Regulations for MRCP(UK) Examination Candidates

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1. Introduction

The three Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK share a common diploma and have devolved responsibility for the organisation of the examinations to MRCP(UK), which is a division of the Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK.

These regulations apply to the MRCP(UK) Diploma from the date of publication and cover the three parts of the Diploma: Part 1, Part 2 Written, and Part 2 Clinical (PACES).

MRCP(UK) regulations are designed to ensure that:

- all candidates have equal and fair access to, and experience of, the examinations.
- the standard and integrity of the examinations is not compromised.

These principles should be kept in mind when interpreting these regulations.

The MRCP(UK) Diploma will continue to change to reflect developments in medicine. Candidates should refer to the MRCP(UK) website for the most up-to-date information and examination regulations.

Any dispute concerning the interpretation of these or any other MRCP(UK) regulations will be referred to the Medical Director, whose decision will be final.

By submitting an application for an MRCP(UK) examination, candidates are confirming that they have read, understood and will abide by these regulations, the candidate code of conduct, and the supporting regulations and guidance on the MRCP(UK) website.

2. Format

The MRCP(UK) Diploma consists of three examinations: Part 1, Part 2 Written, and Part 2 Clinical (PACES). The MRCP(UK) Diploma is awarded to candidates on completion of all three parts of the examination. All candidates must complete each part of the diploma in accordance with these regulations: no exemptions from individual parts of the examination are made.

Part 1 and Part 2 written examinations are multiple choice ('best-of-five' format) papers. The Part 2 clinical examination is the Practical Assessment of Clinical Examination Skills (PACES).

Further information on the format of the examinations can be found on the MRCP(UK) website:

- Part 1
- Part 2 Written
- Part 2 Clinical (PACES)

From June 2026 the Part 1 and Part 2 Written examinations will be delivered using an in-centre Computer-Based Testing format. Candidates may be permitted to take the examination on the Remote Online Proctoring Platform in certain circumstances and where this has been agreed in advance with MRCP(UK). In these cases, candidates should familiarise themselves with the system requirements and platform before sitting. In-centre delivery will be the preferred format for written examinations, and candidates who request to sit the ROP examination should be aware of the risks of technical disruption posed by their own set-up (e.g., local internet interruption). UK candidates can request to sit a pencil and paper version of the examination if required as a reasonable adjustment.

Detailed information on the marking system and pass standards for the separate parts of the examinations can be found on the pass marks page on the MRCP(UK) website.

3. Applying for MRCP(UK) Examinations

Details of how to apply for examinations are available on the MRCP(UK) website: including fees, methods of payment, application periods, and examination dates.

Application periods open at 08:00 on the advertised opening date. All applications must be received by 08:00 (GMT) on the advertised closing date; late applications will not be accepted. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that the payment is made, and their application is completed, by the advertised deadline. An application is considered complete only upon receiving full payment of fees and, for Part 1, a copy of the candidate's Primary Medical Qualification (PMQ) or verified General Medical Council registration. Candidates will not be permitted to take any part of the examination unless a copy of the PMQ has been submitted or their GMC registration verified, and all outstanding fees have been paid in full. Applicants for Part 1 will only be required to submit an attested copy of their PMQ if requested by MRCP(UK). If payment of fees and submission of PMQ are not completed by the provided deadline, the candidate's application will be rejected. Once rejected, an application cannot be reinstated.

Candidates who do not complete their application, before the respective application window closes, will be liable for an administration charge of 10% of the relevant examination fee and will not be able to apply again until this charge has been paid.

MRCP(UK) will endeavour to allocate candidates as close to their requested centres as possible but will not cover any additional costs incurred by candidates for travelling to examination centres.

Applications submitted via a third-party organisation or person will not be accepted.

3.1 Entry requirements for MRCP(UK) Examinations

Every candidate for the MRCP(UK) Diploma must hold a medical qualification awarded by an institution that awards primary medical degrees and is recognised by the UK General Medical Council (GMC) or the World Directory of Medical Schools. Candidates who are or have been registered with the GMC (or equivalent body), must include their GMC number (or equivalent registration number) in their application.

Candidates who are not registered with the GMC will be required to provide a copy of their primary medical qualification. Applicants will only be required to submit an attested copy of their qualification if requested by MRCP(UK). Details of how to authenticate a document can be found on the MRCP(UK) website.

