



Royal College of
Paediatrics and Child Health

Leading the way in Children's Health

EBP MEETING

RCPCH 'Applied Knowledge in Practice'

Dr Jane Valente, RCPCH Officer for Exams

December 2016

PATRON HRH The Princess Royal

BACKGROUND TO THIS PROPOSAL

- RCPCH was approached to explore a joint initiative to deliver a knowledge based exam that would contribute towards core training, thus improving training and assessment of paediatric trainees in Europe.
- First full meeting to explore options was held in London in August 2016.
- EBP delegates were invited to attend RCPCH Examination and Assessment Boards in Gatwick (November 16) to gain a full understanding of exam development and delivery.
- Further discussions followed, with the following proposal agreed for your consideration.

PROPOSAL FOR COLLABORATION

WHAT?

Trainee paediatricians within Europe to sit an 'Applied Knowledge in Practice' (AKP) examination. The intention is to develop a specific pan-European knowledge based examination

WHY?

- To provide a **high quality examination** testing knowledge and understanding for paediatricians across Europe.
- Assessment **drives high standards**, and so the use of theory tests **supports learning** focused on core knowledge and understanding.
- The use of a sole test will **ensure standardisation** and **support cross-border working**.

HOW?

- Pilot group of c. 25 - 50 trainees to sit an AKP exam in Paris. This will be the same exam as sat by other candidates across the world, and sat on the same day, ideally September/October 2018.
- Exam fees will be similar to the UK fee (£510), to be met by the candidates and/or EAP.
- Full psychometric analysis to be carried out for this cohort and shared with EAP, to confirm suitability of the AKP test for this purpose.

APPLIED KNOWLEDGE IN PRACTICE EXAM

- The UK Paediatric Membership exam (MRCPCH), combines three theory examinations (AKP, Foundations of Practice, and Theory and Science), and a clinical exam.
- Two 2½ hour MCQ papers are sat on the same day. Marks combine to give an overall mark for the exam.
- Three different 'item' types are used:
 - best of five
 - extended matching
 - n from many
- Delivered via Computer Based Testing (CBT) at regional venues in the UK and across the world.
- Results are published 5 - 6 weeks after the exam date.

APPLIED KNOWLEDGE IN PRACTICE EXAM

- **Aim:** to assess clinical decision making and management.
- Most questions are based on clinical scenarios i.e. describing a child and symptoms. May also include findings on examination, x-rays, investigations or laboratory results.
- Candidates select the most likely diagnosis or most important steps in management, as well as therapeutics, follow-up or referral to colleagues.

Percentage of questions to be included [21%min-34% max]		Percentage of questions to be included [48%min-58% max]	
	Adolescent Health/Medicine		Cardiology
	Behavioural Medicine/Psychiatry		Diabetes Mellitus
	Dermatology		Endocrinology and Growth
	Ethics and Law		Emergency Medicine (including accidents and poisoning)
	Genetics and Dysmorphology		Gastroenterology and Hepatology (including surgical abdominal conditions)
	Musculoskeletal		Haematology and Oncology
	Nutrition		Metabolism and Metabolic Medicine (including fluid management and acid base balance)
	Ophthalmology		Nephro-urology
	Palliative Care		Neurodevelopment and Neurodisability
	Patient Safety and Clinical Governance		Neurology
	Science of Practice		Pharmacology
			Safeguarding
Percentage of questions to be included [18%min-22% max]			
	Infection, Immunology and Allergy		
	Neonatology		
	Respiratory Medicine with ENT		

APPLIED KNOWLEDGE IN PRACTICE EXAM

Exam: Specimen Paper - Applied Knowledge in Practice - Paper 1 Progress: 0% **Finish**

Question 1 Candidate:

This 10 year old girl presented with a 2 day history of sore throat, noisy breathing, high fevers and difficulty swallowing.

Which of the following is the most likely cause of this condition?

