

MRCPI Part II Clinical (GM) Examination Information for candidates

Updated for COVID-19 (Full Changes Listed Below)

The MRCPI Part II clinical GM examination is the third of three assessments which must be successfully completed in order to become a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI). It is a clinical examination for post-graduate doctors. The purpose of this examination is to:

1. Provide an exit examination from Basic Specialist Training,
2. Satisfy the application requirement to entry into Higher Specialist Training and
3. Select Members of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

It comprises of three elements:

- 2 x 25 minute Long Cases
- 4 x 10 minute Short Clinical Cases
- 1 x 10 minute Short Communication Skills/Ethics Case

Long Cases

- Each candidate will perform 2 long cases.
- Each long case will be 25 minutes duration.
- Each case will be examined by one examiner (who remains at this station for duration of the examination).
- The long case will be similar to an outpatient encounter, or a clinical assessment of a patient in a Medical Admissions Unit.
- **All long cases are pre-written scenarios with trained role-players/actors.**
- The timing breakdown of the Long Case examination is as follows:
 - **25 minutes total:**
 - **20 minutes** in which
 - to take a history while observed by the examiner.
 - to perform a focused and directed examination.
 - a 10-minute time notification will be given.
 - **5 minutes** to discuss investigations and management with the examiner.
- The main assessment outcomes are to assess candidate's competence in
 - Clinical communication skills (CCS)
 - Managing relationships with patients (MRP)
 - Physical examination (PE)
 - Identifying physical signs (IPS) – **not marked**
 - Differential diagnosis (DD)
 - Clinical judgment (CJ)
 - Maintaining patient safety and quality of care (MPSQ)
- The cases will include patients with medical conditions from the following systems:
 - Cardiology
 - Respiratory
 - Abdominal
 - Endocrine
 - Dermatology
 - Neurology
 - Rheumatology

- Candidates should prepare by performing as many of the above encounters as possible, making problem lists for patients and presenting the cases to senior colleagues under the time constraints of the examination.

Short Cases

There are two types of short cases:

1. Clinical cases
2. Communication skills cases

Typically, there will be 4 clinical cases and 1 communication skills case.

Clinical Cases

- Each clinical case will last 10 minutes (with a standard period of examiner observation of 6 minutes, and a 4 minute discussion).
- Each case will be examined by one examiner (who remains at this station for duration of the examination).
- The short cases will include patients with medical conditions from the following systems:

Station 1: Communication & Ethics

Station 2: Cardiology **or** Respiratory

Station 3: Endocrinology/**Miscellaneous**

Station 4: Neurology **or** Locomotor

Station 5: Abdominal

- The timing breakdown of the examination is as follows:
 - **10 minutes total:**
 - **6 minutes** to talk to, or examine the patient (or interact with the communication station's actor)
 - **4 minutes** for presentation of findings and discussion of your management plan with the examiner.

Communication Skills/Ethics case

- Each communications skills/ethics case will last 10 minutes (with a standard period of observation of 6 minutes, before a 4 minute discussion).
- The candidate will be expected to interact with a simulated patient.
- The candidate will be provided with a written instruction summarizing the case before the station begins.
- Each case will be examined by one examiner (who remains at this station for duration of the examination).
- The cases will include communication scenarios relating to:
 - Information giving – example: discussing of treatment options with a patient with sexually transmitted infection

- Breaking bad news – example: telling a person her husband died, or telling a patient he has cancer
 - Consent – example: obtaining consent for treatment from a patient with a mild cognitive impairment
 - Confidentiality – example: maintaining confidentiality under pressure from family members
 - Managing challenging situations – example: discussing organ donation with next of kin of a ventilated patient who has an organ donor card in her pocket but the next of kin objects because it is against his/her religion
 - Ethics – example: telling a colleague that you need to report their drug abuse as they are unsafe to continue to practise
- Candidates should prepare by attending the following courses:
 - Leadership in Clinical Practice 1 course (BST mandatory)
 - Breaking Bad News course (optional)
 - Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Medical Practitioners (Medical Council Guide)
 - Good Medical Practice (GMC Guide)
 - <http://www.med.qub.ac.uk/osce/index.html> for on-line practice