Candidates will not be admitted to the MRCP(UK) Part 1 Examination until 12 months after the date of graduation given on their primary medical qualification. Where the date of graduation is significantly later than the date of completion of the first year of training, the date on which candidates received notice of passing their final examination will be considered. In such cases, candidates must submit documentary proof.

All candidates must pass the Part 1 examination first. Applications for the Part 2 Written and Part 2 Clinical (PACES) examinations can only be made once confirmation of passing the Part 1 examination has been received. The Part 2 Written and Part 2 Clinical (PACES) examinations can be taken in any order.

Candidates with less than two years' experience after graduation are unlikely to be able to apply their clinical knowledge or demonstrate their clinical skills across the broad range of cases required in the PACES examination. It is therefore recommended that candidates should have completed their two-year foundation programme and entered Internal Medicine Training (or an equivalent period of training) before attempting MRCP(UK) PACES. Within these two years, not less than four months should have been spent in posts involving the continuing care of emergency medical patients.

3.2 Language requirements

All parts of the MRCP(UK) Diploma are conducted in English.

As all assessments are conducted in English, the three Royal Colleges of Physicians advise that, to be sufficiently prepared to sit the MRCP(UK) Diploma, candidates' English language ability should be equivalent to International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Level 7.5. However, candidates do not need to have taken IELTS or any other language examination to sit the MRCP(UK) Diploma.

The MRCP(UK) Diploma cannot be used to demonstrate competence in the English language.

3.3 Limited number of attempts

Candidates are permitted a maximum of six attempts at each part of the MRCP(UK) diploma (as required by the GMC). After six attempts, a candidate will be able to apply for an exceptional additional attempt using the process outlined on the MRCP(UK) website. Requests must be based on undertaking additional education or training that will assist with passing and supporting evidence must be submitted. Requests for an additional attempt cannot be based on exceptional circumstances, as candidates have the right to withdraw from an examination prior to sitting. Requests will be considered by the MRCP(UK) Regulatory Sub-Group, whose decision on whether it should be granted will be final.

3.4 Examination eligibility period

The previous regulation requiring candidates to complete the Part 2 Written and PACES examinations within seven years of passing the Part 1 examination has been removed. This has now been superseded by the rules on limited attempts outlined in paragraph 3.3 above. Candidates will be permitted a maximum of six attempts at any part of the examination.

3.5 Candidates with constraints on their practice

Candidates who have been erased from the GMC register (or that of an equivalent international body) for reasons related to fitness to practise are not permitted entry to any MRCP(UK) examination.

Candidates who are suspended from practice by the GMC (or equivalent international body) and/or their employer are not permitted to apply for entry to any MRCP(UK) examination until the suspension has been lifted.

Candidates who are subject to any warnings, interim orders, undertakings or conditions on their practice from the GMC (or equivalent international body) and/or their employer must declare this information to MRCP(UK) upon applying to any MRCP(UK) examination, using the MRCP(UK) and Specialty Certificate Candidate Declaration Form. Candidates are also required to disclose information as to why the condition or undertaking has been imposed. Any information provided may be checked with the GMC (or equivalent) and/or their employer. This will be reviewed by MRCP(UK) prior to the examination and will be considered in deciding whether a candidate is permitted to sit the examination. MRCP(UK)'s decision on these matters is final.

Failure to declare conditions, warnings or suspension as required:

- at the time of application
- prior to the examination date for which they have entered, or
- when applying for election to membership

will result in penalties being applied as defined in the MRCP(UK) Code of Conduct and Misconduct Regulations.

3.6 Concessionary fees for MRCP(UK) Examinations

MRCP(UK) offers a financial concession to doctors in the UK with refugee status who wish to pursue the MRCP(UK) diploma. The concession is offered in respect of all parts of the MRCP(UK) Diploma (Part 1/Part 2 Written/PACES) and permits a reduced fee of £50 for entry to the examinations for those eligible.

The concession applies only to examinations sat in the UK, and to doctors with the following status:

- Those who have been given refugee status and who are recognised as a refugee under the 1951 UN Convention
- Those who have been given indefinite leave to remain in the UK with refugee status
- Those who have been given exceptional leave to remain in the UK
- Those with exceptional leave to remain (granted prior to 1 April 2003)
- Those with humanitarian protection (granted on or after 1 April 2003)

For a concession to be granted doctors must provide, at each application, an original letter from the Home Office, or a refugee residence permit, confirming that they fall into one of the groups listed, or electronic confirmation of their status (e.g., a code generated from the GOV.UK website). No alternative documentation will be accepted. Requests should be made to MRCP(UK) or the Administration Office of the college of entry for PACES.

