

**Appendix L - Temporary derogation to RCPCH regulations and rules for MRCPCH and DCH examinations: 2021**



**TEMPORARY DEROGATION TO RCPCH REGULATIONS AND RULES FOR MRCPCH AND DCH EXAMINATIONS: 2021**

Temporary derogation to RCPCH regulations and rules for MRCPCH and DCH examinations – 2021

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## Revision History

Version	Date	Author	Comments
1.0	July 2020	Examinations Manager	Published Policy
1.1	October 2020	Examinations Manager	Published Policy
1.2	March 2021	Examinations Manager	Published Policy

**Review date:** November 2020 and then every year thereafter during the relevant Examinations Executive Committee

**Approval:** Examinations Executive Committee, July 2020

Name	Date	Version	Comments
Examinations Executive Committee	July 2020	1.0	
Examinations Executive Committee	September 2020	1.1	
Examinations Executive Committee	March 2021	1.2	

## Relevant Policies, Templates and Forms:

The following policies, procedures and guidance should be used or referred to alongside this document. All policies and templates are available on the RCPCH website once finalised and approved.

Name	Version	Date
MRCPCH and DCH: Regulations and Rules	2.2	August 2019

## **Temporary derogation to RCPCH regulations and rules for MRCPCH and DCH examinations – 2021**

These derogations are applicable from 1 July 2020 and are to be carried throughout 2021 with the possibility of a further extension if required. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the College has undertaken a review of the current rules and regulations in relation to changes to examination delivery and content required during this period.

The RCPCH recognises the challenges that the pandemic has placed on our trainees and examination candidates both in the UK and overseas. In response to this and acknowledging that some existing practical guidance contained within the rules and regulations required amendment, the College has agreed a number of temporary changes and derogations to the following policies and appendices associated with 'Regulations and rules for MRCPCH and DCH examinations'.

### **Regulations and rules for MRCPCH and DCH examinations**

#### **Examination rules**

##### **Conduct of the examinations**

- (a) Candidates, when making their first entry to the examinations, must submit their original medical registration certificates or diplomas of medical qualifications (primary medical qualification) unless their names appear in the current annual edition of the Medical Register of the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. Photocopies, scans and/or official translations will only be accepted if they have been prepared or authenticated by the issuing University or Medical School.

*All candidates currently practicing medicine must provide details of their medical regulator and licensing number either at registration or upon application to sit any MRCPCH or DCH examination via online invigilation.*

- (f) Any invigilator or examiner present shall be empowered to refuse to allow a candidate to continue with an examination only in certain extreme circumstances. Examples of reasons that may be deemed to be sufficient include:
- where the candidate causes disruption during their examination to the extent that they cause distress or alarm to other candidates, test centre staff or patients/role-players/parents
  - should they cause any harm to other candidates, test centre staff or patients/role-players/parents.

- *should the invigilator deem that there is evidence of a candidate attempting to copy or share any RCPCH examination content electronically or otherwise.*
- *should the invigilator or examiner deem that there is evidence of a candidate behaving in a dishonest manner.*

## **Currency of MRCPCH examination**

### **Appendix E - Currency and number of attempts in MRCPCH examinations**

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all eligible candidates received an automatic 12-month extension to their seven-year registration period, as long as that period had begun (i.e. that a candidate has passed all of their theory exams).*

*Eligible MRCPCH Clinical examination candidates who have not been able to secure a place to sit their examinations and are waitlisted will automatically receive a one diet extension to their 7 years in order to ensure that they are not disadvantaged.*

*For UK trainees, any examinations taken between 1 September and 31 December 2020 were not counted towards their total number of attempts for that examination. This derogation was applicable to the September AKP, October FOP/TAS and November MRCPCH Clinical examinations being held in 2020.*

## **General information - MRCPCH / DCH theory examinations**

### **Entry to the examination test centre**

*Due to social distancing requirements in place to ensure candidate safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, RCPCH test centres will be implementing a range of measures. This includes the mandatory wearing of masks and ID checks being undertaken in separate rooms. In some test centres, candidates may be required to undertake a temperature check. Details of social distancing measures being undertaken by test centres for theory examination can be found [here](#).*

