

Understanding the RCGP Curriculum

An explanatory note for GP trainers

Over the past year, the RCGP has been gathering feedback from GP trainers on the Curriculum for Specialty Training for General Practice. As a result of this, and an evaluation carried out by the University of Birmingham, the College is aware that some trainers find that the size and scope of the curriculum is daunting for them and for their trainees. This explanatory note is intended to explain the steps that the College is taking to assist GP trainers who are working with the curriculum.

The RCGP curriculum is a wide-ranging educational document which describes the competences needed to be a general practitioner in the UK. The curriculum addresses all sections of *Good Medical Practice* and is structured around six domains of core competence and three essential application features.

The curriculum is made up of 32 statements. However, the nature and purpose of these statements are not all the same.

The first statement, also known as **the core statement**, is entitled *Being a General Practitioner*. The introduction to *Being a General Practitioner* explains that this statement 'defines the learning outcomes for the discipline of general practice and describes the skills required to practise medicine as a general practitioner in the NHS'. The core curriculum statement can be downloaded here: www.rcgp-curriculum.org.uk

***Being a General Practitioner* is applicable to all aspects of general practice and should be regarded as being the core curriculum.**

The other 31 statements that make up the complete curriculum are described as **interpretive statements**. These interpret the domains and essential features of general practice, as described in the core statement, in relation to a wide range of different professional and clinical situations. The interpretive statements are intended to provide helpful, and complementary, additional information, but should not be regarded as the core curriculum.

We hope that you will find it helpful to use the core statement as the curriculum when planning and delivering education to your trainees, and to refer to the interpretive statements for additional detail and guidance as needed.

The RCGP has developed a range of educational resources to help trainers and trainees to understand and use the curriculum in day-to-day training. Details of these resources are included in the box below.

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RCGP curriculum resources for GP trainers

e-GP: www.e-GP.org

The RCGP's free new e-learning resource to support GP specialty training, featuring interactive e-learning modules covering the RCGP curriculum. Contains an e-learning module on *Being a General Practitioner* which introduces the core curriculum domains and essential application features. Register now at the e-GP website.

RCGP InnovAiT: www.rcgp-innovait.oxfordjournals.org

The RCGP's monthly educational journal for Associates in Training, providing articles and AKT questions on GP topics and curriculum-based issues. The journal is available to trainers for a special subscription rate of just £35. Throughout 2009, *InnovAiT* will be featuring a series of articles on the nMRCGP competencies.

RCGP Curriculum & Assessment Website: www.rcgp-curriculum.org.uk

Offers the latest news and information on GP training and the nMRCGP. Visit the RCGP Curriculum Documents section to download the curriculum statements and the *Learning and Teaching Guide*.

RCGP Curriculum Map: www.rcgp-curriculum.org.uk/extras/curriculum

The navigable online RCGP curriculum linking to online educational resources, and featuring a curriculum search engine to quickly locate items in the curriculum.

RCGP Curriculum and nMRCGP Books: www.rcgp.org.uk/acatalog

Order online at the RCGP bookstore for a 10% membership discount.

- **The Condensed Curriculum Guide**
The official users' guide to the new RCGP curriculum and the nMRCGP; for all GP specialty trainees, trainers and educators. It includes a condensed and indexed version of the official RCGP curriculum.
- **General Practice Specialty Training: Making it Happen**
The RCGP guide for GP educators to the nMRCGP assessments