**Targeted GP Training**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Important notice**

Since the proposal for Targeted GP Training (TGPT) was first launched, there have been a number of changes made as a result of consultation with all stakeholders and the regulatory authorities. This document represents the most up to date guide to the programme, and all previous versions of the FAQs and of the previously published Guide are superseded by this and the accompanying *Guidance on Progression in Training*.

Please note that this programme is only available to those who left GP training between August 2010 and the last day of January 2018, as after that time the period of extension available to GP trainees became 12 months with an exceptional additional 6.

Please also note that the last availability of Targeted GP Training will be to start in August 2021.

**Data access**

By applying for a TGPT scheme the applicant is agreeing that ALL data relating to their previous training and examination results including feedback will be made available to the receiving educational team. This will support the development of the person specific PDP.

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**A: Eligibility and pre-application**

**A1Q: Will there be any pre-selection / eligibility requirements?**

A:  You will need to be able to demonstrate at application that you fulfil the eligibility criteria:

* Be a previous GP National Training Number (NTN) holder
* Left GP training between August 2010 and January 31st 2018
* Have satisfactory Workplace based Assessments
* Have passed one of either Applied Knowledge Test (AKT) or Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA)
* Have taken but not passed the other exam

This will be evidenced by an Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) outcome 4 with a U5 code (single exam failure) or U6 code (continual exam failure).

* Have current General Medical Council (GMC) registration with a [licence to practise](https://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/licensing.asp)
* Been in medical practice within an NHS organisation in the last two years

**A2Q: I have been out of medical practice. Can I apply for Targeted GP Training?**

A: You will have had to have undertaken sufficient clinical work to meet NHS appraisal / revalidation requirements within the organisation(s) you have worked.

Appraisal in the last calendar year should be with a GMC registered appraisal body, as appears on the GMC website, unless there is valid justification for another appraisal body from your responsible officer.

For any potential applicants who are in a training post in another specialty a valid ARCP form for within the last calendar year can be submitted and will be counted as providing equivalent evidence.

You will need current basic life support prior to commencement. This is a pre-employment check.

**A3Q:  Can I apply if I have had my licence to practise suspended, been erased or suspended from the GMC register?**

A: You cannot apply or take up a post under these circumstances.

**A4Q:    I believe I was given an unsatisfactory Workplace based Assessment** **solely because I didn’t pass the exam.**

A:       It would be expected that doctors who have exited training for exam reasons only would have been issued an Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) outcome 4 with a U code 5 or 6. Details of the U codes issued for all outcome 4’s can be found in the Gold Guide2 Appendix 3.

If in the very exceptional circumstances doctors have evidence that they were marked down on their Workplace Based Assessments for exam failure only, then this should be submitted as part of the application process and it will be considered against evidence within the e-portfolio as part of the Longlisting process.

**A5Q:   I left training having successfully completed Workplace based Assessments but didn’t take the Applied Knowledge Test and didn’t pass the Clinical Skills Assessment. Am I eligible to apply?**

A: No. The purpose of the Targeted GP Training scheme is to focus on doctors who have passed two of the three assessment requirements (with success in Workplace based Assessments being a prerequisite).

**A6Q:   Does it matter how many exam attempts I have had previously?**

A: The change in exam rules will enable doctors who re-enter training through the Targeted GP Training scheme to sit the outstanding exam a maximum of two times. This will not be affected by the number of previous attempts the trainee has already had.

**A7Q: I left training after January 2018, will I be eligible?**

A: No. The Targeted GP Training scheme is available only to those who left training before the increase in extensions to training was introduced.

If you were in training after January 2018, as the period of additional extension was available for you, you are not eligible for Targeted GP Training.

**A8Q:    The exam that I passed during training is now time expired, am I eligible to enter TGP training?**

A: You are eligible to apply if you meet the other requirements, but a time expired exam would need to be retaken and passed within the Targeted GP Training Scheme. Please note the FAQ around readiness to sit and the accompanying *Guidance on Progression in Training*.

**A9Q:    The exam that I passed during training will expire before I finish TGPT. Will I have to take it again?**

A: Yes. Please note the FAQ around readiness to sit and the accompanying *Guidance on Progression in Training*.

**A10Q: I left GP training before completing the full duration. Will I be eligible?**

A: No. There may be other routes available for re-entry. Please see the Gold Guide for details.

**A11Q: Can I apply anywhere within HEE/NES?**

A: Yes, but you should think carefully before you decide which area to apply to, and only chose areas that you are confident are compatible with your personal circumstances. Inter Deanery Transfers are not available for trainees on this scheme, and you should ONLY apply to areas you are prepared to work.

**B: Selection**

**B1Q:  Will I have to go through the GP training selection process again?**

A:  Yes.

* The selection process has gone through a number of changes in recent years
* Whilst you will have gained further experience since you last applied, some of your skills may not have been maintained
* You will be competing for a training placement
* The outcome of your selection will inform your person specific training programme so that you receive the most appropriate support

**B2Q:   If my application is unsuccessful can I apply again?**

A: Yes, provided that you are eligible to apply. Entry into Targeted GP Training closes for doctors entering training in August 2021.