## **General information - MRCPCH Clinical / DCH Clinical examinations**

### **Entry to the examination test centre**

**Under no circumstances will candidates be permitted to participate in the examination for either the MRCPCH or DCH OSCE after the start of the examination circuit. It is the candidate's responsibility to allow for any potential technical checks and to schedule appropriate time for setting up their workspace in readiness to access the exam remote delivery platform.**

**All candidates must have appropriate ID with them in order to verify their identity. A current passport or driving license are acceptable forms of ID.**

*Candidates will not be allowed to participate in the examination unless they have valid ID with them.*

## **Appendix B - Process for cases of suspected malpractice in college examinations v 2.2**

### **Process for managing allegations of candidate malpractice in RCPCH examinations**

1.2 In this examination review process, malpractice means acting improperly or dishonestly in relation to a College examination with the aim of gaining an unfair advantage for any person. *With changes being made to the methods in which examinations are delivered within remote/online platforms candidates, invigilators and examiners are required to note the following examples. They include but are not limited to:*

- Engaging or colluding in copying or communicating with another candidate during the examination
- Improperly obtaining or sharing the questions/scenarios before or after the examination
- The use of electronic devices such as mobile phones, MP3 players, smart watches, other electrical devices etc. during the examination. *For online invigilated theory examinations, the mobile phone being used as the secondary recording device is permitted. For online MRCPCH/DCH Clinical exams, the mobile device used to show admissions documents and to maintain contact with the Exams team is permitted.*
- Impersonation, soliciting impersonation or falsifying entry criteria or qualifications.
- Being dishonest about your experience, qualifications and current role
- Bribing or attempting to bribe an invigilator, examiner or RCPCH staff member
- Attempting to influence or corrupt results processing
- The use of notes in any form during the examination; including notes written on body parts, clothes, water bottles and other objects, as well as paper.
- Continuing to write or give answers after the allotted time
- Attempting to gain or share examination content prior to or after the exam being held
- Any other form of cheating, deception, fraud or conduct that is likely to give an unfair advantage to a candidate or candidates
- Aiding or abetting any of the above

## **Appendix D - MRCPCH and DCH candidate identification policy v.1.1**

### **Candidate ID check**

Candidates taking their theory or clinical examination through online/remote delivery methods will be asked to produce their admissions document and identification and to display this so that it can be viewed through their web camera on their laptop or PC; this is acceptable in both paper and on screen / electronic format (presented on phone or notebook).

## **Late arrival:**

### ***Theory Examinations***

If a candidate has not completed their sign in, environment check/room set-up, and system checks, following the guidance requirements for online invigilated theory exams before their scheduled examination start time they may not be permitted to sit their examination. Candidates who are late in completion of the above will only be permitted to take their exam at the sole discretion of the RCPCH.

The examination start time will not be delayed for latecomers and those arriving late must also have their ID checked and complete the exam setup before they can commence the examination. RCPCH theory examination candidates who arrive after the start of the examination will not be admitted once the exam has begun.

For theory examinations the time that the candidate registers and submits their PIN code will be recorded.

### ***Clinical Examinations***

If a candidate has not undertaken an environment check/room set-up, and system check, following the guidance requirements for remote clinical exams, as well as attended the pre-circuit candidate briefing, before their scheduled examination start time they may not be permitted to sit their examination. Candidates who are late in completion of the above will only be permitted to take their exam at the sole discretion of the RCPCH. The examination start time will not be delayed for latecomers.

### ***Additional Information related to on screen / electronic format admission documents***

If you are intending to use electronic versions of your admission document please note:

- ***Theory Examination Candidates:*** Other than the mobile device being used as the secondary recording device for online theory exam invigilation when sitting a theory examination, candidates are not permitted to have other mobile devices including smart watches on their person during the

examination. If you are planning on using an electronic version of your admissions document this must be presented on the secondary recording device only.

