

## **NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF PEADIATRICS – EXAM SUPPORT**

- **What is this service?**

This service was designed to support Paediatricians preparing for the Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health (RCPCH) examinations. The theory exams Foundation of practice (FOP), Theory & Science (TAS), Applied Knowledge in Practice (AKP) and the clinical exam- MRCPCH clinical.

A process has been developed to support resident doctors in training which is described below. The service is constantly evolving and additional resources may become available with time. We also aim to work with educational & clinical supervisors and all involved in the education and training of future paediatricians to ensure high quality local teaching for the above examinations across the region.

- **Who is the exam TPD?**

There is one TPD for exam support in paediatrics.

Dr Ros Garr is a Consultant in Paediatrics & Neonatal Medicine & Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer at the University of Liverpool; Clinical lead for Paediatrics at Edgehill University Medical School, and she works at Mersey & West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. She has an interest in medical education & leadership, with a postgraduate certificate in Teaching & learning in clinical practice and an MSc in Medical Leadership. She instructs in paediatric and neonatal life support courses, and is an examiner for the RCPCH. She derives a lot of satisfaction from supporting resident doctors in their exam journeys. Out of work she has a busy family life and hobbies include playing tennis in a local league.

If there are any questions relating to TPD exam support services, please feel free to email [rosaline.garr@nhs.net](mailto:rosaline.garr@nhs.net) or [rosaline.garr@merseywestlancs.nhs.uk](mailto:rosaline.garr@merseywestlancs.nhs.uk)

### **Referral Pathways for support**



Resident doctors unsuccessful after the **first attempt** in any of the MRCPCH examinations should first meet with their educational supervisors to explore possible reasons such as:

- i) Inadequate preparation
- ii) Lack of time e.g. rota issues to address locally
- iii) Illness e.g. has adequate support from occupational health or GP been provided?  
Time lost due to illness should be discounted from training
- iv) Inability to attend a revision course? Exploration of study leave process and local courses available
- v) Access to STEP 1 teaching for resident doctors in training ST1-3

Resident doctors unsuccessful after **second or more attempts** at one of the MRCPCH examinations should be referred to the exam support TPD to explore other possible reasons and support such as exam coaching, neurodiversity support.

What can the exam TPD offer:-

- i) One-to-one 'TEAMS' or face-to-face 60 minute meeting
- ii) Reflections on reasons for unsuccessful attempt is encouraged **before** the meeting
- iii) During the meeting, we explore the support the resident doctor feels may be required, prior exam preparation, study leave etc
- iv) Referral for additional support e.g. coaching or neurodiversity assessment - these require consent, so the form is filled jointly with the resident doctor in training

**Useful Exam Resources - these are not exhaustive:**

MRCPCH Theory exams

FOP:

1. Question banks – Pastest and Passmed.
2. Book: Clinical Cases for MRCPCH Foundation of Practice

TAS:

1. Question banks – as above.
2. Book: Clinical Cases for MRCPCH Theory and Science
3. Book: The Science of Paediatrics: MRCPCH Mastercourse (2016)
4. Book: Essential Revision Notes in Paediatrics for the MRCPCH
5. Book: Basic Medical Sciences for MRCP Part 1



AKP:

1. Question banks – as above.
2. Book: Clinical Cases for MRCPCH Applied Knowledge in Practice
3. Book: Get Through – MRCPCH Part 2: Data Interpretation Questions

Clinicals:

1. RCPCH Guidance Hub (available on RCPCH website) – Documents include:
  1. Candidate guide
  2. Describing developmental assessments and understanding cues
  3. Clinical exam technique
  4. Station descriptions and flow charts
2. Clinicals Revision Course – mock exam currently at Alderhey hospital
3. Alder Hey Clinical Exam Preparation Book
4. Book: MRCPCH Clinical: Short Cases, History Taking & Communication Skills
5. Podcasts on Spotify: Dragon Bytes Paediatric Podcast
6. Podcasts on Spotify: MRCPCH Clinicals playlist (compilation of different podcasts from various sources tailored towards the Clinical Exam).
7. Paedsprep.com – requires subscription, but good resource for each clinical station with sample scenarios and answer scheme.