Blueprints for the pathology assessment systems

Introduction

In order for the assessment systems to be approved by the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB), the Royal College of Pathologists must provide documentary evidence of the overarching blueprint which maps each assessment system against its approved, definitive curriculum and is referenced to Good Medical Practice and the four GMC domains. Specifically, the blueprint must demonstrate how the assessments test the structure of the curriculum. Five blueprints are provided by the College (including four histopathology subspecialty blueprints):

- Chemical Pathology (ChP)
- Histopathology (HP)
- Medical Microbiology (MM)
- Virology (V)

Histopathology subspecialty blueprint:
- Cytopathology (CyP)

This document must be read in conjunction with the above blueprints.

What is a blueprint?

- A map and a specification for an assessment programme that ensures that all aspects of the curriculum and Good Medical Practice/four GMC domains are covered by assessment programmes over a specified period of time.
- It may be a simple content matrix but it can also include further specifications, for example test/assessment methods.
- It supports content validity by ensuring sampling and coverage.
- It prevents inappropriate overlap (although some overlap may be desirable in providing confirmation of performance through triangulation).

The overarching blueprint

High level overarching blueprints have been produced by the Royal College of Pathologists for each pathology specialty or subspecialty in the form of a matrix.

Along the horizontal axis of the blueprint are the **Good Medical Practice attributes, organised under the four GMC domains**. Where appropriate, these have been amalgamated and Appendix 1 (see page 3) indicates the amalgamation of the headings used to refer to "Good Medical Practice" and the four GMC domains and how they refer to pathology.

Down the vertical axis are the **broad curriculum domains**. For the histopathology subspecialties, the blueprint will be mapped to the general histopathology curriculum as well as the subspecialty curriculum.

Blueprint keys

The four GMC domains

KSP	Knowledge, Skills and Performance
SQ	Safety and Quality
CPT	Communication, Partnership and Teamwork
MT	Maintaining Trust

Assigning importance

Each box will be scored using one of the following options:

X	this attribute is not applicable to this curriculum domain
1	essential for this trainee to have this attribute in dealing with this domain
2	fairly important for trainee to have this attribute in dealing with this domain
3	not essential for trainee to have this attribute in dealing with this domain

Assigning examinations and assessments

Once the numbers have been assigned to each grid reference, one or more appropriate assessment letters from the key below are placed against each number (an X rating does not need a letter). This indicates which of the assessments/examinations are used to assess the appropriate domain/attribute.

Letter	Assessment/examination
A	Year 1 Assessment (OSPE)
B	Workplace-based assessment (except MSF)
C	MSF
D	Educational Supervisor's Report
E	FRCPath Part 1 written (ChP only)
F	FRCPath Part 1 written MCQ (HP, MM&V only)
G	FRCPath Practical (Part 1 for ChP, Part 2 for the others, NP microscopic)
H	FRCPath Part 2 Project (dissertation/portfolio/casebook – CP/V/FP only)
I	FRCPath Part 2 viva (ChP only)
J	FRCPath Part 2 Autopsy (HP, FP, NP [macroscopic], PP)

Blueprints for the individual assessments/examinations

The overarching blueprint reflects the high level individual blueprints for each assessment or examination. Each of the individual blueprints is provided as individual sheets behind the overarching blueprint. For example, to view the overarching blueprint for the FRCPath Part 1 written exam in chemical pathology, the sheet labelled E must be selected. These are underpinned by more detailed blueprints for each assessment.

Maintaining the blueprint

The blueprint is used to inform trainees in approved UK specialty training programmes how the assessments test the structure of the curriculum. Therefore the blueprints will be regularly maintained to ensure that they remain fit for purpose.

APPENDIX 1: Table indicating amalgamation of headings used to refer to "Good Medical Practice" and the four GMC domains and how they refer to Pathology Practice (The numbers in column 2 refer to the paragraphs in GMP 2001 (normal type) and 2006 (italics)).

		Good Clinical Care		
GMP Headings from Curriculum	**GMP 2001** *GMP 2006*	**Abbreviated headings from blueprint**	**Use in Blueprint**	**GMC domain**
History	2 *2*	Clinical Practice History, Examination, management of chronic disease, continuity of care	1.Refers to relationship with symptoms, signs, and pathophysiological context of disease	KSP
Examination	2 *2*	Clinical Practice History, Examination, management of chronic disease, continuity of care	=1	KSP
Investigations including imaging	2 *2*	Investigation	Refers to appropriate investigation	KSP
Treatment (therapeutics)	3,5,6 *3,7,8*	Treatment	Refers to all treatment	KSP
Note-keeping, letters etc.	3,4 *3,6*	Notes and record keeping	2.Refers to all notes (clinical and pathological reports)	KSP
Management of chronic disease	2,3,42,45 *2,3,52*	Clinical Practice History, Examination, management of chronic disease, continuity of care	=1	KSP
Time-management	3 *3*	Time-management	Personal efficiency and time-management	KSP
Decision-making	2,3,5,7 *2,3,7,9,10*	Decision-making	3.Refers to all decision making in clinical or pathological context	KSP

