AKT Feedback Summary from the past 5 years: April 2022

Introduction

After each sitting of the exam, the AKT core group provides feedback on overall candidate performance via the RCGP website and direct to educators via deaneries/LETBs.

Each report contains feedback on areas where there is room for improvement in candidate performance. This is given in general terms to preserve the security of test questions. Comments are presented under the curriculum headings to which they relate. We aim to provide the feedback in a way which is educationally useful to trainees.
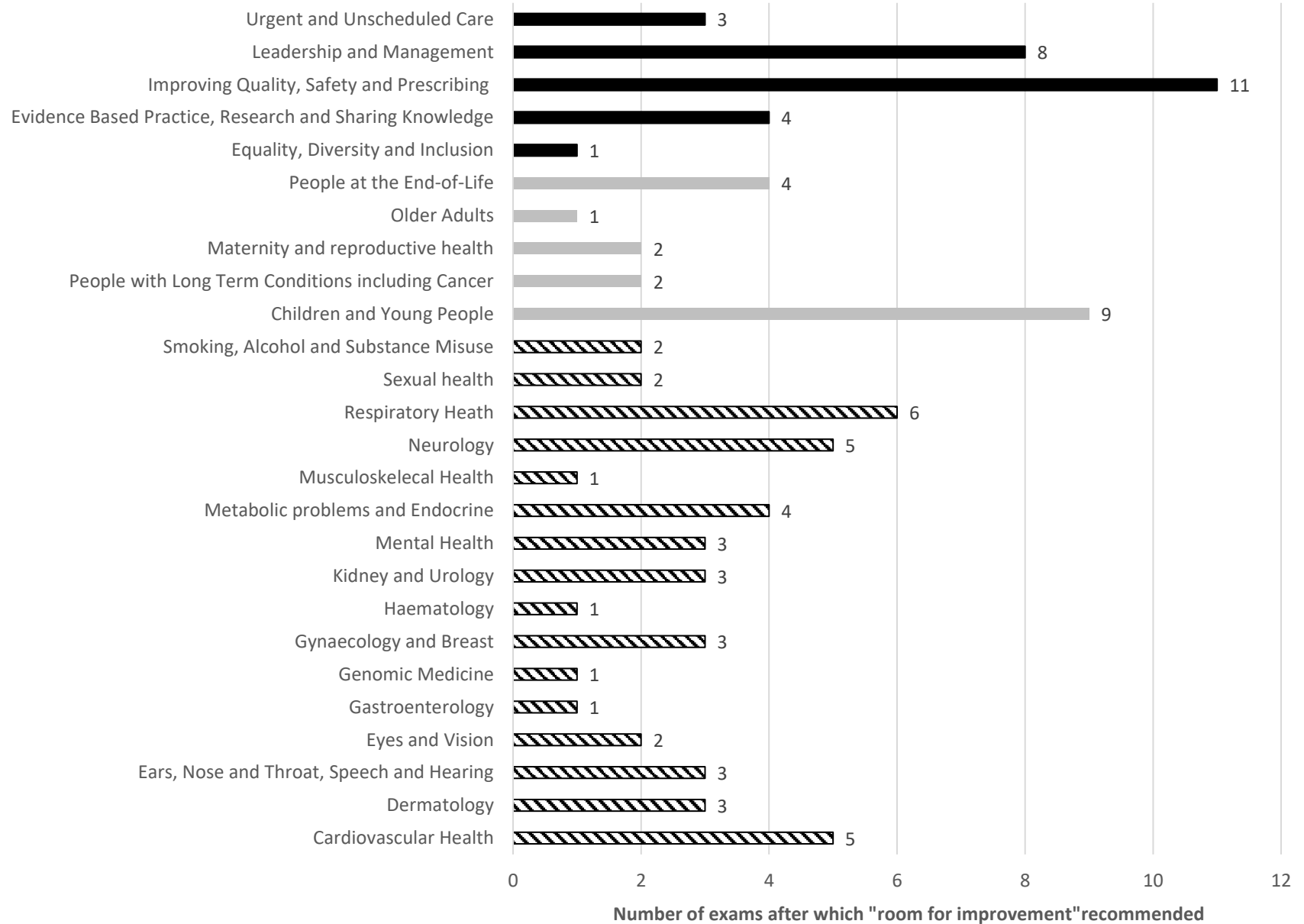
Up until AKT 40, each individual report contained a summary of curriculum areas on which feedback had been provided twice or more over the previous year. Since AKT41, we have produced a separate visual summary of areas where there has been room for improvement over the past five years. We hope that this will make it easier for candidates to locate this information rather than having to view a series of individual reports. We want to encourage prospective candidates to look broadly at areas which previous candidates have found challenging over a longer period.

The following information is intended to be simple to view and understand. There are some curriculum areas where room for improvement has not been noted. The lack of feedback may mean that, in general, these areas are tested elsewhere in the MRCGP (e.g. Consulting in General practice); or that feedback has been given under a different heading (e.g. Allergy and Immunology feedback could equally have been labelled under Dermatology if the allergy results in a skin rash); or that the performance in those areas has generally been more satisfactory.

We encourage candidates not to ignore the areas in which room for improvement has not been commented on, and to continue to be guided by the totality of the GP Curriculum in their exam preparation, particularly the Knowledge and Skills sections within each Topic Guide.