If you have any additional electronic devices on your person these must be securely locked away / kept securely with your other belongings in another room outside and away from your workstation. If you are found to have any banned electronic devices in your possession during the examination this may lead to your disqualification from the examination. Candidates must ensure that any/all other electronic devices other than those being used as a secondary recording device for theory exam online invigilation are switched off as to not create a distraction to you during your examination.

- **Clinical Examination Candidates:** Candidates are permitted to have one electronic device other than the device used to sit their examination in order to display an electronic version of their examination admission document.
- **DCH Clinical Examination Candidate only:** DCH candidates are permitted to use a mobile device to access BNFC app for the Safe Prescribing station only and to display an electronic version of their examination admission document. The mobile device must not be used or referred to during any other DCH Clinical Examination station.

Other than for the purposes outlined above, candidates must not use any electronic device during their examination except in order to contact the Examinations Team in an emergency. All Clinical Examination candidates must switch their mobile devices to silent once any admissions documents are checked.

## **Appendix C - Reasonable Adjustments Policy for RCPCH Examinations v.1.0**

### **Annex 3: MRCPCH/DCH - Information for Disability Assessors/suitable professional providing supporting evidence**

Disability Assessors and other suitable professionals providing supporting evidence are asked to read the relevant sections of the RCPCH Exams web pages in relation to the changes to remote delivery methods being made during the Covid-19 pandemic period. It is possible that these changes may still be in place for examinations delivered into 2021.

Please continue to check for updates on the RCPCH examinations web pages,

## **Appendix K - MRCPH/DCH Code of Conduct for Examination Candidates v.1.1**

### **Interacting with patients**

*Candidates for the MRCPCH and DCH clinical examinations would normally be expected to interact with real patients. Due to the changes being made during the Covid-19 pandemic period some stations will now include role-players and other methods will be employed to test the relevant clinical exam domains/stations*

*It will still however be important that candidates should maintain an awareness of patient comfort and safety at all times during the examination. Candidates are reminded of the importance of highlighting the need for verbal consent from patients prior to examining them or in relation to the steps that they would be expected to take when examining a patient. The dignity and modesty of all patients must be respected at all times.*

### **Interacting with other candidates and test centre staff (Theory and Clinical exam centres)**

*Candidates must observe the appropriate hygiene and social distancing protocols, specifically regarding hand washing and PPE that are provided by the Exams Team/specific test centre.*

### **Academic misconduct**

The RCPCH Examinations Team remind all examination candidates to read the Misconduct policy and that the policy includes these examples of academic misconduct:

- the introduction into any examination of any materials, audio or communication devices (including mobile phones and 'smart' watches), *other than those specifically permitted for the examination;*
- any attempt to remove materials or content from an examination other than those specifically permitted, except by a person with authority to do so;
- the use of any recording equipment (including all photographic, video and audio recording equipment) *other than those specifically permitted for the examination;*
- any attempt to release content from any examination to a third party/commercial organisation;
- any attempt to communicate with another candidate;
- any attempt to gain access to, read or copy the work of another candidate;
- any attempt to gain or pass on information about the contents of the examination (written or clinical) in advance of the date of the examination;
- impersonation or attempted impersonation of a candidate;
- bribery (of another candidate, examination official, actual or simulated patient);
- failure to abide by the reasonable instructions of an invigilator or other examination official, or breaching of Examination Regulations;

- falsification or alteration of any results document or qualification;
- any other form of cheating or conduct likely to give an unfair advantage to the candidate or others;
- aiding or abetting any of the above.

With the introduction of online invigilation, the Exams Team are now able to review candidate's examination footage in detail and undertake full audits in order to detect any potential misconduct. Candidates may receive correspondence from the Exams Team to highlight any concerns that we have identified regarding any candidates conduct. Where there are serious concerns the malpractice policy will still apply.

### **Copyright and use of materials**

The RCPCH assumes the copyright of all materials prepared for any part of the MRCPCH and DCH examinations. Candidates must not discuss, publish or in any other way attempt to share any material which they have encountered in the MRCPCH and DCH examinations.