		Maintaining Good Medical Practice		
GMP Headings from Curriculum	GMP 2001 *GMP 2006*	**Abbreviated headings from blueprint**	**Use in Blueprint**	**GMC domain**
Overall clinical judgement	3,5 *3,7*	Overall Clinical Judgement	Clinical judgement in patient investigation and treatment and reporting of pathology	KSP
Recognise own limitations	3 *3*	Recognise own limitations	Personal attribute	CPT
Written records	3,4 *3,6*	Notes and record keeping	=2	KSP
Decision making	2,3,5,7 *2,3,7,9,10*	Decision-making	=3	KSP
Life-long learning	10,11 *12,13*	Life-long learning	Context of CPD	KSP
Good use of information technology (IT)	3 *3*	IT	Efficient use of available technology	KSP
The organisational framework for clinical governance and its application in practice	12,26,27,28 *14,43,44,45*	Clinical Governance, Risk-management, Patient Safety, environment of openness	4.Refers to all risk management, and clinical governance structures and strategies	SQ
Risk management	4,26,27,28 *6,43,44,45*	Clinical Governance, Risk-management, Patient Safety, environment of openness	=4	SQ
Evidence		Evidence-based medicine	5.Able to assess evidence for decision-making	SQ
Clinical audit	12,36,37 *14,41,42*	Clinical audit, EQA	Refers to all audit and EQA	SQ
Guidelines	*12*	Evidence-based medicine	=5	SQ
Structure of the NHS and the principles of management	37,38 *41,42*	NHS, Media awareness, Outside bodies	6.Refers to organisational and management arrangements affecting delivery of patient care and laboratory organisation	MT

Maintaining Good Medical Practice cont'd.				
GMP Headings from Curriculum	**GMP 2001** *GMP 2006*	**Abbreviated headings from blueprint**	**Use in Blueprint**	**GMC Domain**
Relevance of outside bodies	46,47 *54,55*	NHS, Media awareness, Outside bodies	=6	MT
Media awareness		NHS, Media awareness, Outside bodies	=6	MT

Teaching and Training, Appraising and Assessing				
GMP Headings from Curriculum	**GMP 2001** *GMP 2006*	**Abbreviated headings from blueprint**	**Use in Blueprint**	**GMC Domain**
To have the skills, attitudes and practices of a competent teacher	15,16 *15,16*	Teaching	Refers to all teaching at all levels	KSP
To be able to plan and analyse a research project	52 *70,71*	Research	Refers to research at all levels	KSP
Appraisal and assessment	13,14 *18,19*	Appraisal and assessment	Refers to appraisal and assessment e.g. of junior colleagues	CPT

Relationships with patients				
GMP Headings from Curriculum	**GMP 2001** *GMP 2006*	**Abbreviated headings from blueprint**	**Use in Blueprint**	**GMC Domain**
Patient safety	4,8,26 *6,10,43*	Doctor-patient relationship, breaking bad news, educating patients, environment and lifestyle risk factors	7.Personal attributes in dealing with patients	SQ
Continuity of care	37,39,40 *48*	Clinical Practice History, Examination, management of chronic disease, continuity of care	In GMP actually refers to out-of-hours practice	KSP

Relationships with patients cont'd.				
GMP Headings from Curriculum	GMP 2001 *GMP 2006*	**Abbreviated headings from blueprint**	**Use in Blueprint**	**GMC Domains**
Informed consent	17 *36*	Informed consent, confidentiality	8.Refers to all aspects of consent and confidentiality in pathology and clinical practice	MT
Confidentiality	18,19 *37*	Informed consent, confidentiality	=8	MT
Within a consultation	19,20,21 *20,21,22,23 24,25,26,27, 28*	Doctor-patient relationship, breaking bad news, educating patients, environment and lifestyle risk factors	=7	MT
Breaking bad news	21 *22*	Doctor-patient relationship, breaking bad news, educating patients, environment and lifestyle risk factors	=7	MT
Complaints	22,23,29,30, 31,32 *30,31*	Complaints	9.Refers to all aspects of dealing with and avoiding complaints	MT
Doctor-patient relationship	5,6,19,20,21 *7,8,22,30,31 32,33,34,35*	Doctor-patient relationship, breaking bad news, educating patients, environment and lifestyle risk factors	=7	MT
Educating patients about disease, investigations and therapy	17,21 *4,22,36*	Doctor-patient relationship, breaking bad news, educating patients, environment and lifestyle risk factors	=7	MT
Environmental and lifestyle risk factors	*4*	Doctor-patient relationship, breaking bad news, educating patients, environment and lifestyle risk factors	=7	MT
Epidemiology and screening		Epidemiology and screening	Refers to all aspects of epidemiology and public screening	KSP

Working with colleagues				
GMP Headings from Curriculum	**GMP 2001** *GMP 2006*	**Abbreviated headings from blueprint**	**Use in Blueprint**	**GMC Domains**
Clinical teams	34,36,37,38 *41,42*	Clinical teams, and communication with colleagues, interactions with other agencies	10.Refers to good practice in working with colleagues at all levels in laboratory and clinical teams	CPT
Communication with colleagues	36,43,44,45,4 6,47 *41,50,51,52,5 3* *54,55*	Clinical teams, and communication with colleagues, interactions with other agencies	=10	CPT
Complaints	22,23,29,30,3 1,32 *30,31*	Complaints	=9	MT
Interactions between hospital and GP, hospital and other agencies, medical and surgical specialties	45 *52,53*	Clinical teams, and communication with colleagues, interactions with other agencies	=10	CPT
Creating an environment in which mistakes and mismanagement of patients can be openly discussed and lessons learned	37 *41*	Clinical Governance, Risk-management, Patient Safety, environment of openness	=4	MT