

# **Regulations and Information for Candidates**

## **MRCPI Obstetrics & Gynaecology**

2022 Edition

# 1. Introduction

The Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI) Part II Obstetrics and Gynaecology Examination is available to candidates who meet the criteria detailed in the Examination Regulations.

## 2. MRCPI Part II Obstetrics & Gynaecology

### 2.1 Application Criteria

Candidates are eligible to enter for the Part II Written Examination leading to Membership when:

- (i) they have succeeded in MRCPI Part I, or have obtained one of the other entry requirement qualifications listed separately (see 2.3 Entry Requirements).
- (ii) they have completed a period of postgraduate training in posts recognised by the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. At present, candidates are required to have completed 18 months of post-registration training in recognised posts, nine months post intern training in Obstetrics and nine months in Gynaecology or 18 months in a combined Obstetrics/Gynaecology post. Any application for modification of any of these requirements will only be considered on an individual basis.
- (iii) they provide testimonials from two referees who being medical practitioners are willing to testify to the above and to the professional and personal character of the applicant, before being allowed to sit the examination. The College reserves the right to take up additional references without reference to the candidate, and to refuse permission for any candidate to attempt either part of the examination.

Prospective candidates who are working in Ireland are encouraged to discuss their training requirements with the appropriate Institute postgraduate adviser. Those who apply from overseas should write to the Chairman of the Institute's Examination Committee for advice. Training should be completed by 1st January preceding the March examination, and by 7th August prior to the September examination.

Candidates are eligible to enter for the Part II OSCE/Clinical Examination leading to Membership when:

- (i) They have succeeded in passing the MRCPI Part II O&G Written Examination.
- (ii) Are within the 3 year time limit.

## 2.2 MRCPI Qualification

The Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI) examination in O&G Written and OSCE/Clinical has now been de-coupled. This is effective from March 2014 whereby the Written and OSCE/Clinical examinations will be held independently of each other. Candidates must now apply separately for each exam and opening and closing dates along with fees can be found on the exam calendar.

A candidate must still pass the MRCPI Part II Written exam in order to be eligible to sit the MRCPI Part II OSCE/Clinical exam. Should a candidate fail the OSCE/Clinical exam they will not, as previously, have to repeat the written exam, they can re-apply for the OSCE/Clinical exam as long as the 3 year time limit has not expired. Candidates can now choose which diet of the clinical examination they wish to sit. Candidates will be given a time limit of 3 years within which to pass the OSCE/Clinical exam. On expiry of the 3 year limit, candidates will have to re-sit both the Written and OSCE/Clinical components of the examination again.

