

The RCGP Curriculum

The Curriculum Topic Guides



Super-Condensed Topic Guides 2021

Neurology

The Role of the GP and emerging issues on primary care

- Assess and manage common but non-specific presentations such as headache or weakness
- Balance risk with use of resources
- Coordinate patients' care especially disability, which can be serious, and co-morbidity
- Manage urgent neurological presentations including CVA, cognitive problems and epilepsy
- Recognise dementia and cognitive loss as major public health challenges
- Holistic nature of long-term care including reducing unnecessary admission, regular follow-up and monitoring.
- Improving psychosocial care.

Knowledge and Skills Self-Assessment Guide

Symptoms and Signs

- Cognitive impairment such as memory loss, delirium and dementia
- Dizziness
- Features differentiating between upper and lower motor neurone function
- Seizures and convulsions
- Sensory and motor symptoms: weakness, spasticity, paraesthesia, specific sensory deficits
- Signs of raised intracranial pressure
- Speech and language deficits

Common and important conditions

- Acute confusional states and underlying causes
- Recurrent falls

- Cerebellar disorders
- Dementia
- Epilepsy
- Head injuries, concussion, brain injuries and sequelae
- Headaches
- Infections such as meningitis and encephalitis
- Inherited neurological diseases
- Intracranial haemorrhage
- Motor neurone disease and other movement disorders such as athetosis, chorea, tremor
- Multiple sclerosis
- Mono- and poly-neuropathies including neuralgic and neuropathic pain
- Speech disorders
- Spinal cord disorders, emergencies, and injuries
- Stroke
- Tumours of the brain and peripheral nervous system

Examinations and procedures

- Fundoscopy
- Central and peripheral nervous system examination: nerve root signs and cranial nerve function
- Tests of Capacity and Cognition
- Visual assessment

Investigations

- Blood parameters of epilepsy medications
- Blood parameters in meningitis and other causes of collapse
- CT, MRI, nerve conduction, LP

How this might be tested in MRCGP

AKT

- Parkinson's medications
- Investigation of MS
- Paraesthesia Differential Diagnosis

RCA

- Young man tells you he had a first fit whilst on holiday

- Young woman with daily headaches that she cannot manage
- Elderly patient with a weak, clumsy hand yesterday that is fine today.

WPBA

- Case Based Discussion organising a social care package for an elderly woman with rapidly deteriorating mobility and frequent falls
- Clinical Examination and Procedural Skills (CEPS) on a neurological examination for a man who is concerned that he has a brain tumour
- Log entry about a man who is diagnosed with motor neurone disease after presenting with dysphagia.

How to learn this topic

This section describes *examples* of opportunities for learning.
We recognise that Covid-19 restrictions have significantly affected their accessibility



Other Relevant Specialties

- Neurorehabilitation
- Nutrition
- Complex neurological impairments
- Driving assessment
- Prosthetics and wheeled mobility
- Psychiatry

Acute

- Acute Confusional State
- Acute exacerbations of chronic illness
- Psycho-social issues and influences
- Stroke
- Falls
- Infections
- New presentation of chronic disease

Primary Care

- Review and ongoing support
- Home visits
- Day hospital
- Chronic illness
- Functional disorders

Core themes

- **Communication and Consultation** - Incapacity, carers, breaking bad news, consent
- **Prescribing** - polypharmacy, concordance
- **Co-morbidity** - multiple pathology, psychosocial issues
- **Teamworking** - across health and social care, discharge planning/MDT
- **Safeguarding and protecting** - abuse, vulnerable groups
- **Ethical and medico-legal** - power of attorney, capacity, DNARs/advanced directives

Community/MDT

- Liaison, Co-ordination & Advocacy of patients & carers
- Third Sector, charities, local authorities
- Assistance with finance, reablement and return to work
- Community rehabilitation resources: OT/physio

Tips

- Audit eg epilepsy meds
- Significant Event Analysis
- Clinical governance eg complaints
- Risk Assessment eg falls
- Dr as teacher
- Leadership eg care homes
- BNF eg drug interactions