3.7 Names and identification

Candidates will not be allowed into any MRCP(UK) examination without appropriate identification (ID). All ID documents must be in date, and the name on the candidate's ID must EXACTLY match that on the admission document issued by MRCP(UK). This will be the name registered on MyMRCP(UK), usually your first/given name(s) followed by father's name or family name.

If the name under which a candidate is applying for the examination is different from the name that appears on their primary medical qualification or the GMC register, they will need to submit a certificate from the issuing university or an affidavit stating that the candidate (in his or her full name) is the same person as that named on the primary medical qualification or GMC register. A candidate who changes their name by marriage or deed poll must submit the original or authenticated documentary proof of this if they wish to be admitted to the examination in their new name.

Candidates must also notify MRCP(UK) if the name as it appears on the photographic identification that will be used to gain entry to the examination is different from the name that appears on their primary medical qualification.

It is the candidate's responsibility to resolve any discrepancies with MRCP(UK) before the examination. Please contact either MRCP(UK) or the relevant college Administration Office with any queries regarding name discrepancies.

Candidates are advised to provide authenticated copies of any original documentation or provide documentation by email ahead of the examination date. MRCP(UK) cannot accept responsibility for any items lost in transit.

MRCP(UK) records, and the MRCP(UK) diploma, show given names followed by the family name, for example, Alan John Smith.

3.8 Candidate responsibilities

Prior to the examination, candidates must:

i) Ensure that their application is complete in accordance with paragraph 3.

ii) Provide full contact details. Candidates must ensure MRCP(UK) is notified of any change.

iii) Read and act on any correspondence from MRCP(UK) or the relevant administrative office.

iv) Ensure that all information provided is accurate. Providing false information at any stage will be regarded as an act of suspected misconduct and investigated accordingly.

v) Be feeling well enough to undertake the examination. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they are physically and mentally fit to sit the examination. Should a candidate feel unwell prior to the start of the examination, they should inform an invigilator and consider withdrawing from the examination; it is possible to withdraw from the examination right up to the start time. In these circumstances, the attempt would be removed from a candidate's record, and their fees would be refunded (see paragraph 3.10 below). Candidates should be aware of their responsibilities as doctors to consider any risks that their own health may pose to others, such as other candidates, examiners, and patients.

vi) Consider the time required to obtain any necessary visas. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure they are eligible to receive a visa for entry to the country in which they are applying to sit an examination, and to submit the visa application in sufficient time. No refunds will be provided if a candidate is unable to attend an examination as a result of visa-related problems. Further information is available on the MRCP(UK) website.

3.9 Reasonable adjustments

Candidates sitting any MRCP(UK) examination who have a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010 are entitled to request reasonable adjustments to the examination. Further information, including how to apply for an adjustment, can be found on the Reasonable Adjustments page on the MRCP(UK) website.

3.10 Withdrawal from the examination and refund of examination fees

Candidates have the right to withdraw from the examination after applying. Any candidate wishing to withdraw should contact the appropriate administrative office (e.g., MRCP(UK) for Part 1, Part 2 Written or international PACES, or the relevant college for UK PACES) by email, providing their RCP Code Number, full name, and date of birth to assist with identification. A withdrawal will not be counted as an attempt.

International PACES candidates who have not paid and are allocated a space must pay within 7 working days of receiving the notification.

Candidates can request to withdraw prior to the examination. The proportion of the fee they receive as a refund will vary depending on when they submit the request as a percentage will be retained to cover administrative costs:

1. During the application period: 90%
2. After the application period closes and more than 28 days before the examination: 60%
3. Candidates who request to withdraw within 28 days of an examination will not receive a refund (unless they provide evidence of exceptional circumstances. All requests will be reviewed individually by MRCP(UK) or college management, whose decision on whether any refund should be offered is final).

Applications cannot be reinstated after they have been withdrawn.

Requests to withdraw after the examination, along with any supporting documents, must be received within two weeks of the date of the examination. Where possible, candidates should contact MRCP(UK) or the relevant college administrative office before the examination.

