

Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) Blueprint user guide

What is the PLAB blueprint?

The [blueprint](#) is a guide to what the PLAB test covers, and what is expected of those who pass it and apply for registration and a licence to work in the UK.

The blueprint is mapped against:

- our core guidance, [Good medical practice 2013](#)
- the [Outcomes for provisionally registered doctors July 2015](#)
- the [UK Foundation Programme curriculum 2016](#)

It is important you read and familiarise yourself with the four domains of *Good medical practice*. You should do this before you read the blueprint.

You will be expected to demonstrate the professional values and behaviours set out in *Good medical practice* when you take the test and when you practice as a doctor in the UK.

All of the clinical presentations and medical conditions covered by the blueprint match those typically faced by doctors starting the second year of the Foundation Programme training.

How to read the blueprint

The blueprint is an Excel spreadsheet, with the first tab displaying the blueprint.

Columns A to C – Knowledge

This section shows the range of topics we test, broken down into (clinical) presentation and (medical) condition.



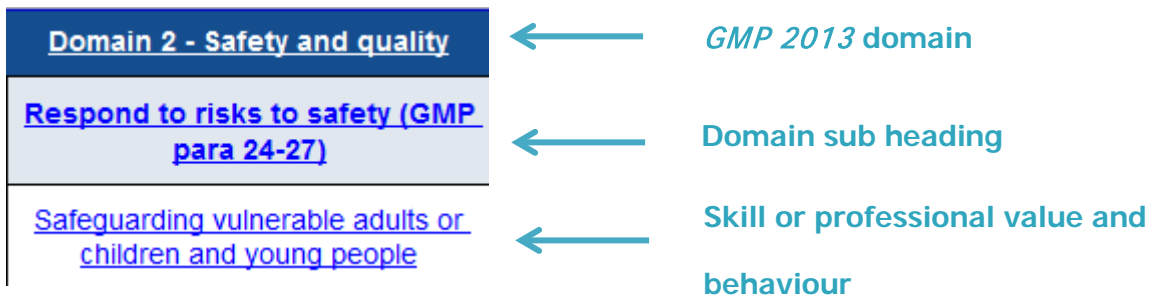
Columns D to Q – Skills or professional values and behaviours

This section shows the required skills or professional values and behaviours mapped to the domains in *Good medical practice*.

The four domains of *Good medical practice* are:

- Domain 1 – Knowledge, skills and performance
- Domain 2 – Safety and quality
- Domain 3 – Communication, partnership and teamwork
- Domain 4 – Maintaining trust

The heading of each of the four domains is along the top row, with the second row showing the sub-headings in each domain. And the rows below give you the skill or professional values and behaviours that might be tested.



Getting more detailed information from the blueprint

Throughout the [blueprint](#) some cells contain a link to additional information. By using these links, you can get more information about the different presentations and conditions, and the skills or professional values and behaviours.

The further information could be:

- A tab in the spreadsheet showing the relevant section of the Foundation Programme curriculum (2012).

- Examples of the types of presentations and conditions we test.
- A paragraph in *Good medical practice* that relates to the professional value and behaviour.
- A piece of our explanatory guidance.

Example: Knowledge section

Topic: ENT: Presentation: Earache

In this example, by using the link given for the condition, which in this case could be due to any cause, you can review a list of those causes doctors taking the test would be expected to know about.

41	ENT	Earache	Any cause
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Link

<i>Any cause including</i>
Cancer
Infection
Eustachian tube dysfunction
Back to blueprint
Back to previous cell

The tab in the spreadsheet gives you examples about the possible conditions causing earache.

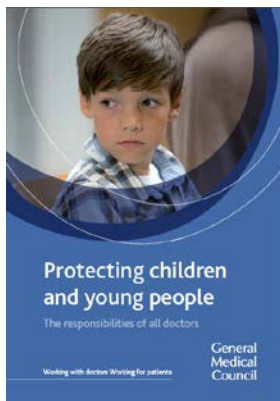
The lists are not exhaustive and there may be questions or scenarios in the exams on areas that do not appear on these further lists.

Example: Skills or professional values and behaviours section

Domain 2: Safety and quality: Responding to risks to safety: Safeguarding vulnerable adults or children and young people

Click on the link in the Domain heading to read the section in *Good medical practice* about safety and quality. There's a further link to the relevant paragraphs about responding to risks to safety. And to demonstrate the expected professional values and behaviours when safeguarding vulnerable adults or children and young people, we would expect you to follow the guidance set out in [Protecting children and young people: The responsibilities of all doctors](#).

Domain 2 - Safety and quality	←	Link to <i>GMP 2013</i> domain
Respond to risks to safety (GMP para 24-27)	←	Link to domain sub heading
Safeguarding vulnerable adults or children and young people	←	Link to published guidance



← The link takes you to our published guidance.

Using these links in the [blueprint](#) allows you to quickly and easily refer to all parts of our guidance which is relevant to each of the *Good medical practice* domains. There may be questions and scenarios in the test based on any areas of our guidance