**C: Exams, Workplace based Assessments and training content**

**C1Q: How many further attempts at the exam will I have?**

A: The General Medical Council endorses that two attempts are allowed during targeted GP training of the exam you have not previously passed, following additional evidence about readiness to sit. The number of allowable attempts for any time expired exam is also two during GP training, irrespective of the number of previous attempts.

**C2Q:  Do I have to take the Clinical Skills Assessment and/ or Applied Knowledge Test examination if I have already passed it?**

A:  Trainees on this scheme are required to demonstrate *current* fulfilment of the requirements of the GP Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) curriculum. This includes success in the Clinical Skills Assessment, Applied Knowledge Test and Workplace based Assessments.

The GMC currency of exams will be used for doctors on the Targeted GP Training scheme – that exam success remains current for a period of seven years. You may therefore have to take again an exam that has expired.

**C3Q:  Is the 12-month period before I can apply to sit the exam I have not yet passed the same for full time and less than full time doctors?**

A: It is whole time equivalent and is a minimum.  Each trainee will also need to be considered ready to sit the exam by their trainer(s) and an ARCP panel before they are able to apply.

**C4Q:  Why do I have to wait for the 12-month Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) outcome before I can apply for the outstanding exam?**

A:  This period is aimed at acclimatising you back into general practice and training without the pressure of attempting the exam. It is considered important to have sufficient time to prepare, to put you in the best position to be successful.

**C5Q: Will I have to demonstrate all the curriculum competences again even though I left training with satisfactory Workplace based Assessments and e-portfolio?**

A: You will be applying for GP registration and the GMC will require confirmation that you demonstrate current curriculum competence. Throughout your Targeted GP Training scheme, you will need to maintain satisfactory Workplace based Assessments as if you were an ST3 trainee. Please see accompanying *Guidance on Progression in Training*.

**C6Q: I have already achieved satisfactory Workplace based Assessments. Will I still need to complete these during the Targeted GP Training scheme?**

A:       Yes.  You will be at ST3 level throughout the time you are in the Targeted GP Training scheme. Details of the Workplace based Assessment requirements for ST3 can be found on the Royal College of General Practitioners [website](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/training-exams/training/mrcgp-workplace-based-assessment-wpba.aspx).

In order to be able to apply for a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) or Certificate of Eligibility for GP Registration Combined Programme (CEGPR(CP)) at the end of you training you will need to demonstrate up to date competences in all areas of the GP curriculum and this includes Workplace based Assessment. Please see accompanying *Guidance on Progression in Training*.

**C7Q: How much training will I need to do?**

A:  The TGP Training programme is 18 months long (whole time equivalent) with a further exceptional six months if granted by an ARCP panel based on the evidence submitted. Doctors on the Targeted GP Training scheme will be given an expected end of training date set at 18 months (whole time equivalent) from the date they enter training.

To apply for GP Registration, you will need to demonstrate current competence of the curriculum requirements (WPBA) and current success in both the Applied Knowledge Test and Clinical Skills Assessment. Once you have been awarded an Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) outcome 6 you may apply for GP Registration. You do not have to wait until the completion of the 18 months training period.

**C8Q:    Will I be required to work in Out of Hours?**

A: You will need to demonstrate competence in all areas of the GP curriculum which includes those skills relating to urgent / unscheduled / out of hours care. Requirements are the same as for during ST 3.

**C9Q: Will I be subject to the Gold Guide?**

A: Yes with a few exceptions. As with all trainees holding an NTN, those following the TGPT scheme will be subject to all of the processes and requirements of the Gold Guide, but with a number of exceptions which are listed below in Appendix 1 - Elements of ‘Gold Guide’ not open to TGPT scheme

**C10Q: Which Curriculum will I be following?**

A: You will be expected to follow and demonstrate achievement of the required competencies of the RCGP curriculum (including exam requirements) as approved by the GMC.

**C11Q: Will I be placed in a practice approved for GP training by the GMC?**

A: Yes. The precise arrangements will vary form one area to another.

**C12Q: What is the maximum period of training I can have?**

A: The scheme length will be 18 months, whole time equivalent with a further six months exceptional training (following same rules as in Gold Guide around eligibility for exceptional 6 months).

**C13Q: If I do not manage to pass both exams within the duration of training, will I be allowed any attempts out of programme?**

A: No

**C14Q:** **What courses should I think of attending as part of my Study Leave?**

ATGPT Trainees should approach their local HEE / NES office for advice on the content of any Study Leave

**D: Processes**

**D1Q:  What is the application process?**

A:  Details of the application process will be provided on the [GP National Recruitment Office](https://gprecruitment.hee.nhs.uk/) (GPNRO) website.

**D2Q:   Should I do anything in preparation of an application?**

A:        You will need to

* Be clear that you are eligible
* Prepare for selection
* Have evidence that you have passed one of the two exams and taken but failed the other
  + Have evidence that you left training with satisfactory Workplace based Assessments (Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) outcome 4 with U5 or U6 code)
* Have evidence of which route of training you were following (CCT or CEGPR)
* Have evidence of recent appraisal and work history as detailed in answers A1Q and A2Q

**D3Q:   Will I need to supply evidence of my exam outcomes?**

A:        Yes.

