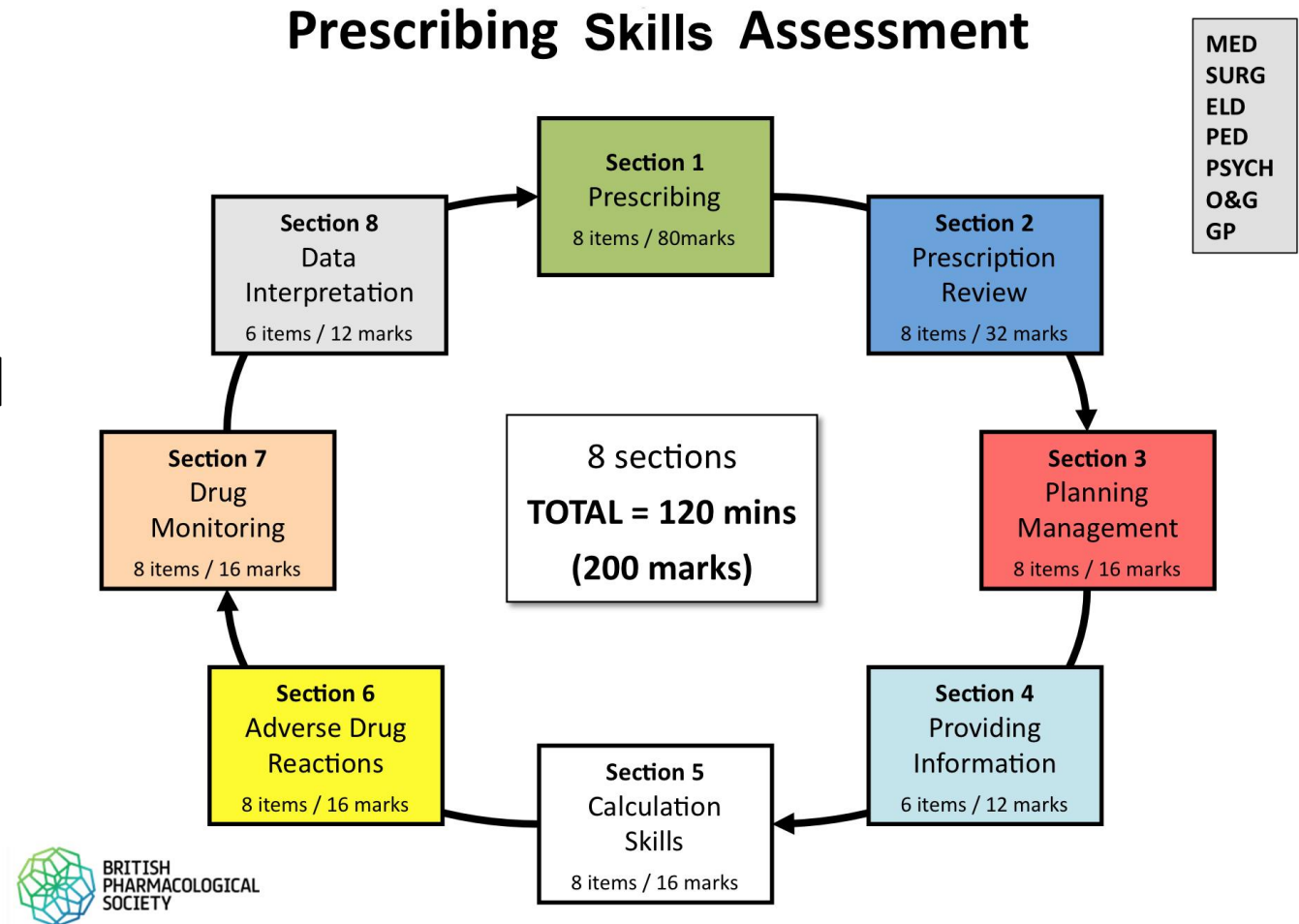


Attitudes to the Prescribing Skills Assessment

- Prescribing common area of difficulty for newly qualified doctors
- GMC-defined core competencies for medical students
- Introduced in Ireland but not mandatory for graduation



Study Design

- Cross sectional study N=800 (600 medical, 200 dental)
- Quantitative survey Medical and Dental students in final three years of studying in University College Cork
- Custom, physical questionnaire
- Multiple choice, 20 questions
- 4 sections :
 - Demographics
 - Awareness
 - Importance
 - Perceived difficulty



Hypothesis

The difference in academic performance in the PSA in Ireland and the UK can partly be explained by medical students being able to graduate without passing the PSA in Ireland but also by:

- Timing, the PSA overlaps with mandatory college exams that students prioritise
- Importance, students underestimate the issues they will face as interns prescribing medications
- Difficulty, students may under prepare for the examination believing it to be easy to pass