Wessex GP School Newsletter

November 2026

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

Welcome to our November edition of the Wessex GP School newsletter.

Educator Courses

From April 2026 the GP School england.gp.wx@nhs.net has been administering the Educator courses rather than the PDU team. Keep an eye on the website for course detail and how to book on https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/general-practice/gp-educational-supervisors/

We will be running the following courses in 2026/2027:

- Combined Supervisor Course, this is for F2, Clinical Supervisors and for Out of Hours.
- Assessment and Portfolio Masterclass
- Experienced Trainers Course
- And the newly developed Educator Supervisor Course

If you have completed the Prospective Trainer course, and were waiting for the New trainer course and you haven't yet been contacted please email england.gp.wx@nhs.net

Travel to and from the workplace

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. https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/nhse-south-east-relocation-expenses-and-excess-travel/

Please ensure you have adequate motor insurance in place as required in the NHS Terms and Conditions Handbook section 17.

RCGP: WPBA changes

The RCGP has just launched a series of changes to Workplace Based Assessment (WPBA). These updates have been developed in response to feedback from GP registrars and educators, with the aim of improving consistency, reflecting the breadth of modern general practice, and supporting more meaningful feedback across a wider range of training settings.

Changes include the introduction of a new optional Supplementary Supervisors' Report (SSR) for non-clinical and simulation-based work, the availability of the full range of Care Assessment Tools (CATs) for GP registrars in ST1 and ST2 primary care posts, a revised Clinical Supervisor's Report (CSR) grading scale in ST1 and ST2 to align with non-primary care placements, and refreshed Consultation Observation Tool (COT) criteria aligned to the GP Curriculum. There is no increase in the minimum number of required assessments.

Alongside these changes, the Leadership Activity guidance has also been updated and expanded. The revised webpage provides greater clarity on what can count as a leadership activity in ST3, along with a wider range of practical examples and advice for GP registrars and supervisors.

As always, extensive guidance on every aspect of WPBA is available on the RCGP website.

Educator Development Fundamentals

We are pleased to share that NHS England has now published the **Educator Development Fundamentals.**

The guide sets out **nine core capability areas** that define the skills, knowledge and behaviours required to deliver high-quality education, supervision, and assessment across healthcare in England. These include:

- Safe and effective educational practice
- Equality, diversity, and inclusion
- Creating positive learning environments
- Teaching and assessment
- Learner support and progression
- Professional development
- Educator continuing professional development (CPD)
- Digital capabilities

For each capability area, the framework outlines behaviours associated with both effective and excellent practice, supporting development for educators at every stage of their career.

The publication is available on the NHS England website: **Educator Development Fundamentals**

We would be grateful if you could share this resource within your networks and with colleagues who have educational responsibilities or an interest in workforce development.

Form R

We would like to remind all Residents about the importance of declaring all their roles on their Form R which is submitted at each ARCP.

The Gold Guide requires Resident doctors to complete Form R declarations accurately to include doctor's whole scope of practice. This requires declaration of all work undertaken as a registered medical practitioner, including voluntary or advisory work, work in non-NHS organisations, self-employment and locum work.

As the ARCP takes the place of the appraisal process during training, accurate completion of the Form R allows a doctor's full scope of work to be considered, not just that done in training.

Failure to declare a role could be escalated as a fitness to practice concern.

Statutory leave and sick leave

Please be aware that as well as informing the lead employer and placement, if any Residents are on long term sickness or statutory leave (greater than a week), it is also essential to inform the local patch team and GP school. This is so we can ensure that any educational issues are supported appropriately, as well as considering if there will be an impact on a Resident's future placement.

Study leave

We have updated the Wessex study leave guidance for GP Residents which can be found here https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/south-east-study-leave/
We receive a number of applications for 'amber' aspirational courses. Please be aware that approval of these is discretionary- where a Resident is yet to pass both exams then it is likely that we will advise using study leave for exam preparation rather than other discretionary courses.

Examination fees

Following deal between the BMA and the government to end industrial action which included a deal on the reimbursement of examination fees, interim guidance has been published here: Reimbursement of examination fees - AOMRC.

Resident doctors will be able to claim reimbursement of fees for 2 sittings of both the AKT and SCA. At the time of writing, we are still awaiting confirmation of how this will be administered. We will send this to all residents as soon as this is published.

Avoiding placement at registered practice

Residents should not be placed in a GP practice where they are registered as a patient. This expectation is discussed at induction, and patch teams review allocations early on to help identify any potential conflicts.

If you are a Resident and find that you have been placed at your registered practice, please let your patch team know so that an alternative placement can be arranged.

The last word...

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone across Wessex who continues to support our Resident doctors and the wider GP School. Your enthusiasm and commitment continue to make an enormous difference to their experience and our patients.

We're already looking ahead to 2027, including plans for our next **Wessex-wide Trainer Event**. More details will follow, so watch this space!

In the meantime, we hope you all have a good rest of the autumn and, when it arrives, a well-earned festive break.