the [LMC Website](#)

For HIOW practices please contact your current ICB, for BSW please find more information on the [BSW Primary and community Care Website](#).