Select one answer

Clicking on the image will enlarge it

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

Exam: Specimen Paper - Applied Knowledge in Practice - Paper 1 Progress: 4% **Finish**

Question 1 Candidate:



A Epstein Barr virus

B Haemophilus influenzae

C Candida albicans

D Herpes simplex virus

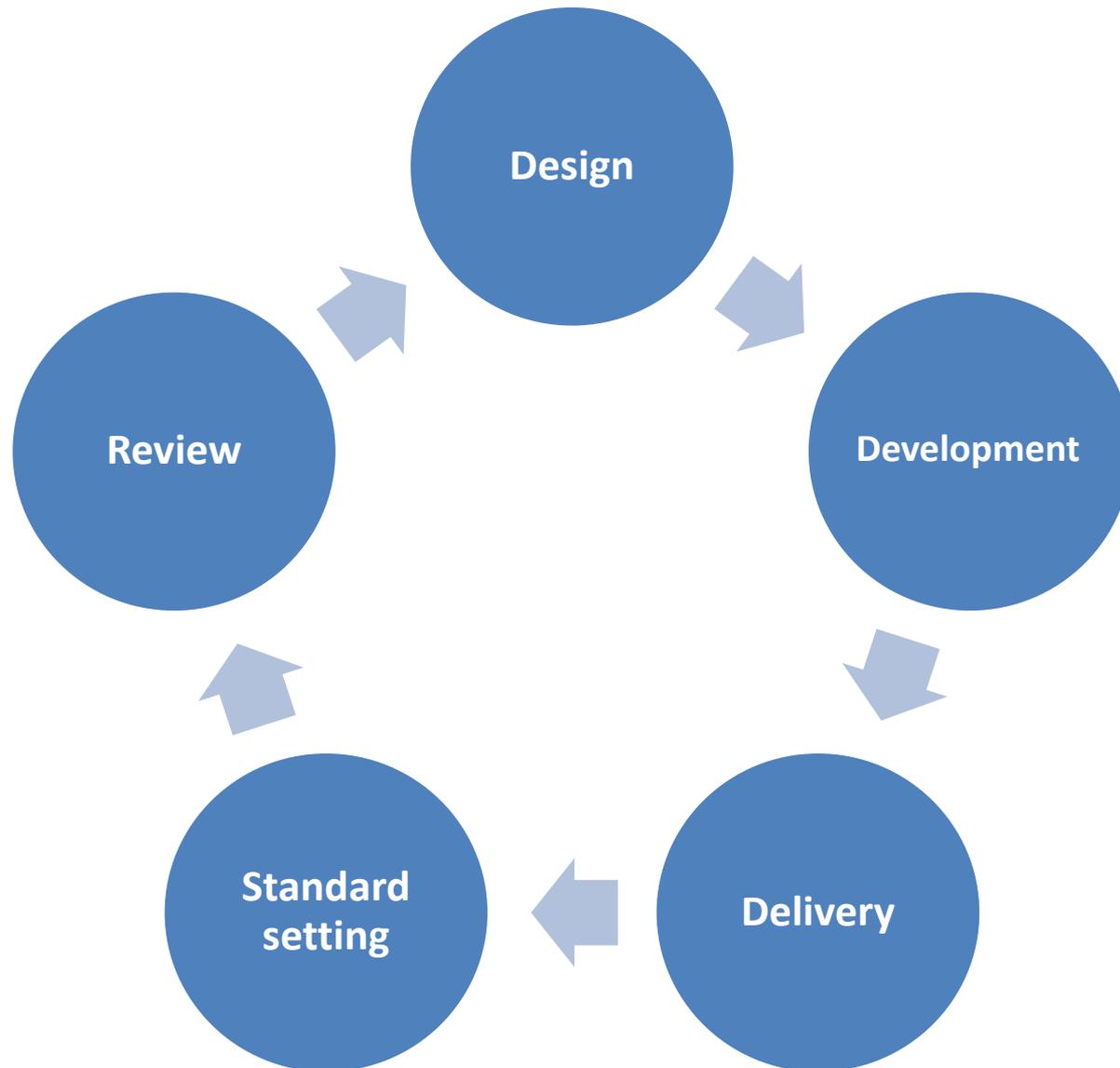
E Staphylococcus aureus

F Measles virus

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

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ENSURING QUALITY OF THE RCPCH EXAMS



PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

- This proposal is for your consideration.
- If approved, RCPCH will source suitable venue(s) for hosting the exam in Paris.
- EBP to recruit trainees for the pilot group and confirming financing of the pilot.
- Discussion and agreement required for sharing and analysis of psychometric data.
- Two delegates from EBP to be invited to the RCPCH Examination and Assessment Boards (currently held every March and November) to support question/exam development activities and facilitate further ongoing collaboration.