



Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) guidance for Histopathology: Stage A examination

This guidance is an update on the 'Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) guidance for Cellular Pathology: Histopathology, Diagnostic Neuropathology, Paediatric and Perinatal Pathology and Forensic Pathology during the COVID-19 outbreak' published in May 2020 and relates to the Stage A examination in Histopathology.

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the [Annual Review of Competence Progression \(ARCP\) guidance for Cellular Pathology: Histopathology, Diagnostic Neuropathology, Paediatric and Perinatal Pathology and Forensic Pathology during the COVID-19 outbreak 2021](#) and used to prepare trainees for their ARCPs in 2021 in order that they can demonstrate evidence equivalent to the Stage A examination and applies to

- all trainees who entered ST1 histopathology training from August 2019.
- all current ST1 histopathology trainees (beginning August 2020).
- any trainees who entered histopathology training prior to August 2019 who have not passed the Stage A examination.

The GMC have approved the use of workplace-based assessments to replace the Stage A examination for the above trainees. This includes the early introduction of the Assessment of Performance (AoP) which was due to be introduced with the new Histopathology curriculum.

The AoP form is available on the [College website](#) and should be completed and uploaded into the LEPT system as part of the overall submission of evidence for the ARCP. Current ST1 and ST2 trainees should submit a completed AoP for their current period of training. Current ST2 trainees must also submit an AoP for their ST1 post.

Current ST1 trainees

Trainees in ST1 undertaking an ARCP in spring 2021 must submit a complete AoP in place of a result for the Stage A examination. The AoP should be considered alongside:

- all other required evidence confirming satisfactory progress in accordance with curriculum requirements for ST1/Stage A.
- any ARCP derogation in place.

ST2 trainees

In accordance with the May 2020 guidance, trainees should have received an ARCP outcome which confirmed whether or not there was overall evidence that a trainee was generally achieving progress and competences at the expected rate or that satisfactory progress was not being made.

At their next ARCP, trainees must submit a complete AoP in place of a result for the Stage A examination, with confirmation that they are progressing at an appropriate rate for their stage and with no concerns. The AoP should be considered alongside:

- the trainee's most recent ARCP outcome including any additional training, competencies, assessments or other requirements that must be achieved during the current year.
- all other required evidence confirming satisfactory progress in accordance with curriculum requirements for ST2/Stage B.
- any ARCP derogation in place.