In some cases, results for PACES examinations may be released during or after the application period for the next available PACES diet. Candidates awaiting results from a recent PACES examination can submit provisional applications for the next available diet by applying as normal in any PACES application window. If a candidate who has submitted a provisional PACES application passes their previous attempt, they will be automatically withdrawn and refunded in full

4. Examination Day

4.1 General Standards of behaviour

The standards of behaviour expected of those applying to, and sitting the examinations, are outlined in the MRCP(UK) Candidate Code of Conduct. Any breach of the examination rules and

regulations will result in a misconduct investigation and the possibility of severe penalties, including exclusion from future examinations and being reported to the UK General Medical Council (or equivalent national regulator). Further information can be found in the candidate conduct section of the MRCP(UK) website.

4.2 Absence

Candidates who do not attend the examination, without notifying MRCP(UK) or the relevant Administration Office will be recorded as absent.

Refunds will not be made where candidates are absent unless there are circumstances deemed exceptional that can be substantiated (see paragraph 3.10).

Absence will count as an attempt at the examination. Further information can be found on the limit on attempts page on the MRCP(UK) website.

4.3 Cancellation

On very rare occasions, it may be necessary for MRCP(UK) to cancel an examination. In these circumstances, MRCP(UK) will refund, in full, the examination fee of any candidate allocated to the affected examination centre(s) or transfer them to the next available diet. A cancelled examination will not count as one of the candidate's six attempts allowed for an examination (see Limit on Attempts).

MRCP(UK) will not be responsible for any expenses (such as visa application, travel, or accommodation) incurred by a candidate in the event of such a cancellation.

4.4 Examination start times

(a) Examination venues (CBT delivery)

Candidates should arrive outside the examination venue at least 15 minutes before the reporting time and should not enter until instructed to do so by the invigilator(s).

Candidates will not be admitted to any paper if they arrive more than 30 minutes after the examination has started. Candidates who arrive after the scheduled start time will not be permitted any additional time to complete the paper.

Robust security checks will be conducted for all candidates to ensure that no unauthorised items (e.g., phones, watches, notes, stationery) are brought into the examination room. These may include checking or requiring candidates to show clothing (e.g., pockets, waistband, ankles) and glasses, ears, and wrists or forearms. Candidates must comply with instructions from the invigilators, including any additional checks deemed necessary, or they may not be permitted entry to the examination room. Any unauthorised items will be retained by the centre staff and returned to the candidate at the conclusion of the examination. Where it is suspected that a candidate has consciously attempted to bring such items to the examination, in breach of our regulations, the candidate will be excluded from the examination and referred for misconduct proceedings. If any unauthorised items are identified after entry to the examination room, this may result in candidates being excluded from the examination.

Where items of clothing are worn for religious reasons, these checks can be conducted in a private room by an invigilator of the same gender.

Candidates are advised to allow for any transport delays when planning their time of arrival at the examination venue as, for security reasons, we cannot guarantee that they will be permitted to enter the examination venue after the start of the examination.

It should also be noted that, on occasion, the examination start time could be delayed. Candidates are therefore advised not to make homeward travel plans that could be jeopardised if the examination starts late or is interrupted for any reason.

If a candidate is not permitted to enter the test room because they arrive late, they will be considered absent.

(b) Online examinations

Candidates should start the registration process for their examination at the time indicated on their admission emails. Candidates will not be permitted to sit the examination if they start the registration process more than 30 minutes later than the indicated time unless they have been affected by technical difficulties.

4.5 No ID, No Entry

Candidates should bring the MRCP(UK) issued admission document to the examination along with their ID. The rules for ID verification also apply to candidates sitting online examinations – information on how the process is carried out is provided on the MRCP(UK) website. Candidates in the online examination who do not present their ID will be reported by their proctor to MRCP(UK) and will not be permitted to proceed with the examination until the ID has been verified.

In accordance with paragraph 3.7, candidates will not be permitted to sit the examination unless they produce suitable valid identification, which must be in date. This will normally be a passport. Where candidates do not possess a passport, some other form of identification may be acceptable, provided that it includes both the photograph and signature of the candidate (see list of Primary ID documents below). Electronic state identity cards or proof of residency documents issued by the government of the country in which the candidate is resident will also be accepted (photographs or scans of physical identity documents such as passports are not permitted).

Acceptable Primary ID Documents:

- Current valid passport (containing photograph and signature)
- Full or provisional photocard driving licence
- EEA Member State identity photocard
- National identity photocard for non-EEA foreign nationals
- Identity card issued by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland
- Electronic state ID card or residence document issued by the relevant authority
- Alternatively, two forms of identification, one with a photograph and the other with a signature, will be accepted (see list of Secondary ID documents).

