

## **Update for International MRCPCH Candidates**

We want to thank all of our overseas candidates for the amount of patience and understanding you have shown the College as we work to move forward with exams during the Covid pandemic. We have some updates to share with you below.

We have successfully run two diets worth of MRCPCH Covid Adapted Clinical online exams for UK trainees, in November 2020 and February 2021 as well as one diet of the DCH Clinical exam in October 2020. While the exams have been completed successfully, they have allowed us to understand how labour intensive the preparation and running of these exams are in contrast to running face to face exams, where the work is devolved to each country's host centre. We have realised we would be unable to deliver multiple online country-specific overseas exams across the rest of 2021.

We have been in regular contact with our overseas leads and partners about options for delivering the MRCPCH Clinical Exam overseas. The situation in each country as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic varies, and has changed within countries over time as well. After concluding the first UK online clinical exam in November, and recognising the amount of time it took to prepare and run it, we again reached out to our overseas leads and hosts to survey their thoughts and opinions about how to move forward with the MRCPCH Clinical Exam overseas. We have provided a summary of where things stand for overseas exams below.

### **Far East**

Arrangements are being finalised and application windows have opened for the MRCPCH Clinical exams scheduled in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong to be held in May or early June. We have worked closely with the Far East leads to determine the best path forward for their exams. All three centres are holding some variant of a face-to-face exam. The decision to run face-to-face exams in these three countries has been taken by the local leads and is upon local conditions and the relevant permissions from authorities.

### **Deferred 2020 Bookings in Nepal/Jeddah/UAE/Egypt/Sudan**

We will shortly be sending out a survey to review the feasibility of running online exams for all candidates who had been allocated a seat and paid for their exams for early 2020. We would ask that all candidates who receive this survey please complete it in full and as soon as you can. These candidates have been waiting patiently for over a year to sit the exam for which they secured a seat and made payment. They will be prioritised for any online overseas exams we will attempt to run.

### **All Other Countries**

Candidates from all other countries have patiently continued to wait for the College to determine how we can run the exams overseas while Covid continues to pose a risk and where we cannot return to face-to-face exams in the short term. We know many of you have applied for the UK MRCPCH Covid Adapted Clinical exams and not obtained a seat. Because of the labour-intensive nature of preparing for and running the online adapted exam, we can only run 10 days at a time, which means there are fewer seats available. This means we do not currently have extra seats for overseas candidates.

We have gained considerable experience and knowledge from running the first two diets of the online UK Clinical exam. While we understand your frustration at not being among the first overseas group who might be offered a chance to sit the exam online, we hope you understand we must prioritise the deferred overseas candidates. If we are able to successfully run online overseas exams for these candidates, that will open the door for us to possibly start running the MRCPCH Covid Adapted exam for other overseas candidates.

We wanted to assure you that we are all still committed to face-to-face, patient-based clinical exam delivery at this point. We understand that real encounters with patients with real problems will always be a better, more authentic test of these very important competencies that we would expect paediatric trainees be able to demonstrate. In the meantime we have to look at ways to both meet the current demands and provide the best assessment we can with the limitations we currently all face.

We also want to assure all overseas candidates who are nearing the end of their 7-year registration period, that we will continue to extend their registrations while their ability to take the exam is negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

We will continue to update candidates as we have more information, so please continue to check our websites, Twitter feed and Facebook stories. In the meantime, any candidate who wishes to learn more about the MRCPCH Covid Adapted Exam (online) please visit the web page below.

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/mrcpch-covid-adapted-clinical-exam-information-hub>