

MRCP(UK) PACES Clinical Examination

Information for patients at Stations 1 and 3

Thank you for taking part in this examination.

Your name:

Where the exam is taking place (please note this may be in a different part of the hospital from the areas you have previously attended):

When (day, date and time):

Name and contact number of the examination organiser:

If for any reason you are unable to help on the agreed day, it is important that you let the organiser know as soon as possible, so alternative arrangements can be made for the examination.

General information about the exam

Doctors in training take the MRCP(UK) exam two or more years after qualifying as a doctor. Those who pass become Members of the Royal College of Physicians and can continue training to become a consultant.

The exam is taken in several parts at different times. This part of the exam is called Practical Assessment of Clinical Examination Skills (PACES), where the ability of doctors to communicate effectively and examine patients is tested. The doctors (referred to here as candidates) taking this exam rotate around a number of different testing areas (known as stations) within the examination centre. You have kindly agreed to help with station 1 or 3.

Your station is designed to test the candidate's ability to examine you properly and identify any abnormalities. They will then be asked some questions by the examiners

What will happen before the exam?

- You will be contacted by the exam organiser who will explain what is involved.
- Remember to keep this confidential **before and after the exam**.
- You will not be required to give any history to the candidates.
- You will be told how many candidates will examine you.
- You will have the opportunity to clarify with the organiser anything you are unsure about before the exam.

What happens on the day?

You will be told the time and place beforehand. Read the information carefully. The exam may not be held in the place you attend for hospital appointments.

- Arrive in plenty of time and switch off your mobile phone.
- Be prepared to be physically examined. Please wear clothes that make it easy for the candidates to access the relevant part or parts of your body.
- You will meet the two examiners, both senior doctors, who will explain what the candidates will do and what the physical examination involves. If you are unsure about anything, ask before or after the exam but not while it is taking place.
- The examiners will examine you to agree what the candidate should find.

What happens during the exam?

- The examiners will show the candidate a short written instruction telling them to examine a particular area (for example the chest or the joints).
- Candidates are given 6 minutes to examine you. Please be ready to be seen as soon as they arrive.
- Candidates should be gentle and considerate with you.
- Candidates and examiners will maintain your privacy.
- The examiners usually don't speak while the candidates are examining you. They will question them after the physical examination has ended.

- You might have to wait between candidates. Please feel free to bring something to read or a personal MP3 player.

What else should I know?

- Occasionally trainee examiners or observers may be present for part of the exam. They will be introduced to you and their role explained.
- Do not be alarmed by anything you hear from the candidates. Their comments may not relate to your case, or may be completely wrong!
- Candidates may be asked about other clinical matters such as tests or possible complications. Again, anything they say may not apply to you and may be wrong.
- If you are worried about anything, please ask the examiners when no candidates are present.
- Nurses are available if you need help with dressing or undressing, going to the toilet, taking medication or if you have other problems.
- Refreshments will be provided. Please let us know beforehand if you have any special physical or dietary needs.
- We will refund any reasonable travel expenses to or from the exam. You will be given a claim form on the day of the exam. (Please provide receipts).
- Please let us know if you'd like us to book transport or arrange parking.
- Please let us know in advance if you will require a chaperone to be present during the examinations.

We are interested in your feedback in order to improve future examinations so if you would complete the questions below (or speak to the organiser) that would be very helpful.

1. Did you have enough information about the exam, and the part you are playing in it, beforehand?

Yes / No

If no, or if you have other comments related to the information you received, please write below:

2. Were your questions or concerns addressed sufficiently well on the day of the exam?

Yes / No

If no, or if you have any other comments relating to help and information given on the day of the exam, **especially anything you did not understand**, please write below:

3. Finally, if you have any other comments, perhaps relating to aspects that you enjoyed, or found difficult, please note them here:

Thank you again for taking part in this important exam. We hope you have an interesting and enjoyable day.