Acceptable Secondary ID Documents:

Two forms of secondary ID will need to be shown together e.g., NHS/Hospital Identity card with a debit card; at least one of these MUST CONTAIN a photograph and a signature (this does not necessarily need to be in the same piece of ID):

- Valid credit or debit card
- Valid student card with photograph
- NHS/Hospital Identity card
- Paper driving licence
- Certified copy of passport or driving licence. *

*These documents must be accompanied by an official stamp or letter from the issuing organisation in order to qualify as an acceptable form of ID. Self-made photocopies will not be accepted without such official corroboration.

Additional forms of ID may be considered provided candidates contact their college's administration office or MRCP(UK) well in advance of the examination.

Candidates should ensure that the name on their ID exactly matches the name on their admission document. Where names do not match, candidates must contact the relevant college's administration office or MRCP(UK) well in advance of the examination for advice.

Admission to the examination will be at the discretion of the invigilator(s), and invigilators have the right to question a candidate further if they are not satisfied with the identification that has been provided.

The Royal Colleges of Physicians observe sensitivity in the visual identification of candidates, but advance notice should be given by candidates of any anticipated difficulties.

4.6 Conduct in written examinations

(a) Examination venues

Invigilators are present at all MRCP(UK) written examinations to ensure that regulations are enforced. Invigilators will:

- Speak to candidates if they suspect any infringement of the regulations to make clear what is causing concern and remind the candidate of the relevant rules and instructions.
- Confiscate any unauthorised material from candidates.
- Prevent candidates from continuing with examinations if they have committed misconduct. Candidates may be ejected from an examination if their conduct causes disruption.
- Compile a report for MRCP(UK) about the examination, including any incidents of suspected misconduct.

The following rules apply when sitting written examinations:

1) Candidates are only permitted to have items required for the examination on their desk, i.e., ID, and admission documents (stationery will be provided at the centre). Food and drink are permitted (this may not apply in all centres). All other personal possessions (e.g., mobile phones) should be kept in candidates' bags; candidates can bring other items if these have been permitted by MRCP(UK) as an approved reasonable adjustment. Candidates are not permitted to have

devices that can make calculations, store information or be used for communication (including smart watches) on or around their desks; these must be switched off and stored with belongings.

2) If a candidate has unwittingly brought any unauthorised item into the examination venue, this should be handed to an invigilator before the examination starts or at the earliest opportunity.

3) Candidates must comply with all instructions given to them by invigilators, even if they judge the instruction to be unreasonable.

4) Candidates must not start reading or answering the examination questions until the start of the examination is announced by the invigilators. Candidates should immediately stop working when instructed to do so by the invigilators. Any candidate observed to be continuing work after the end of the examination has been announced will be reported.

5) Candidates:

- must not attempt to read the work of any other candidate or communicate in any way with any other candidate.
- should ensure that their work is not visible to other candidates if they are away from their desk at any stage.
- must report any concerns about the conduct of another candidate to an invigilator.
- must inform invigilators about any factor (e.g., noise disruption) that is adversely affecting them during the examination.
- must stay for the full duration of each paper. Candidates cannot leave the examination venue if they finish the examination paper early or they will have their attempt annulled. Candidates who have received extra time as a reasonable adjustment are entitled to leave after three hours if they have completed the examination, and do not need to stay for the additional allocated time.
- must ask permission to leave the examination venue temporarily. Candidates cannot leave the examination venue temporarily during the first 30 minutes or the final 10 minutes of either paper.

6) Candidates should not attempt to copy individual questions. All MRCP(UK) examination questions are confidential and are under the copyright of the Royal Colleges of Physicians. Information about questions should not be communicated to any person or third-party organisation during, or at any time after, the examination. Candidates should inform MRCP(UK) if they are approached or asked to divulge examination content in any form whatsoever by any person or organisation. The Colleges reserve the right to initiate civil action and/or criminal prosecution if theft of intellectual property is suspected.

(b) Online examinations

(i) General rules

Candidates sitting an online examination will be monitored by a remote proctor (invigilator) for the duration of both papers and must comply with any instructions given. Invigilators may speak to candidates during the examination.

Examination content must not be copied or recorded in any way. If a proctor suspects that a candidate is attempting to copy examination content they will speak to the candidate, ask them to stop any activity, and make a report of the incident to MRCP(UK).