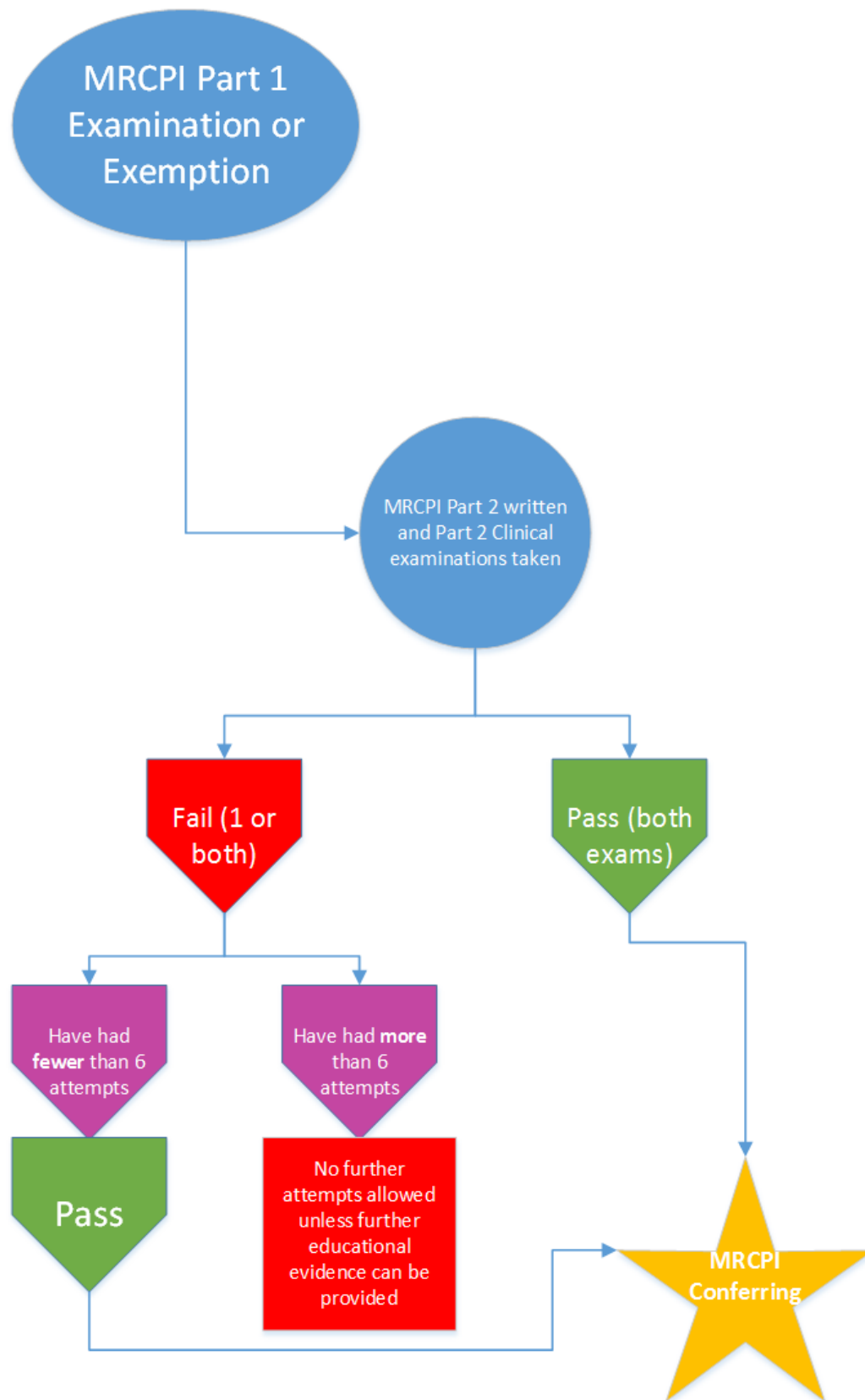
For those candidates who were unsuccessful in the MRCPI Part II OSCE/Clinical O&G exam in 2013 or before you must re-sit the Written exam. However if you re-sit the Written exam in 2014 onwards and pass this can be banked and you will not have to re-sit the Written unless the three year limit has expired.

The maximum number of times a candidate may attempt each Part of the MRCPI exam is six. Following a sixth unsuccessful attempt, a candidate will only be allowed a further attempt if their trainer/educational supervisor confirms that the candidate has demonstrated an improvement in knowledge and skill, so that a pass result is highly likely at the next attempt. From 1 January 2019, if a candidate does not attend an MRCPI examination and is recorded as absent, this will be recorded as one attempt. A withdrawal will not be deemed as an attempt.

*Transition:* Candidates who have already attempted an exam five or six times as of 31 December 2018 will be permitted two additional attempts at that exam. Candidates who have attempted an exam more than six times as of 31 December 2018 will be permitted one additional attempt.

Candidates must complete all their attempts at Part II Written and OSCE/Clinical within six years of the date of their success in, or exemption from, Part I MRCPI. There will be no extensions to this seven year period. However, if more than six years have elapsed since passing Part I, that Part can be retaken. Please note that exemption comes into effect from the 1st sitting of the MRCPI Part II examination.

## 2.2.1 Qualification map



## 2.3 Entry Requirements

Applicants must have one of the below qualifications before applying for the MRCPI Obstetrics and Gynaecology Part II Written

The following qualifications are recognised as an entry requirement for the MRCPI Obstetrics & Gynaecology Part II Written exam:

- MRCOG Part I (Please note – exemption from MRCOG Part 1 is not accepted)
- RCPI Professional Diploma in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- MRCPI Part I General Medicine or Paediatrics
- MRACOG (Australia)
- MRNZCOG (New Zealand)
- FCOG (SA)
- FCPS (O&G) (Pakistan)
- MRANZCOG
- M. Med Malaysia (O&G) – Applies only to candidates awarded this qualification from 2008 onwards.

## 2.4 Examination locations

The MRCPI Part II Obstetrics & Gynaecology Written examination is conducted by remote invigilation. Remote invigilation was introduced in June 2020. This format allows a candidate instead of travelling to an exam centre to sit the computer-based exam from own computer e.g. at home or at work.