Additional Information for Candidates:

- Fundoscopy is not assessed in this examination, this is due to the light levels in all centres not being controllable. If however a candidate would have assessed this in normal practice, it is advisable to note this to the examiner.
- All MRCPI examinations are conducted in English, including centres based outside of Ireland. If a patient, particularly in our international centres, is unable to understand the English instructions then the observing examiner will translate on your behalf as with all other candidates for that case.
- The clinical examination takes approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes; however candidates are advised that this is if zero delays are experienced.
- Candidates are required to present themselves at the registration time included on their allocation letters, not the examination start time noted. Candidates need to be registered and briefed before the examination takes place. **If a candidate arrives after their registration time, they risk not being permitted to sit the examination.**
- No physical examination equipment is provided, candidates are required to attend with any equipment they will need. A full list of recommended equipment is included in the candidate allocation letter with your exam date and time.
- Candidates are reminded to dress in neat, comfortable and professional attire. As in normal practice, bare below the elbow applies so no watches or bracelets for example.
- All candidates must surrender their mobile phones and any smart devices before the examination to prevent outside communication before and during the examination. The examination coordinators will advise at the examination. **Smart watches are not permitted**, if you require one for the examination we advise bringing a normal analogue watch with hands.

COVID-19 Exam Changes

The following are the adjustments made to the format of the examination during COVID-19. Confirmed format changes will be communicated to all candidates before the examination as they may be slightly different from the below based on public health advice.

- **PPE:** As of January 2023, some of the PPE requirements brought into the clinical examination have been removed. Candidates are no longer required to wear their own scrubs during the examination. All other PPE previously used such as aprons and gloves have also been removed. Hand gels and wipes will be used as normal, hand gel will be available in each station while wipes are provided to clean any equipment between cases after use.

As of July 2023, face masks during the examination are no longer mandatory. If a candidate wishes to wear a face mask, they may continue to do so. Additionally, other attendees such as patients, actors or examiners also have this choice. A candidate may be asked to wear a face mask for certain stations by an examiner, patient/actor due to the case itself or the personal preference of the patient/actor or examiner.

Please note, that due to local or hospital guidelines we may require the use of PPE in certain centres. We will endeavour to inform affected candidates before the examination if this is required.

- **Long Cases:** All long case stations will now have simulated cases with trained actors, known as Surrogate Patients, in place of real patients. The cases will be prewritten and reviewed/approved by the Examination Board. The stations will remain at 25 minutes and you will be expected to examine the Surrogate Patient the way you would have examined a real patient. The purpose of this is to demonstrate to the examiner that you can extrapolate the relevant information from the history into a focussed examination, even in the absence of findings. You will not be told by Examiners what “findings” there are unless it is relevant to the line of questioning at the end of the case. The only change to scoring is that the skill, “Identifying Physical Signs”, will not be marked in this station. It will remain in the four clinical short cases; however, you will still be asked to perform an examination in order to test your technique.
- **Short Cases:** The short case station of Endocrinology has been renamed to “Endocrinology/Miscellaneous”. This means the station has been expanded to Endocrinology and any of the other specialities which are noted in the examination guidelines (e.g. Dermatology, Abdominal, CVS, Locomotor, Neurology etc.) This may include medical devices and in such cases you would be expected to examine the device and then examine the patient in the related system to the device. Please be assured, that the station’s examiner will have a specific instruction such as “You are an SHO in the cardiology clinic, please examine this man’s chest” or “You are an SHO in neurology, please examine this man’s cranial nerves”.

While we endeavour to have all stations as planned, due to patient recruitment issues we may be required to change the speciality of a Short Case. Please be advised that the speciality will still be one of those included in the exam format. We will aim to inform candidates of any changes to the expected specialties before the examination takes place.

