

MRCPI Paediatrics Clinical Examination Information for candidates

The MRCPI Paediatrics Clinical examination is the third of three assessments which must be successfully completed to become a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI). It is a clinical examination for post-graduate doctors. The clinical examination will focus on the ability of the candidate to demonstrate proficiency in the areas of history taking, communication, physical examination, problem solving and basic steps in the assessment and management of the neonate, child or adolescent with acute or chronic disease. The clinical structure consists of 6 x 12 minute stations. The typical timing breakdown for a clinical examination is as follows:

12 minutes total:

- Each case will be examined by one examiner who remains at this station for the duration of the examination
- 10 minutes in which to perform a focused and directed examination on the patient
- A timing notification will be given after 10 minutes
- Candidates will then have two minutes to summarise and discuss investigations and management of the case
- A notification will be given after 12 minutes to state the ending of the station
- Candidates will move to await the next station and rest for two minutes to compose before entering the next station
- During these two minutes the examiner will complete the marksheet and write comments where necessary



Case descriptions

Throughout the examination, candidates are assessed on the below skills:

- Clinical communication skills
- Managing relationships: Interaction with child and/or parent
- Clinical technique & findings
- Differential diagnosis and recognizing the well child
- Clinical judgement
- Recognising red flags and patient safety

Candidates will see a range of children of different ages or roleplayers and may be asked questions about genetics, epidemiology, or pharmacology throughout the examination.

List of Stations:

Observed History

Cases will be patients or actors with common General Paediatrics presentations. At this station the candidate is expected to take a full patient history. The Clinical judgement discussion will focus on the correct presentation of the case history and the candidate's management plan for the patient.

Communication and Ethics

Simulated scenarios with either parents or actors. These may include ethical dilemmas based on the medical council guidelines. Scenarios may include common paediatric presentations, child protection, or mental health.

Growth and Development

At this station a candidate may be asked to assess growth or complete a development assessment. The candidate is expected to exhibit knowledge of normal growth and development and potential concerns. The candidate is expected to understand care over the lifespan including vaccinations, care of common childhood illnesses and nutrition.

Structure: Observed case with questions. Developmental complexity may be assessed.

Clinical examination cases

Cardiology or Respiratory

Cardiology: This station will review a candidate's ability to perform a cardiology examination and cases can include any common cardiology presentation.

OR

Respiratory: This station may include an ENT exam. A candidate will perform a respiratory examination and cases may include any common respiratory presentation.

Neurology or GIT

This station will primarily include Gastroenterology and Hepatology. It may also cover fluids and nutrition.

Neurology - This station will include common neurological presentations, it may also include musculoskeletal cases and can include aspects of ophthalmology.

Other Subspecialty Case

This will assess the application of General Paediatrics Skills in one of the following:

- Allergy
- Dermatology
- Endocrinology
- Haematology
- Immunology
- Infectious diseases
- Metabolic
- Nephrology
- Oncology
- Rheumatology

Marking Scheme:

- Each station will be marked by a single examiner. For consistency, each examiner will have calibrated the examination with a colleague who is examining the same examination in a different station on the same day
- The performance of all candidates will be reviewed on the day of the clinical examination.
- Outcomes of the clinical examination will be presented to the Part II examinations board and results released within 2 to 3 weeks after the examination date.

Passing Criteria:

To achieve an overall pass result, candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Pass the minimum number of cases required which is determined by the examination Board
- Pass the minimum number of cases required from each category of cases as determined by the Board
- Pass all skills

Each mark sheet describes characteristics defining satisfactory and unsatisfactory performances in each skill.

The borderline judgement will be used if the examiner believes that you have not fully demonstrated the skills required but decides that some credit should be given for your performance.