Candidates are supervised remotely by invigilators/supervisors throughout the exam.

Candidates require the following to sit a exam by this method:

- A quiet, secure environment – a room where candidate can take the exam without interruption.
- A PC or laptop computer with a reliable internet connection, webcam and microphone. Must have permissions to install software. Multiple screens are not permitted.
- Candidate mobile phone must be within reach in the room where sitting the exam. The phone is for registration/technical support purposes only.

A quiet, secure environment means:

- A room to which you have exclusive access (single occupancy - not shared)
- A room that does not have integrated security cameras, or any recording equipment, other than the webcam on PC or laptop
- Candidate is confident he/she will not be disturbed during the examination, e.g. by traffic, construction work, or people

For more information about remote invigilation visit <https://www.rcpi.ie/examinations/remote-invigilation/>

The MRCPI Part II OSCE/Clinical exam is held in Dublin, and in a number of overseas centres. Please check the examinations calendar for examination centres and dates.

## **2.5 Preparation for MRCPI Examinations**

All MRCPI examinations are conducted in the English language. For further information please check our website [www.rcpi.ie](http://www.rcpi.ie).

## **2.6 Part II Guideline Syllabus**

There is a guideline syllabus to assist with the preparation for the MRCPI Part II Obstetrics & Gynaecology. The guidelines present a framework of topics which should be covered, but it is not intended to be inclusive and candidates should not limit their studies solely to these topics.

### **Syllabus for Part II MRCPI (Obstetrics & Gynaecology) Examination**

Candidates are expected to have a comprehensive knowledge of obstetrics and gynaecology, together with those aspects of other medical disciplines relevant to the practice of both. Although already tested in the Part I Examination (or its equivalent exempting Examinations) on their knowledge of the scientific foundations of the specialty, candidates are expected to show an ability to apply this knowledge to the management of clinical problems, in addition to their knowledge of practical procedures.

#### **Genetics and Embryology**

Comprehensive knowledge of normal and abnormal karyotypes, the inheritance of genetic disorders, the genetic causes of infertility and early abortion, as well as the ability to transmit this knowledge to patients, to discuss its implications as well as any ethical dilemmas.

#### **Anatomy**

Comprehensive knowledge of anatomy particularly relevant to surgical procedures undertaken by the obstetrician and gynaecologist.

#### **Pathology, Biochemistry and Endocrinology**

Thorough knowledge of the pathology of the female genital tract and associated structures. Sound understanding of biochemistry of mother and fetus. Whilst knowledge of all endocrine organs is required, extensive knowledge is expected of endocrine organs relevant to reproductive medicine.

## **Pharmacology**

Comprehensive knowledge of all aspects of pharmacology with particular reference to those drugs used in obstetrics and gynaecology.

## **Immunology**

Candidates should be expected to understand basic immunology and how this may be changed in pregnancy; development of the immune system in the fetus, with particular knowledge of rhesus and other isoimmunisations.

## **Infectious disease**

Comprehensive knowledge of infectious diseases which may affect pregnant and non-pregnant women, including the fetus in utero. Knowledge of epidemiology, diagnostic techniques, prophylaxis, and immunisation, including the use of antibiotics and antiviral agents.

## **Obstetrics**

Proficiency in history taking and physical examination in obstetrics. Detailed knowledge of common obstetric procedures.

## **Normal pregnancy labour and puerperium**

Knowledge of all maternal and fetal systems. Comprehensive knowledge of antenatal care, its aims and method of implementation. Knowledge of intrapartum care should include in-depth knowledge of obstetric analgesia and anaesthesia.

## **Abnormal pregnancy, labour and puerperium**

Clear knowledge of all aspects of abnormality in pregnancy, labour and puerperium is expected, together with their management. Detailed knowledge of neonatal resuscitation is mandatory.

## **Pre- and post-pregnancy counselling**

Candidates should demonstrate their ability to advise patients regarding any aspect of obstetric or gynaecological disease.

## **Maternal and Fetal Medicine**

Candidates are expected to be familiar with definitions and concepts, and to be conversant with confidential enquiries and other reports/guidelines relevant to obstetric practice.

## **Gynaecology**

Proficiency in history taking and physical examination in gynaecology. Detailed knowledge of all basic gynaecological procedures is required. Candidates will be expected to have knowledge of more complicated procedures, e.g. in oncology or reproductive medicine, but proficiency in these areas will not be expected.