If during the physical examination in any station you need you feel it is clinically relevant to inspect their face you may ask the patient to remove their mask briefly, if they have decided to wear one. You should preferably take no longer than 60 seconds to carry out this inspection, however the patient can refuse this if they are not comfortable and the examiner will be advised to note the refusal and that some signs may not be possible to examine.

Marking scheme

In order to pass the examination, candidates have to satisfy **ALL** the following conditions:

- Obtain the minimum pass marks for each skill which have been pre-set (please see skills marking matrix table below)
- Obtain the overall minimum pass mark which is determined by the Board of the Part II Clinical Examination after a thorough data analysis which takes into account both the difficulty of the examination stations and the overall performance of the candidates taking the exam
- Pass the minimum number of stations required:
 - 1 long case station out of 2
 - 3 short case stations out of 5

- Each mark sheet describes characteristics normally associated with **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.

- Thirty eight skills judgements will be made on your performance throughout your seven examiner encounters in 100 minutes allowing you to score a maximum of **88 skill marks** (see skills matrix below).

Skills marking matrix

① Satisfactory = 4 points; borderline = 2 points; unsatisfactory = 0

② Satisfactory = 2 points; borderline = 1 point; unsatisfactory = 0

SKILLS DISTRIBUTION	CCS①	MRP①	DD②	PE②	IPS②	CJ②	MPSQ②	Total
Long case 1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	18
Long case 2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	18
Communication SC	x	x				x	x	12
Cardiology / Respiratory SC			x	x	x	x	x	10
Endocrinology / Misc SC			x	x	x	x	x	10
Neuro / Locomotor SC			x	x	x	x	x	10
Abdominal SC			x	x	x	x	x	10
Total number of judgements for each skill	3	3	6	6	6	7	7	38
Total for this skill	12	12	12	12	12	14	14	88
Pass mark for each skill*	8	8	8	8	9	10	12	
Overall Examination Pass Mark *								*(set using borderline regression after the examination)

* Pass mark for each skill is subject to change by the Board

Candidates will fail if:

- They fail both long cases stations
- They fail more than 2 short cases
- They did not reach the pass mark for the above skills in any of the categories
- They failed to achieve the overall pass mark (set after the exam)

See below for sample examiner mark sheets...



Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
Short Case 1

EXAMINER NAME **EXAMINER NO.**

Please enter examiner number in the grid to the right and print name below

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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- 0 0 0 0
- 1 1 1 1
- 2 2 2 2
- 3 3 3 3
- 4 4 4 4
- 5 5 5 5
- 6 6 6 6
- 7 7 7 7
- 8 8 8 8
- 9 9 9 9

Candidate Number:

Centre:

Candidate Name:

Cycle:

Title: **Sample Communications Case**

Session:

Marking Instructions Please indicate your judgement for each of the skills listed below by marking the appropriate box like this and include comments if you award borderline or unsatisfactory

1. Clinical communication skills			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory History is: Relevant/ Fluent/ Focused	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Omits crucial areas/ Unpractised/ Unprofessional
<input style="width: 100%; height: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Managing relationships with patients			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Listens to patient's concerns/ Empathic	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Dismisses patient's concerns/ Not empathic
<input style="width: 100%; height: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Clinical judgement			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Manages expectations, distress or confusion appropriately	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Fails to reassure or manage distress/ Misunderstanding
<input style="width: 100%; height: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Maintaining patient safety and quality of care			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Treats patient respectfully and sensitively, and ensures comfort, safety and dignity	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Jeopardises patient safety Causes physical or emotional pain to the patient
<input style="width: 100%; height: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT (full details of Global Assessment are on reverse)

Please record your overall judgement of the candidates performance

F = Fail B = Borderline P = Pass E = Excellent

<input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input type="checkbox"/> E
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Please add any additional comments overleaf

RECORDER REFERENCE: S3078_180217



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Short Case 2

EXAMINER NAME

EXAMINER NO.