Candidates are permitted to use blank paper for making notes (a maximum of six loose pages, i.e., not bound in a notebook).

Candidates must not switch off their webcam or screenshare feed during the examination (see paragraph 4.6 (a) (iv) below). Technical difficulties should be reported to the invigilator or using the help facility as soon as possible during the examination so support can be provided in resolving these. Candidates should report any issues encountered to MRCP(UK) after the examination to assist with further investigation.

Candidates must:

- Ensure that they are in an appropriate environment for sitting the examination with no other people present and demonstrate this to the invigilator prior to starting. If more than one candidate is sitting from the same address, candidates should inform MRCP(UK) ahead of the examination and ensure that they are sitting in different rooms.
- Accept the non-disclosure agreement prior to starting the examination.
- Complete both examination papers in the correct order on the same day or their results will not be counted.

Candidates are permitted to:

- Submit their answers and exit from the examination system if they finish before the advertised end time. They are not required to stay online for the full duration of the paper if they have completed it.
- Use devices connected to their computer to ensure uninterrupted internet connectivity during the examination. These devices should not be capable of storing information, accessing the internet, or communications and MUST be shown to the proctor during the set-up process.
- Have drinks or snack on their desks.

(ii) Breaks in online examinations

Candidates are permitted to take one break of a maximum of five minutes during each paper. They should indicate to the proctor that they are taking a break, but do not need to wait for permission to leave their desk. No additional time will be added to the examination to compensate for breaks. The proctor will record the time that the candidate leaves their desk and when they return. If a candidate takes more than one break, or a break longer than five minutes, their performance will be subject to an enhanced review of the proctoring record and analysis of their keystroke/clickstream data obtained after the examination.

Candidates who require to take longer or more frequent breaks for medical reasons should request this through the Reasonable Adjustments process. Supporting evidence will be required for such requests.

(iii) Violations

A room scan will be conducted at the start and end of the examination to ensure that the candidate's environment is appropriate. A proctor may ask a candidate to conduct a room scan during the examination if they believe that the regulations have been breached.

To prevent academic misconduct during online examinations, and to ensure that they are not interrupted by proctors, candidates are NOT permitted to:

- Look at a mobile phone, tablet, or any other device capable of communication or storing information. All such devices must be removed from the examination environment prior to starting, and this must be confirmed with the invigilator during initial checks. Candidates can use mobile phones if they need to contact MRCP(UK) in the event of encountering technical difficulties during the examination.
- Wear any of the following items (this will be checked during the registration process):
    - earplugs or headphones
    - any clothing that can be used to hide materials, i.e., hooded jumper. Items worn for religious purposes are permitted and discretion will be exercised in conducting ID checks.
    - Sunglasses (unless permitted for medical reasons) or smart glasses.
    - Watches (including smart watches).
- Switch off their webcam or screenshare feed.
- Access any web pages other than the ones required for sitting the examination. Any other web pages that candidates have open before starting the examination should be closed. Candidates can access email accounts if they need to contact MRCP(UK) in the event of encountering technical difficulties during the examination.
- Access other applications on their computer.
- Take screenshots of or copy examination content.
- Talk to anyone outside the room or attempt to communicate with anyone else sitting the examination using phones, email, or any other method.
- Use multiple screens or connect the computer they are using to an external screen.
- Use a calculator.
- Have textbooks or notes in the examination environment (blank paper is permitted).
- Sit in a room that is too dark.
- Angle their laptop or camera upwards or have their face obscured.
- Vape or smoke.

If invigilators identify any of the above behaviour, they will make a record of this, and it will be reported to MRCP(UK). Candidates will also be reported if they are seen to be looking away from their screens repeatedly or looking at their hands or wrists.

Candidates are reminded that in all MRCP(UK) examinations statistical methods are used to detect anomalous candidate behaviours which may be regarded as academic dishonesty. In the online version of examinations these will be supplemented by the detailed analysis of 'click streams' so that candidates' progress through the examination can be monitored and assessed and can be compared with video and other records of candidate behaviour. Further information can be found on the MRCP(UK) website.

(iv) Interruptions to webcam or screenshare feeds

Candidates must not switch off their webcam or screenshare functions at any point while sitting the examination. If any of these functions are disabled or disrupted by technical difficulties, the proctor will record the details in the examination log, including the duration of any period of disruption during which it has not been possible to monitor the candidate. This will be reported to MRCP(UK) after the examination and reviewed as part of the regular quality assurance processes.