## **Prepubertal gynaecology**

Thorough knowledge of normal and abnormal sexual development, paediatric pathology and its management, normal puberty and its disorders.

## **Disorders of menstruation and the menopause**

In-depth understanding of pathophysiology of menstrual disorders, their investigation and management. The menopause.

## **Infertility**

Causes, investigation and management of infertility together with basic knowledge in the techniques involved in assisted human reproduction.

## **Family Planning**

All methods of contraception should be thoroughly understood.

## **Psychosexual Medicine**

A thorough understanding of the principles of psychosexual medicine is required.

## **Gynaecological Oncology**

The epidemiology and aetiology of gynaecological tumours. The principles of carcinogenesis, tumour immunology and pathology together with diagnostic techniques and staging of gynaecological tumours is essential. Basic principles of treatment, both surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy together with knowledge of terminal care of patients dying from gynaecological malignancy. Screening for malignant disease in gynaecology, including cervical cytology and colposcopy.

## **Urogynaecology**

Knowledge of normal and abnormal bladder function, including urodynamics and the common urogynaecological procedures.

## **Statistics and Epidemiology**

Candidates will be expected to be familiar with common statistical methods used in clinical research and of epidemiological investigations relevant to the specialties of obstetrics, gynaecology, family planning and neonatal medicine.



# 3. How to enter the MRCPI Part II Obstetrics & Gynaecology Examination

## 3.1 Method of application

All examination application forms, together with supplemental documentation listed below, and payment must be completed online. The method of payment is by credit/debit cards.

Applications will not be accepted by the College after the published closing date.

Candidates must upload certified copies of their original diplomas (first-time entrants only) of Medical Qualification, which must be adjudged to be satisfactory to the College. Copy diplomas must be attested, on the front side, by:

- An Garda Síochána (Irish police force)
- The issuing University or Medical School
- A solicitor/ notary public/ lawyer
- A Commissioner for oaths
- An Irish or British Consulate
- Your Embassy or High Commissioner

The receipt of the retention fee issued by the Medical Council is not acceptable as evidence of registration.

Diplomas in a language other than English must be accompanied by an official translation. Official translations will only be accepted if they have been prepared and/or authenticated by:

- the issuing University or Medical School
- Irish or British Consulate
- the candidate's own Embassy or High Commissioner

Candidates must submit the following documents when applying:

- Attested/Certified copy of original diploma of Medical Qualification
  - Attested/Certified copy of MRCOG Part I Pass letter
  - Testimonial form signed by two doctors of five years standing
- (Note: re-entrants need only apply and pay appropriate fee)

The candidate's full name must be given at the time of entry to the examination and must agree with the name(s) given on Medical Council documentation. The name you provide will be used on all official correspondence (such as diplomas, qualifications and certificates) issued by RCPI. Candidates who change their name(s) by marriage or deed poll must upload documentary proof of this, if they wish to be admitted to the examination in their new name.

NOTE: For those applying for the MRCPI OSCE/Clinical examination, no documentation is required at application, as you would have already submitted these when applying for the MRCPI Part II O&G Written examination.

## 3.2 Visas

If a candidate requires a visa to sit an examination, it is the responsibility of the individual to ensure the visa application is made in sufficient time before the examination date for which it has been sought. The College has no influence in granting or refusing visas. A refund will not be given if a candidate is unable to attend the examination as a result of a visa related problem.

## 3.3 Examination fees

The fees payable on entry to the MRCPI Part II Obstetrics & Gynaecology exam are published annually.

No application to sit an examination will be accepted unless the appropriate fee has been paid.

## 3.4 Withdrawal from the examination

Notice of withdrawal from an examination must be given in writing to the College. A refund less 10% will be made if written notice of withdrawal is received by the College on or before the closing date of entry to the examination. Refunds will not be made where candidates submit their withdrawal request after the closing date. For Written examinations, candidates may request a deferral of their application to the next diet, for a fee of €100. No fee will be held over to a future OSCE/Clinical examination unless there are exceptional extenuating circumstances. For further details, please see the [RCPI Cancellation Policy](#).

## 3.5 Cancellation Policy

RCPI reserves the right to cancel, reschedule the date, or change the location of an exam. In the event of a reschedule or cancellation by RCPI, the College will endeavour to inform all applicants at least six weeks prior to the exam date. If an exam is cancelled or rescheduled by RCPI, candidates will be offered a full refund or option to transfer to another date if applicable. For further details, please see the [RCPI Cancellation Policy](#).