Please enter examiner number in the grid to the right and print name below

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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- 0 0 0 0
- 1 1 1 1
- 2 2 2 2
- 3 3 3 3
- 4 4 4 4
- 5 5 5 5
- 6 6 6 6
- 7 7 7 7
- 8 8 8 8
- 9 9 9 9

Candidate Number:

Centre:

Candidate Name:

Cycle:

Title: **SAMPLE CLINICAL SHORT CASE**

Session:

Marking Instructions Please indicate your judgement for each of the skills listed below by marking the appropriate box like this and include comments if you award borderline or unsatisfactory

1. Physical examination			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory <small>Accurate/ Appropriate/ Practised/ Professional</small>	Borderline	Unsatisfactory <small>Poor technique/ Omits important tests/ Hesitant/ Lacks confidence</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Identifying physical signs			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory <small>Identifies correct physical signs</small>	Borderline	Unsatisfactory <small>Misses important clinical signs/ Reports signs that are not present</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Differential diagnosis			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory <small>Presents a sensible and comprehensive differential diagnosis</small>	Borderline	Unsatisfactory <small>Inappropriate, incomplete differential diagnosis</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Clinical judgement			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory <small>Evidence of reflective problem solving/ Suggests appropriate investigations and management</small>	Borderline	Unsatisfactory <small>Poor evidence of problem solving/ Selects unsuitable investigations and treatment</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Maintaining patient safety and quality of care			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory <small>Treats patient respectfully and sensitively, and ensures comfort, safety and dignity</small>	Borderline	Unsatisfactory <small>Jeopardises patient safety/ Causes physical or emotional pain to the patient</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT (full details of Global Assessment are on reverse)

Please record your overall judgement of the candidates performance

F = Fail B = Borderline P = Pass E = Excellent

F	B	P	E
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please add any additional comments overleaf



Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

Long Case 1

EXAMINER NAME
Please enter examiner number in the grid to the right and print name below

EXAMINER NO.
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
0 0 0 0
1 1 1 1
2 2 2 2
3 3 3 3
4 4 4 4
5 5 5 5
6 6 6 6
7 7 7 7
8 8 8 8
9 9 9 9

Candidate Number: _____

Centre: _____

Candidate Name: _____

Cycle: _____

Title: **SAMPLE LONG CLINICAL CASE**

Session: _____

Marking Instructions Please indicate your judgement for each of the skills listed below by marking the appropriate box like this and include comments if you award borderline or unsatisfactory

1. Clinical communication skills (CCS)			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory History is: Relevant/ Fluent/ Focused	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Omits crucial areas/ Unpractised/ Unprofessional
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Managing relationships with patients (MRP)			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Listens to patient's concerns/ Empathetic	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Dismisses patient's concerns/ Not empathetic
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Physical examination (PE)			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Accurate/Appropriate/Practised/ Professional	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Poor technique/Omits important tests/Hesitant, Lacks confidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Identifying physical signs (IPS)			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Identifies correct physical signs	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Misses important clinical signs/ Reports signs that are not present
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Differential diagnosis (DD)			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Presents a sensible and comprehensive differential diagnosis	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Inappropriate, incomplete differential diagnosis
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Clinical judgment (CJ)			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Evidence of reflective problem solving/ Suggests appropriate investigations and management	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Poor evidence of problem solving/ Selects unsuitable investigations and treatments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Maintaining patient safety and quality of care (MPSQ)			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Treats patient respectfully and sensitively, and ensures comfort, safety and dignity	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Jeopardises patient safety/ Causes physical or emotional pain to patient
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT (full details of Global Assessment are on reverse)			
Please record your overall judgement of the candidates performance			
F = Fail	B = Borderline	P = Pass	E = Excellent
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please add any additional comments overleaf