



**RCA overview**  
**Ian Hamer 22/9/20**

# Criteria

- 13 cases
- 10 minutes
- Audio video FTF
- Continuous
- Within 26 w of results date
- Not to have been used as a COT

# 13 cases mandatory criteria

- One child 16 or under
  - The consultation should reflect the impact of the patient being a child, rather than simply incidental to the clinical scenario
- One elderly 65 or over
- Two examination cases includes psychiatric
- Four Mandatory clinical areas

# Mandatory clinical areas

- **An acute problem that needs urgent investigation or referral**
- **Maternal and reproductive health**
- **A Mental Health Condition within the DSM or ICD classifications**
- **A long-term condition e.g. cancer, multimorbidity or disability**

# Recommended criteria

- **No more than 2 cases where the focus of the consultation lies in any one of the Clinical Topic Areas as listed in the GP curriculum (includes life stage areas)**
- **Varying spread of clinical cases and levels of challenge in the consultation**

# RCA top tips

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/about-us/rcgp-blog/top-tips-to-help-your-trainee-prepare-for-the-rca.aspx>

- Start Early
- Help with technology
- Crib sheets
- Examiner doesn't know patient
- It's the trainees job to pass
- Help getting right cases

# The right cases?

Liaise with Reception

Cherry Pick

Be creative new DM etc

Avoid pre-consultation

Avoid artificially 'Creating' a consultation by simply recapping the history and suggested treatment options when these are already in the letter or previous referral. They need to consider what is actually 'Added' to the patient care by their contact with them. If a patient has considered the guidance already offered and has made a clear decision, then recapping does not add anything, and such a consultation would not provide evidence of skills.

# Insufficient evidence

- Medication request / repeat prescription / adjust medication
- Pill check
- Follow up
- Recurrence
- Results
- Sick note request / fitness to work



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## Low challenge

### Certain clinical areas occur frequently

- Skin / dry skin / skin lesion
- Eczema (especially recurrence or flare)
- Acne (especially recurrence)
- Molluscum
- Ear wax
- Earache
- Conjunctivitis / sticky eye
- Blepharitis
- Stye



# RCA Marking Scheme and Feedback Statements



# Marking Scheme

## Data Gathering, Technical and Assessment Skills

- a. *Takes an adequate and focussed history to allow for a safe assessment to take place*
- b. *Elicits and develops relevant new information*
- c. *Rules in/out serious or significant disease*
- d. *Considers and/or generates any appropriate diagnostic hypotheses*
- e. *Explores where appropriate the impact and psychosocial context of the presenting problem*
- f. *Plans and explains (and if possible performs) appropriate physical/mental examinations and tests*
- g. *Appears to recognise the issues or priorities in the consultation*

## Decision Making and Clinical Management Skills

*a. Candidate appears to make a safe and appropriate working diagnosis/es*

*b. Offers appropriate and safe management options for the presenting problem*

*c. Where possible, makes evidence-based decisions re prescribing, referral and co-ordinating care with other health care professionals*

*d. Makes appropriate use of time and resources whilst attending to risks*

*e. Provides safety netting and follow up instructions appropriate to the nature of the consultation*

**Clear Pass**

**Pass**

**Fail**

**Clear Fail**

## Interpersonal Skills

*a. Encourages the patient's contribution, identifying and responding to cues appropriate to the consultation*

*b. Explores where appropriate, patient's agenda, health beliefs & preferences*

*c. Offers the opportunity to be involved in significant management decisions reaching a shared understanding*

*d. When undertaken, explains and conducts examinations with sensitivity and obtains valid consent*

*e. Provides explanations that are relevant, necessary and understandable to the patient*

**Clear Pass**

**Pass**

**Fail**

**Clear Fail**



# Feedback Statements

# Global

**Disorganised and or Unstructured Consultation**

**Does not recognise the issues or priorities in the consultation**

**Shows poor Time Management**

**Poor choice of consultation: Does not demonstrate capability in consulting skills sufficient for independent UK General Practice**



# Data Gathering, Technical and Assessment Skills

**Insufficient evidence of Data Gathering skills to demonstrate capability of safe independent UK General Practice**

**Inadequate history taken to enable safe assessment of disease and its severity**

**Does not elicit and develop adequate amounts of new information to demonstrate competence**

**Does not consider and/or test an adequate range of Differential Diagnoses**

**Does not identify or use appropriate Psychological or Social information to place the problem in context**

**Does not offer/undertake appropriate Physical/Mental examination as part of the diagnostic process**

# Decision Making and Clinical Management Skills

**Insufficient evidence of Decision Making and Clinical Management skills to demonstrate capability of safe independent UK General Practice**

**Does not identify an appropriate range of Differential Diagnoses and/or form a reasoned Working Diagnosis**

**Does not develop a Management Plan (including prescribing and referral) reflecting knowledge of current best practice**

**The choice of management was unclear due to missing information**

**Does not demonstrate an awareness of management of risk or make the patient aware of relative risks of different options**

**Does not show appropriate use of resources, including aspects of budgetary governance**

# Interpersonal Skills

## Insufficient evidence of Interpersonal skills to capability of safe independent UK General Practice

**Does not demonstrate active listening skills, limited exploration and use of cues**

**Does not develop a shared understanding, demonstrating an ability to work in partnership with the patient**

**Does not acknowledge or utilise the patient's contribution to the consultation including consent**

**Does not use language and/or explanations that are relevant and understandable to the patient**

**Does not treat the patient with appropriate respect and/or sensitivity during the consultation**



# Generic Grade Descriptors

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## Clear Pass

The candidate demonstrates a high level of competence, with a justifiable clinical approach that is fluent, appropriately focussed and technically proficient.

There is sufficient evidence provided to demonstrate capability in this domain.

*The candidate shows sensitivity, actively shares ideas and may empower the patient*

## Pass

The candidate demonstrates an adequate level of competence, with a clinical approach that may not be fluent but is justifiable and technically proficient. The lack of complexity in the case presented restricts the achievement of a Clear Pass grade.

*The candidate shows sensitivity and tries to involve the patient.*

## Fail

The candidate fails to demonstrate adequate competence, with a clinical approach that is at times unsystematic or inconsistent with accepted practice. Technical proficiency may be of concern.

**There is limited (new) evidence provided to demonstrate capability of a doctor sufficient for safe independent UK General Practice.**

*The patient is treated with sensitivity and respect, but the doctor does not sufficiently facilitate or respond to the patient's contribution*

## Clear Fail

The candidate clearly fails to demonstrate competence, with a clinical approach that is incompatible with accepted practice, arbitrary or technically incompetent.

**There is no evidence or very limited evidence provided to demonstrate capability of a doctor sufficient for safe independent UK General Practice in this domain.**

*The patient is not treated with adequate attention, sensitivity or respect for their contribution*

# Overall Marking Grade

**Clear Pass**

**Pass**

**Borderline**

**Fail**

**Clear Fail**