## 3.6 Examination Registration

### Written Exams:

For remote invigilation, all candidates will be emailed approximately 10 days in advance of the examination date by our Exam provider. This email will contain the candidate's login credentials and instructions to download the Exam Application on the device the candidate will use to take their examination. A follow up email is sent 2 or 3 days later confirming the date and start time of the candidate's examination. The start time of the examination is based on the candidate's location and time settings on their device. The candidate is instructed to login to the application and test their devices, webcam, microphone and speakers. The candidate is also instructed to book a time slot to start their examination. **This step must be completed at least 72 hours before the exam**, or the candidate will not be able to start the exam.

On the day of the examination candidates are instructed to login into the Exam Application at least 15 minutes before their exam start time. This is to allow time to connect with the invigilator/supervisor and to complete the pre-validation process before beginning the examination. Please take a careful note of this time as any candidates who arrive or login after their allocated registration time, **will not be permitted to take the examination**.

### All Exams:

Candidates will be admitted to the examination under the names (surname and first name(s)) as given in the current edition of the Medical Register of Ireland or of the United Kingdom or on their original medical registration certificates or diplomas of medical qualification or official translations of the diplomas. The last name will be taken as the surname. Passport, equivalent national identity card or driver's licence must be produced at all parts of each examination.

For the purposes of visual identification, any candidate sitting the examination will be required to remove any clothing and/or other item which covers all, or part of, the candidate's face. The College will observe sensitivity and, in specific circumstances, privacy in the visual identification of candidates.

# 4. MRCPI Obstetrics & Gynaecology Part II Examination Format

## 4.1 Format

Candidates are examined in obstetrics and gynaecology and also tested on their knowledge of medical subjects relevant to clinical practice, in a Single Best Answer (SBA) style paper, OSCE and a clinical examination.

### MRCPI Part II O&G Written Examination

The examination is 3 hours in duration and consists of one Single Best Answer (SBA) style paper containing 100 questions to answer. **The examination is conducted remotely via computer based testing.**

Each question is equally weighted. There is no negative marking, so you are strongly advised to give a considered response to every question.

### MRCPI Part II O&G OSCE/Clinical Examination

The Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) consists of seven active stations, each of ten minutes duration, including interactive stations. There is a 2 minute rest period in between each station. This examination tests factual knowledge and understanding, problem solving skills, diagnosis, investigation, treatment, clinical skills and communication skills.

The Clinical Examination consists of the presentation and discussion of one long clinical case in either obstetrics OR gynaecology. The candidate has 25 minutes fully observed by two examiners to take a history, examine the patient and discuss the case with the examiners.

A pass in the OSCE/Clinical Examination is mandatory and is achieved by satisfying the following conditions:

- Obtain the minimum pass mark for skills which have been pre-set
- Obtain the overall minimum pass mark which is determined by the Board 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 a minimum number of stations required
- Pass Clinical
- Non adherence to WHO hand hygiene standards will result in an automatic fail in the clinical examination

Candidates who fail the OSCE/Clinical examination, must re-take this component of the examination. Candidates will be notified of their result by email only. In no circumstances will the result be given by telephone. Examination results will be published within four weeks of the examination.

## 5. Code of Conduct

This code shall apply to all candidates for examinations of the College. Candidates should note by applying to enter to sit an examination they are deemed to have understood and agreed to comply by this code. Misconduct includes, but is not restricted to:

- 5.1 Introduction into any examination of materials other than those specifically permitted for the examination.
- 5.2 Any attempt to communicate with another candidate or any person other than an invigilator/supervisor.
- 5.3 Any attempt to gain access to or plagiarise the work of another candidate.
- 5.4 Any attempt to gain or pass on information with regard to the content of the examination in advance of the date of the examination.
- 5.5 Impersonation of a candidate.
- 5.6 Bribery of another candidate or examination official.
- 5.7 Unacceptable or disruptive behaviour during an examination.
- 5.8 Failure to abide by the instructions of an invigilator/supervisor or other examination official.
- 5.9 Falsification or alteration of any results document or qualification.

### 5.1.1 Report procedure

Suspected misconduct may be reported to the College by examiners, invigilators/supervisors, candidates, patients and any other person who becomes aware of suspected misconduct.