To ensure the integrity of the examination, all instances where a candidate has experienced significant disruption (including instances where more than one monitoring feed fails), which has prevented them from being fully monitored for more than five minutes, will be referred to the

chair of the relevant examining board, who will decide whether the candidate's results should be released. Candidates will have the right to appeal against a decision to not release their results.

4.7 MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES)

(a) Arrival at the examination venue

Infection Control measures

Candidates will be required to comply with the infection control procedures in place at examination centres to support delivery of the examination in accordance with local and government guidance. Procedures may vary according to the centre.

- Candidates must use the provided PPE at each encounter.
- Candidates must follow all instructions from examiners and venue staff. Candidates are advised not to travel to the examination venue if they feel unwell on the day of the examination; the normal process for requesting a withdrawal should be followed.

Candidates who do not comply with these rules will be denied entry to the examination. The Chair of Examiners will have discretion over whether candidates will be permitted to sit. There will be limited space to leave belongings, so candidates should minimise the amount that they bring with them.

(b) Conduct in the examination

Candidates are expected to observe the following standards of behaviour when attending the PACES examination.

1) Candidates must not seek to gain prior knowledge of the clinical cases or scenarios used in the examination. They must declare all workplaces, training posts, and courses attended in the past 12 months when submitting their application. Candidates must not visit the hospital or examination centre to which they have been allocated to sit PACES prior to the examination. Failure to comply with these rules will be regarded as an act of suspected misconduct; admission to the examination will not be allowed and the action(s) of the candidate will be investigated accordingly.

2) Candidates may not carry any device that can store information or be used for communication (e.g., mobile phones or smart watches) while in the examination.

3) Candidates who wish to use an electronic amplifying stethoscope may do so. The stethoscope must be declared to the host examiner on arrival. **Any facility within the stethoscope other than simple amplification such as recording, interpretation or wireless Bluetooth transmission must be disabled to the satisfaction of the host examiner before the candidate can be permitted to proceed with its use.** Candidates should be aware that examiners will normally have examined patients using a standard analogue stethoscope and that it will be the signs detected by that standard against which the candidate will be judged irrespective of the type of stethoscope that they use.

4) Examinations will be conducted in strict accordance with the host centre's hygiene and infection control procedures, which may vary according to the centre. Candidates should wear appropriate professional dress. Candidates anticipating difficulties in complying with infection

control procedures or dress requirements must provide details to MRCP(UK) or the relevant college of admission when submitting their application.

5) Candidates must inform the examiners at the station if they have encountered the patient before, for example during training or a course. Such a declaration will not prevent the candidate from completing the examination; failure to declare prior knowledge of a patient will be regarded as suspected misconduct and investigated accordingly.

6) All MRCP(UK) clinical scenarios are confidential and are the copyright of the Royal Colleges of Physicians. Candidates must not:

- Copy or remove scenarios from examination centres.
- Communicate any information about the cases or scenarios in the examination, to any other person or organisation during, or at any time after, the examination. They should report any such approaches to the relevant college or to MRCP(UK) immediately.

Candidates who view material during their preparation which appears to be from an examination centre or refers to patients used in an examination should report this to MRCP(UK).

7) Candidates will be prevented from proceeding with PACES if the examiners believe that they are too unwell to continue or if their conduct is likely to endanger patient safety, cause distress or disrupt other candidates. Candidates who are considered by examiners to be acting in an unprofessional, improper, or inappropriate manner during PACES will be asked to stop that part of the examination and may be prevented from continuing. MRCP(UK) will also report these issues to candidates' employers or supervisors.

8) It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they demonstrate the required skills within the time allowed.

(c) Format of examination

Information about the format of the examination is available on the Federation website.

The MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES) is composed of five stations each assessed by two independent examiners. In exceptional circumstances, the examination may need to run with fewer than the usual 10 examiners. Candidates will start at any one of the five stations and then move round the carousel of stations at 20-minute intervals until the cycle has been completed.

The minimum number of examiners required for an examination cycle to commence is nine. If only nine examiners are present, a single examiner will assess one of the stations, and their marks will be doubled. No appeals will be considered on the basis of only nine examiners being present. If a candidate chooses not to go ahead at this point their withdrawal will be dealt with in line with section 3.10 of these Regulations.

