

## [Limit on Attempts Policy FAQs](#)

### **Does this policy apply to international candidates?**

Yes, the MRCP(UK) Diploma and Specialty Certificate Examinations provide an international benchmark for postgraduate medical education and applying the policy to all candidates ensures the same standard and fairness worldwide.

### **If I am absent from an examination, will it count as an attempt?**

If a candidate has not attended the examination and is recorded as absent, this will be recorded as one attempt. A withdrawal (as defined by paragraph 3.10 of the [MRCP\(UK\) Regulations](#)) will not be considered as an attempt.

### **What will happen to candidates who have already had more than six attempts?**

Candidates who have had six or more attempts at any examination (e.g., Part 1, Part 2 Written, PACES, or SCEs) by the end of 2023 will not be eligible to attempt the examination again. Candidates can apply for an exceptional additional attempt. The candidate's educational supervisor will be required to confirm that the candidate has demonstrated an improvement in knowledge and skills to that a pass result is highly likely at the next attempt. Candidates will not be permitted any further attempts if they fail the additional attempt.

### **What will be required to gain the exceptional additional attempt if I have already had six or more attempts?**

Candidates applying for an exceptional attempt after their sixth attempt at any part of the MRCP(UK) or SCE will be required to submit a form signed by their educational supervisor and Training Programme Director (or equivalents) confirming that sufficient educational progress has been made to merit a subsequent attempt.

The process is intended to place the responsibility on candidates to discuss their past and subsequent examination attempts with their educational supervisor. This should enable them to locate areas of persistent weakness and implement an educational plan designed to target these areas with a view to enabling the candidate to pass. The nature of the activities will depend on the educational needs of the candidate, and would likely contain a mix of private study, in service training, and more formal teaching.

Candidates should read the guidance on the MRCP(UK) website about when to take examinations and discuss decisions about when to sit with their educational supervisor.

Candidates cannot request additional attempts based on exceptional circumstances. The MRCP(UK) Regulations make clear that any candidate who sits an examination is declaring themselves fit to sit and the attempt cannot be expunged if they complete the examination. Candidates have a right to withdraw from an examination up until it starts. Any candidate who was unable to complete their examination for a health reason or believes their performance in an examination was affected by some other exceptional circumstance should inform MRCP(UK) about this as soon as possible after the examination.

Requests for an additional attempt will be reviewed by the MRCP(UK) Regulatory Sub-Group, whose decision will be final.

### **What happens to candidates nearing the end of their eligibility period?**

All candidates will still be subject to the 7-year eligibility rule. The number of attempts does not reset if a candidate is unable to complete the MRCP(UK) Diploma within seven years of passing Part 1. If a candidate is required to sit Part 1 again, then they must complete all parts of the Diploma again and within a further seven years.

**I have received a late diagnosis of a condition that requires reasonable adjustments after starting the examination. How will the change to the policy affect me?**

Candidates who have made attempts at any part of the examination, and subsequently receive a diagnosis indicating the need to receive adjustments when sitting in future, should contact MRCP(UK) to inform them ([reasonableadjustments@mrcpuk.org](mailto:reasonableadjustments@mrcpuk.org)).

Candidates who receive a late diagnosis of a condition should apply for reasonable adjustments following the process outlined on the [MRCP\(UK\) website](#).