

Chair's letter - May 2018

MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examinations Report on assessment period January – April 2018

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the first diet of 2018, in spite of red weather warnings and the 'Beast from the East'. The commitment from our examiners, helpers and patients ensured that only a very small numbers of centres were postponed and all candidates were accommodated within the assessment period.

2078 candidates sat PACES in the 2018/01 assessment period which ran from January to April 2018. 1261 of these candidates sat in UK centres, with the remaining 817 sitting at our overseas centres. The pass rate for candidates in UK training was 53.9%; the overall pass rate was 42.7%. The pass rates for all of the candidate groups remain stable and in line with historical trends, when taking the new pass mark into account.

Warmest congratulations to our 2017 PACES Champions. Beverley Gardner, responsible for supporting the examination at Luton & Dunstable, has been given the UK PACES Champion award in recognition of her extraordinary commitment and dedication to running the PACES examination. Dr Georgi Abraham has been given the International PACES Champion award in recognition of the hard work he has put in to developing PACES in India over the last decade. Nominations for the 2018 PACES Champions will open later in the summer.

PACES 2020 continues to develop, with pilots of the new carousel planned for 29 July and 8 August 2018. In anticipation of the change to the new model, the MRCP(UK) Academic Quality Management and Research Committee have decided to postpone the regular PACES standard setting exercise due to take place at the end of this year. The purpose of this postponement is to ensure the best possible comparison of pass rates between the current model and PACES 2020. This will require us to maintain a consistent standard before and during the transition. Plans for a standard setting exercise once the new carousel has been established will form part of the overall transition plan.

Fair Assessment: are my judgements unbiased? Has now been launched to all three college examiner panels. The launch of the module was delayed in order to adapt the structure of the scenarios in response to examiner feedback. Examiners now complete the bespoke specialist assessment content as the first part of the module, with an option to undertake an additional refresher module if they want further information. The module also counts as one external CPD credit.



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Hot Topics – May 2018

Scenario feedback sheets

Examiners are encouraged to complete feedback sheets for all scenarios. These feedback sheets provide vital information on the performance of examination material. The feedback for each scenario is logged for inclusion in the quality assurance for all MRCP(UK) written material. Scenarios, and their feedback, are then reviewed with a statistical analysis of candidate performance to give the best picture of the quality of the examination material for future inclusion in the examination.

Examination Equipment

When calibrating an encounter, examiners should ensure appropriate equipment is easily accessible for candidates. This will reduce candidate appeals on the basis of unavailable equipment. Examiners should check that any equipment that candidates are to be asked to use is fully functional, and that there is a sufficient supply of all items (neurotips, tongue depressors, etc) for all five candidates in a cycle.

Candidate Marksheets

Candidates should be asked to complete the relevant sections of the marksheets prior to commencing the examination. This will give candidates a chance to ask any questions, and ensure this task does not encroach on the five minute preparation time before each station.