AKT Feedback Summary from the past 5 years

Key:
- ■ = Professional topics
- ▨ = Life stages topics
- ⧄ = Clinical topics

Topic	Number of exams after which "room for improvement" recommended
Urgent and Unscheduled Care	3
Leadership and Management	8
Improving Quality, Safety and Prescribing	11
Evidence Based Practice, Research and Sharing Knowledge	4
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	1
People at the End-of-Life	4
Older Adults	1
Maternity and reproductive health	2
People with Long Term Conditions including Cancer	2
Children and Young People	9
Smoking, Alcohol and Substance Misuse	2
Sexual health	2
Respiratory Heath	6
Neurology	5
Musculoskelecal Health	1
Metabolic problems and Endocrine	4
Mental Health	3
Kidney and Urology	3
Haematology	1
Gynaecology and Breast	3
Genomic Medicine	1
Gastroenterology	1
Eyes and Vision	2
Ears, Nose and Throat, Speech and Hearing	3
Dermatology	3
Cardiovascular Health	5

Number of exams after which "room for improvement" recommended

Professional Topics:

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Care for transgender people

Evidence Based Practice, Research and Sharing Knowledge
- Principles of qualitative research
- Risk communication including risk assessment/tools and understanding concepts e.g. absolute and relative risk*
- Understanding basic statistical terms/concepts

Improving Quality, Safety and Prescribing
- Antidepressant drugs and serious interactions
- Appropriate antibiotic use
- DMARDs e.g. monitoring, correct format for DMARD script*
- Drug dose calculation*
- Drug interactions* including MHRA alerts
- Legislation affecting some groups of drugs
- Medicines monitoring* e.g. warfarin, drugs used in treatment of mental health conditions
- Nephrotoxic drugs
- Prescribing in pregnancy including MHRA alerts
- Side-effects of medicines used for common long-term condition management
- Safe prescribing*
- Using information for hand-held records e.g. peak flow

Leadership and Management
- Access to medical records*
- Confidentiality and data protection/information governance
- Ethical concepts*
- Health/safety in workplace e.g. untoward incident
- Management of untoward events
- Reporting deaths to coroner/procurator fiscal
- Staff vaccinations*

Urgent and Unscheduled Care
- Acute illness and collapse
- Management of acute emergencies including sepsis

- Management/drug treatment of life-threatening problems

Life Stages Topics:

Children and Young People
- Consent/capacity/confidentiality/required disclosures*
- Developmental assessment/screening*
- Immunisation schedules and contraindications*
- Investigation and management of common childhood infections*
  e.g. common neonatal infections, ear problems
- Normal findings or normal variants
- Safeguarding/non-accidental injury*

People with Long Term Conditions including Cancer
- Diagnosis of cancer
- Investigation of cancer

Maternity and Reproductive Health
- Diagnosis of common conditions
- Drugs in breastfeeding
- Treatment of pregnancy-related conditions

Older Adults
- Consent/capacity

People at the End-of-Life
- Ethical concepts at end-of-life*
- Treatment of end-of-life symptoms, including pain*

Clinical Topics:

Cardiovascular Health
- Blood pressure*
- Heart failure
- Diagnosis and management of CVS problems

- ECG interpretation*

Dermatology
- Diagnosis and management of skin conditions, including from photos
- Genital skin conditions/photos - diagnosis and treatment

Ears, Nose and Throat, Speech and Hearing
- Common problems e.g. management of infections
- Diagnosis and management of common oral problems
- Management of hearing loss*

Eyes and Vision
- Diagnosis of common eye problems
- Diagnosis of fundal abnormalities
- Indications for urgent referral

Gastroenterology
- Prescribing for long-term conditions

Genomic Medicine
- Common genetic conditions, inheritance, rare but important childhood conditions

Gynaecology and Breast
- HRT* e.g. indications, management of side effects, other options for treatment of menopausal symptoms
- Management of irregular periods

Haematology
- Interpretation and further investigation of blood results showing anaemia

Kidney and Urology
- Common symptoms - when referral is/is not needed, when is/is not cancer
- Male genitalia lumps
- Prostate cancer drug treatment

Mental Health
- Domestic abuse and adult safeguarding
- Medically unexplained symptoms
- Psychosomatic presentations

Metabolic problems and Endocrine
- Diabetes mellitus*
  including diagnosis and management, management of insulin related problems e.g. insulin regimes/dosage adjustment*, oral antidiabetic agents
- Diagnosis of endocrine problems including rare/serious problems

Musculoskeletal Health
- Diagnosis of common rheumatological problems

Neurology
- Diagnosis from fundus/retina photos
- Interpretation of neurological symptoms and signs*
- Rare but important neurological problems

Respiratory Heath
- Asthma management*
- Diagnosis of less common conditions
- Interpretation of spirometry
- Investigation of possible multisystem disease
- Risks of commonly used treatments

Sexual health
- Contraception*
  e.g. serious adverse effects of combined hormonal contraception, contraception with teratogenic drugs

Smoking, Alcohol and Substance Misuse
- Acute mental health problems and misuse of drugs
- Management of alcohol abuse

*These Topic areas have been highlighted at least once and sometimes on several occasions.