(d) Skill G

If a candidate scores 28 on Skill G, Maintaining Patient Welfare, as a result of receiving two unsatisfactory marks in a single encounter and has achieved an overall score of at least 126 and passed all skills, this will be discussed in the post-cycle briefing. Examiners will make a recommendation on whether the candidate should pass or fail. The reasons for this decision will be recorded on a discussion sheet. This will be reviewed by the Chair and the Medical Secretary of

the Clinical Examining Board who will make the final decision on the candidate's pass/fail status on behalf of the Board.

5. After the examination

5.1 Candidate Results

Examination results will be communicated to candidates in accordance with the timescales indicated on the MRCP(UK) website.

MRCP(UK) reserves the right to delay the release of results for quality assurance purposes. In the event that this is necessary, candidates will be informed as far as possible in advance of the scheduled date and will be provided with an indication of the new timescale for release.

Results communicated to candidates are considered final and will only be amended in the event of an error being identified. Re-marks of written examinations are not offered. PACES results are confirmed in the post-cycle discussion on the day of the examination, and it is not possible to conduct reviews of these.

5.2 Circumstances affecting results

In the event of procedural irregularity in the conduct of the examination or exceptional circumstances that have adversely affected their performance, candidates should inform MRCP(UK) as soon as possible after the examination. The full appeals process will only commence after results have been issued. Further details can be found on the appeals page of the MRCP(UK) website.

5.3 Anomalous results

MRCP(UK) treats its responsibility to protect patient safety and ensure that the public can have full confidence that its qualifications reflect the highest standards of UK medicine with the utmost seriousness. MRCP(UK) may withhold or annul results and require a candidate (or a group of candidates) to re-take any part of the MRCP(UK) Diploma. This action will be taken if MRCP(UK) is presented with:

- sufficient evidence that the security of any part of the examination has been compromised.
- statistical evidence, based on accepted psychometric procedures, which are rigorously undertaken for every diet of every examination, which demonstrates that a candidate's results are highly unlikely to accurately reflect their performance.

MRCP(UK) reserves the right to enforce this in the absence of evidence of direct candidate involvement in any activities that may be investigated under the misconduct regulations. Where possible candidates will be informed of any such action being taken prior to the published date for the release of results for the relevant examination.

MRCP(UK) will inform a candidate's educational supervisor, Training Programme Director, or Responsible Officer if their results are annulled under this procedure.

5.4 Missing or Incomplete Marks

In the event of a significant procedural error occurring during an examination the Chair of Examiners or senior MRCP(UK) staff should record whether this has adversely affected the performance of a candidate or group of candidates. This should be referred to the officers of the relevant examining board after the examination has finished, and they will decide whether to treat the marks for the affected section of the examination as missing or incomplete.

Such marks will be reviewed in accordance with accepted psychometric procedures to determine the probability of a candidate passing if the procedural error had not occurred. This will be used to inform the decision of an examining board about the pass/fail status of affected candidates, and if any additional remedy is appropriate. The decision of the examining board in these instances will be final.

This procedure is not part of the standard appeals process and will only be used in exceptional circumstances as agreed by the relevant examining board.

6. Completion of the MRCP(UK) Diploma and election to Membership

Once a candidate has successfully completed their final part of the diploma, they will have their success confirmed in a results letter. This letter will include information about election to membership, and information about admission ceremonies. The Form of Faith should be completed and submitted to the candidate's chosen college for election to membership.

Candidates cannot claim to hold the MRCP(UK) Diploma or use the post-nominal 'MRCP(UK)' until they have passed all three constituent examinations.

Candidates are required to declare details on the Form of Faith of any investigation, scheduled hearing, suspension, condition, or undertakings on their practice (including interim orders) from the General Medical Council (or equivalent body) or employer at the time of their application for election to membership.

If a candidate does declare restrictions on their practice this will be referred to the MRCP(UK) Management and Policy Board for review on a case-by-case basis. The Board will make the decision about the award of the membership, which will be considered final. Candidates may be asked to provide further information about the nature of the restrictions during this process.

By completing and submitting the Form of Faith, candidates are agreeing to abide by the Laws, Bye-Laws, Statutes and Regulations of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom. Copies of the Laws, Bye-Laws, Individual Statutes and Regulations relating to Members can be inspected on application to the respective Colleges.

MRCP(UK) Diplomas will not be issued until the signed Form of Faith has been received, processed, and deemed to be satisfactory.