**E: General questions**

**E1Q:  Can I continue in my current role part time and train?**

A:  No. It is essential that doctors on the Targeted GP Training scheme have sufficient continuity of training, appropriate presence in the workplace and coverage of different aspects of the curriculum.  This also enables trainees to focus on the achievement of the GP curriculum competences in the limited period of training

This does not affect your rights to apply for less than full time (LTFT) training for statutory reasons.

**E2Q:    Can I be on Targeted GP Training** **and work less than full time (LTFT)?**

A:         Those on the Targeted GP Training scheme may work less than full time (LTFT) for category 1 reasons (as defined in the Gold Guide) only and at no less than 50% throughout. Currently the Gold Guide defines category 1 reasons as those doctors in training with: i. disability or ill health. (This may include ongoing medical procedures such as fertility treatment.) ii. responsibility for caring (men and women) for children iii. responsibility for caring for an ill/disabled partner, relative or other dependant. The reasons for this are educational on that the grounds that it provides doctors on the Targeted GP Training scheme the best chance of continuity of training, appropriate presence in the workplace and coverage of different aspects of the curriculum. It also enables trainees to focus on the achievement of the GP curriculum competences in the limited period of training

**E3Q:  Can I choose where I do my training?**

A:  All programmes in England and some in Scotland will be open for those on the Targeted GP Training scheme.  You will be competing with other applicants for the targeted GP training scheme.

Doctors based outside these areas may apply for the Targeted GP Training scheme in participating areas.

**E4Q: Will I get support for the costs of training, such as exam or GP registration fees?**

A:   No. As with all trainees you will be expected to cover these.

**E5Q: What certificate will I get when I complete training?**

A: When you satisfactorily complete the curriculum requirements you will be eligible to apply for the certificate route that you were on when you were initially in training.

**E6Q: How will I apply for my Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT)/ Certificate of Eligibility for GP Registration Combined Programme (CEGPR (CP)) when I have finished training?**

A:  The application process for those on the Targeted GP Training scheme will be the same as for other trainees.

**E7Q:  Will I have to commit to remaining in the UK/ General Practice if I follow this scheme?**

A:  You will be treated exactly as any UK trainee, there are no such requirements.

**E8Q:  Am I allowed to apply for an out of programme training (OOPT) post?**

A:  No. The opportunity for OOPT was for your initial training.

**E9A:** **Will I change trainer and practice in the 18-month training period?**

A: Consideration will be given to placing trainees with more than one GP Training practice during their programme where possible and when in the trainee’s best interests. The decision on whether to remain in the same practice for the whole programme or experience more than one practice needs to balance the value of continuity and stability with the needs for triangulation, the value of gaining a wider experience, and logistical, geographical considerations.

Trainees will have a named Educational Supervisor for the duration of the TGPT training.

**E 10: How do I receive my employment contract?**

Employment contract is via the designated GP lead employer for targeted GP trainees, who will communicate clearly with you, and arrange a current junior doctors training contract.

**E11: Who will be employing me, and whose policies and procedures do I follow?**

A:The employer for the cohort staring February 2019 is St Helens & Knowsley Trust – Lead employer and all their policies are available at: <https://sharedservices.sthk.nhs.uk/lead-employer/policies-and-forms/>

The exception to this is the Study Leave and Removals & Excess Mileage policies which can be accessed via: <https://sharedservices.sthk.nhs.uk/hee-west-midlands/>

**E12: Will I be able to defer my entry if I am successful at recruitment?**

A No

**E13: Who is my Responsible Officer?**

A: Any individual participating in TGPT will be in formal training with an NTN (for a fixed programme of no more than 24 months) and as such their Responsible Officer (RO) would be the Postgraduate Dean in the area they are working

**E14: Can I take on any other work while I am on the Scheme?**

A: No. A trainee on the TGPT scheme would not be expected to undertake any other work outside the targeted training scheme. As such there would be no other work outside training to be fed into the ARCP process and revalidation.

**Appendix 1 - Elements of ‘Gold Guide’ not open to TGPT scheme**

Due to the special nature of the scheme and the fact that trainees will already have exhausted the full training programme and the opportunities included within that programme, the following elements of the Gold Guide will not be allowable under normal circumstances for those on the TGPT scheme:

* The scheme length will be 18 months, whole time equivalent with a further six months exceptional training. Any further extensions will not be permitted. This does not include extensions for statutory reasons such as sickness or maternity leave.
* Trainees will not be permitted to work LTFT except for statutory reasons
* To enable the trainee to focus on achieving the curriculum competences, trainees will not be permitted to apply for time out of programme of any reason.
* Inter-deanery transfer (IDT) is not open to TGPT trainees given the short duration of the scheme, the time taken to develop the PDP and the eligibility requirements
* Step on step off is not open to TGPT trainees and there is no deferring starting the training programme.

Eligible doctors will only have a 30-month period from August 2018 to February 2021 in which to apply.