Where an invigilator/supervisor suspects a candidate of violation of examination rules and guidelines, they will:

- (a) Confiscate any unauthorised material in the possession of the candidate.
- (b) Make a note of the time when the alleged infringement was discovered.
- (c) Allow the candidate(s) to continue the examination.
- (d) For a remote invigilation exam, the invigilator may terminate the candidate's exam session in the case of major violations of the exam rules, such as leaving the room without authorisation or communicating with unauthorised persons.
- (e) Inform the candidate(s) at the end of the examination that a written report of the incident will be submitted to the Director of Examinations.

- (f) Within one working day of the examination, the invigilator/supervisor will submit a written report on the alleged infringement.

## 5.1.2 Investigation procedure

The Director of Examinations will review the report of the alleged case of misconduct and will determine whether there is sufficient evidence of a case to be answered after consulting with other members of College staff where necessary. In cases deemed to be of a very minor or technical nature, a letter of reprimand will be issued, and no further action is taken.

In all other cases the Director of Examinations will inform the candidate in writing of the allegations that have been made about them within 10 working days of receiving a report of alleged misconduct. The candidate will be invited to reply to the allegation of misconduct.

The candidate will provide their response in writing to the allegation within 10 working days from the date of the Director of Examinations letter. If no response is received within 10 working days, a warning letter will be sent. If no response to this warning letter is received within another 10 working days, the file will be sent to the College Executive for a final decision along with a recommendation of an appropriate penalty.

Where a candidate admits in writing to the allegations, full details of the case shall be passed to the College Executive to formally consider the case. The candidate will have the opportunity to include with their response a written statement which may be considered by the Executive. On full review of the case, the Executive will make a final decision, together with a recommendation of an appropriate penalty. The candidate will be notified of the Executive's decision in writing.

## 6. Adapted Examination Arrangements

Any candidate who has a physical disability, learning disability or any other special need that they believe could affect their performance in an examination, may be entitled to adapted examination arrangements. The purpose of any specific arrangement is to compensate for any restrictions imposed by a disability without impairing the validity of the examination. All such candidates should inform the Examinations Department at the time of application of their circumstances in writing, together with a consultant's report to support their application. Failure to include this information at the time of application may affect the arrangements that can be put in place in time for the examination. The information provided is treated strictly confidentially. For further details, see [Reasonable Adjustments Policy for RCPI Exams](#) on the RCPI website.

# 7. Examination Results

The College processes the marking of the MRCPI General Medicine examination as quickly as possible, consistent with ensuring accuracy, fairness and a stable pass standard.

For Written exams, data files containing candidates' answers are downloaded securely from our exam provider to RCPI, where they are verified and scored against an answer key. Mathematical performance indicators are then calculated and scrutinised by the Board, to confirm the fairness of every question. The pass mark is approved by the Board of Examiners. Every effort is made to inform candidates of their result before the closing date for receipt of applications for the next available MRCPI Part II Written examination or MRCPI Part II Clinical examination, as appropriate, although admittance to that examination cannot be guaranteed.

For clinical exams, individual feedback letters giving detailed breakdown of performance are prepared for those who do not pass the examination.

- Examination results will be sent as an email attachment to candidates approximately four working weeks after the date of the examination. Under no circumstances will examination results be given over the telephone, by fax, or by visiting the College in person.
- Please refrain from telephoning or emailing the College regarding your result during this period, as this will delay the process.

## 7.1 Recheck procedure and appeals policy

Candidates can request a recheck of their examination results in the Part I or Part II Written MRCPI examination. There is a fee of €150 for this procedure. This charge will be refunded if a recheck changes the overall examination result to a pass mark. Exam marks are generated by a rigorous process with multiple safeguards, and are also reviewed by the Examinations Board before the results are released. Given the nature of single best answer questions, the quality assurance measures undertaken by the Board, and the exam being conducted via computer based testing, the margin for error is negligible and therefore it is highly unlikely that a recheck will result in a change to an exam result.

Please complete the recheck application form, available by email from [exams@rcpi.ie](mailto:exams@rcpi.ie) and return to the Examinations Department within four weeks of the results release date.

As the Clinical examination is a 'live' exam there is no facility for re-checking Clinical Examination results/grading. However should a candidate wish to get clarification of their detailed feedback letter

they should contact the examinations department directly by email ([exams@rcpi.ie](mailto:exams@rcpi.ie)) within 10 working days of result letter issue.

Please see our [appeals policy](#) for more details.