



## Reasonable Adjustments Policy

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1.1	MRCPUK Policy Team	December 2024	Replaces previous version	December 2025
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## Introduction

- 1 If any candidate is unable, through disability, specific learning difficulty, long term medical condition or other special need, to be assessed by the methods set out in the Regulations, MRCP(UK) may make reasonable adjustments to the examination. In line with the Equality Act 2010, disability includes people who have:
  - Physical or sensory impairments.
  - Specific learning difficulties (e.g., dyslexia and dyspraxia) or other cognitive impairments.
  - Mental health issues.
  - Hidden impairments (e.g., epilepsy, respiratory problems, or heart conditions).
  - On-going or fluctuating medical conditions including unforeseen medical circumstance.
- 2 Requests to accommodate candidates who are breastfeeding are classified as ‘discretionary’ rather than ‘reasonable’ under the Equality Act. MRCP(UK) will follow the process outlined below to support candidates who require adjustments in these circumstances.
- 3 The nature of these adjustments will vary in terms of the nature and extent of the candidate’s difficulty or disability, and the individual requirements of the examination, but will be to the purpose that no candidate is disadvantaged in their examinations by virtue of their disability or other special need.
- 4 In considering requests for adjustments, MRCP(UK) also has a responsibility to ensure that the integrity of the examination is preserved.

## Procedures

- 5 Any candidate who has a physical disability, specific learning difficulty, long term medical condition or any other special need that they believe could affect their performance in an examination may be entitled to reasonable adjustments. Candidates should inform MRCP(UK) of this at the time of each application, by Emailing the [MRCP\(UK\) Reasonable Adjustment Team](#) or the relevant administrative office (college), following which they will be contacted by the relevant administration office.
- 6 Candidates whose need for reasonable adjustments only occurs after the submission of their application (due to sudden illness or accident) must contact MRCP(UK) as soon as practicable.
- 7 Candidates are advised that failure to contact MRCP(UK) promptly may mean that there will be insufficient time for some or all of any adjustments requested to be put in place.
- 8 Candidates will be required to submit full written details of any reasonable adjustments they wish to request to MRCP(UK) at the time of their application, or where the nature of the disability or need changes over time. This must include comprehensive supporting evidence by an appropriate authority (i.e., the candidate’s registered GP). In cases of dyslexia or any other specific learning difficulty, MRCP(UK) will require a Psychological Assessment Report made by a certified assessor, which must have been conducted after the candidate was sixteen years of age.

## Consideration and Implementation of Arrangements

- 9 Where MRCP(UK) has an established precedent for an adjustment for a particular disability or special need the case will be considered by the head of the relevant administration office (or their nominee). Where there is no precedent for a requested adjustment, or for a particular disability or special need,

the case will require further consideration.

- 10 Where MRCP(UK) has no precedent for an adjustment for a particular disability or special need, or where the adjustment requested is more significant than any previously permitted for that disability or special need, then the case must be considered by the Chair of the relevant Examining Board, an Associate Medical Director, and a representative of the Regulatory Sub-Group.
- 11 Each request for adjustments will be considered on its own merits and any adjustments granted will be appropriate for the candidate's requests and the examination they are sitting. Examples of adjustments previously approved include:
- Enlargement of examination scripts or materials.
  - The use of a scribe or an amanuensis.
  - The use of an appropriate aid during the clinical examination.
  - Additional time allowed for completing written examination papers or reading candidate instructions in the PACES examination.
  - Provision to sit a pencil & paper examination for candidates who have registered to sit an examination normally delivered in Remote Online Proctoring or Computer-Based Testing format.

This is not an exclusive list, but indicative of the most common adjustments made for MRCP(UK) examinations.

- 12 Candidates will be notified in writing of any adjustments that have been permitted for their examinations. If reasonable adjustments have been agreed, it is MRCP(UK)'s responsibility to ensure they are communicated to and provided by the host. If any part of the adjustments requested by a candidate cannot be granted, the reasons for this decision will be explained to them. In this case, alternative adjustments may also be granted. Consideration of requests for adjustments will be guided by the principle of maintaining the academic integrity of the examinations.
- 13 The MRCP(UK) Part 2 Clinical Examination (PACES) is regarded as a competence test, assessing skills and behaviours as well as clinical knowledge. As such the method of assessment is a crucial element of the examination, and any adjustments made for the PACES examination must maintain the integrity and validity of this assessment.
- 14 Any adjustment that would involve a change to the format of any part of any MRCP(UK) examination shall be considered by the relevant examining board and the Regulatory Sub-Group. Advice may be sought from the MRCP(UK) Management and Policy Board if a case raises issues of policy.
- 15 In all cases MRCP(UK) reserves the right to take independent advice to ensure that any proposed arrangements are appropriate and in accordance with any applicable legislation.
- 16 Details of all requests for adjustments and the adjustments that were approved (if any), shall be regularly reported to the relevant Examining Board and the MRCP(UK) Management and Policy Board for the purposes of monitoring and review.
- 17 If a candidate receives a diagnosis of a condition requiring reasonable adjustments after they have taken attempts at the examination, they should contact MRCP(UK) to provide details and supporting evidence. Previous attempts will not be expunged from a candidate's record, but they will be permitted the maximum number of attempts at an examination (six) with the requested adjustments in place.

## Appeals

- 18 Where a candidate does not believe the adjustments they have been granted are reasonable, they may ask for their case to be reviewed by the MRCP(UK) Regulatory Sub-Group, whose decision will be final.