

FAQ

Limit on Time and Attempts Policy for Occupational Medicine Examinations

What is the new policy?

Candidates will have a total of six years which allow a total of six attempts per each component to obtain the Licentiate of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine (LFOM) and Membership of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine (MFOM).

When will be the policy enforced?

This policy will come into effect from **September 2024**.

Why is this policy being introduced?

We are introducing this policy to be aligned with other exam specialties offered in the College. In addition, we want to ensure that candidates give themselves the best chance of successfully completing their Occupational Medicine examinations. International evidence suggests that restricting attempts at professional examinations is the most ethical approach, and in the best interest of candidates.

Who does this policy apply to?

This policy applies to the LFOM examinations and MFOM examinations. It applies to all Parts of LFOM and MFOM examinations, i.e. written, portfolio and OSPE, to all exam candidates, whether they are based in Ireland or overseas.

What will happen to candidates who are already at six attempts?

The limited length of time and attempts policy will apply from when the policy will start in September 2024.

Can I carry over my results from previous sittings before the policy came into effect? (i.e. pass results before September 2024)

Candidates can “bank” their past results for a total of 6 years. For example, a candidate who passed the LFOM Written Exam in 2020 can carry this result forward until 2026.

If I am absent from an exam, will it count as an attempt?

Withdrawals and/or deferrals (as per the RCPI Cancellation Policy) will not be deemed an attempt. However, if a candidate does not attend an examination and is recorded as absent, this will be counted

as one attempt. If a candidate encounters extenuating circumstances on the day of the examination and cannot attend, they must contact the RCPI Examinations Team (exams@rcpi.ie) preferably on the day of the examination or in any circumstances within three working days of the examination.

What will happen if I run of time or attempts?

If the six-year period has expired and/or candidates reach six attempts, they will be allowed to apply for one final additional attempt, i.e. request an extension. For more information on this process please visit the College [website](#).

If the six-year period has expired, a candidate may request an extension, i.e. a further attempt, by emailing the RCPI Examinations Team (exams@rcpi.ie). The request will be reviewed by the Chief Examiner who can use their discretion and in accordance with the general College guidelines may extend the timeline.