

MRCPI Part II Clinical (GM) Examination Information for candidates

Updated for COVID-19 (Full Changes Listed Below)

The MRCPI Part II clinical GM examination is the third of three assessments which must be successfully completed to become a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI). It is a clinical examination for post-graduate doctors. The purpose of this examination is to:

1. Provide an exit examination from Basic Specialist Training,
2. Satisfy the application requirement to entry into Higher Specialist Training and
3. Select Members of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

It comprises of three elements:

- 2 x 25 minute Long Cases
- 4 x 10 minute Short Clinical Cases
- 1 x 10 minute Short Communication Skills/Ethics Case

Long Cases

- Each candidate will perform 2 long cases.
- Each long case will be 25 minutes duration.
- Each long case will be observed by one consultant examiner.
- The long case will be similar to an outpatient encounter, or a clinical assessment of a patient in a Medical Admissions Unit.
- **All long cases are pre-written scenarios with trained roleplayers.**
- The timing breakdown of the Long Case examination is as follows:
 - **25 minutes total:**
 - **20 minutes** in which
 - to take a history while observed by one examiner and
 - to perform a focused and directed examination
 - a 10 minute time notification will be given
 - **5 minutes** to discuss investigations and management
- The main assessment outcomes are to assess candidate's competence in
 - Clinical communication skills (CCS)
 - Managing relationships with patients (MRP)
 - Physical examination (PE)
 - Identifying physical signs (IPS) – **not marked**
 - Differential diagnosis (DD)
 - Clinical judgment (CJ)
 - Maintaining patient safety and quality of care (MPSQ)
- The cases will include patients with medical conditions from the following systems:
 - Cardiology
 - Respiratory
 - Abdominal
 - Endocrine
 - Dermatology
 - Neurology
 - Rheumatology

- Candidates should prepare by performing as many of the above encounters as possible, making problem lists for patients and presenting the cases to senior colleagues under the time constraints of the examination.

Short Cases

There are two types of short cases:

1. Clinical cases
2. Communication skills cases

Typically, there will be 4 clinical cases and 1 communication skills case

Clinical Cases

- Each clinical case will last 10 minutes (with a standard period of examiner observation of 6 minutes, and a 4 minute discussion).
- Each case will be examined by one examiner who remains at this station for the duration of the examination.
- The short cases will include patients with medical conditions from the following systems:

Station 1: Communication & Ethics

Station 2: Cardiology **or** Respiratory

Station 3: Endocrinology/**Miscellaneous**

Station 4: Neurology **or** Locomotor

Station 5: Abdominal

- The timing breakdown of the examination is as follows:
 - **10 minutes total:**
 - **6 minutes** to talk to, or examine the patient (or interact with the communication station's actor)
 - **4 minutes** for presentation of findings and discussion of your management plan with the examiner.

Communication Skills/Ethics case

- Each communications skills/ethics case will last 10 minutes (with a standard period of observation of 6 minutes, before a 4 minute discussion).
- The candidate will be expected to interact with a simulated patient.
- The candidate will be provided with a written instruction summarising the case.
- Each case will be examined by one examiner (who remains at this station for duration of the examination).
- The cases will include communication scenarios relating to:
 - Information giving – example: discussing of treatment options with a patient with sexually transmitted infection

- Breaking bad news – example: telling a person her husband died, or telling a patient he has cancer
 - Consent – example: obtaining consent for treatment from a patient with a mild cognitive impairment
 - Confidentiality – example: maintaining confidentiality under pressure from family members
 - Managing challenging situations – example: discussing organ donation with next of kin of a ventilated patient who has an organ donor card in her pocket but the next of kin objects because it is against his/her religion
 - Ethics – example: telling a colleague that you need to report their drug abuse as they are unsafe to continue to practise
- Candidates should prepare by attending the following courses:
 - Leadership in Clinical Practice 1 course (BST mandatory)
 - Breaking Bad News course (optional)
 - Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Medical Practitioners (Medical Council Guide)
 - Good Medical Practice (GMC Guide)
 - <http://www.med.qub.ac.uk/osce/index.html> for on-line practice

COVID-19 Exam Changes

The following are the adjustments made to the format of the examination during COVID-19. Confirmed format changes will be communicated to all candidates before the examination as they may be slightly different from the below based on public health advice.

- **PPE:** In order to sit this examination, candidates are required to wear scrubs throughout the entirety of day. Scrubs cannot be provided for you, so this will have to be brought by you. You can bring these scrubs with you and change into them before the examination using the toilet or changing rooms facilities depending on the venue. All other PPE will be provided by staff on the day, including disposable mask, plastic aprons, gloves, wipes and hand gel.
- **Long Cases:** All long case stations will now have simulated cases with trained actors, known as Surrogate Patients, in place of real patients. The cases will be prewritten and reviewed/approved by the Examination Board. The stations will remain at 25 minutes and you will be expected to examine the Surrogate Patient the way you would have examined a real patient. The purpose of this is to demonstrate to the examiner that you can extrapolate the relevant information from the history into a focussed examination, even in the absence of findings. You will not be told by Examiners what “findings” there are unless it is relevant to the line of questioning at the end of the case. The only change to scoring is that the skill, “Identifying Physical Signs”, will not be marked in this station. It will remain in the four clinical short cases; however, you will still be asked to perform an examination in order to test your technique.
- **Short Cases:** The short case station of Endocrinology has been renamed to “Endocrinology/Miscellaneous”. This means the station has been expanded to Endocrinology and any of the other specialities which are noted in the examination guidelines (e.g. Dermatology, Abdominal, CVS, Locomotor, Neurology etc.) This may include medical devices and in such cases you would be expected to examine the device and then examine the patient in the related system to the device. Please be assured, that the station’s examiner will have a specific instruction such as “You are an SHO in the cardiology clinic, please examine this man’s chest” or “You are an SHO in neurology, please examine this man’s cranial nerves”.

If during the physical examination in any station you need you feel it is clinically relevant to inspect their face you may ask the patient to remove their mask briefly. You should preferably take no longer than 60 seconds to carry out this inspection, however the patient can refuse this if they are not comfortable and the examiner will be advised to note the refusal and that some signs may not be possible to examine.

Marking scheme

In order to pass the examination, candidates have to satisfy **ALL** the following conditions:

- Obtain the minimum pass marks for each skill which have been pre-set (please see skills marking matrix table below)
- Obtain the overall minimum pass mark which is determined by the Board of the Part II Clinical Examination 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 the minimum number of stations required:
 - 1 long case station out of 2
 - 3 short case stations out of 5
- Each mark sheet describes characteristics normally associated with **satisfactory** and **unsatisfactory** performances in each skill.
- The **borderline** judgement will be used if the examiner believes that you have not fully demonstrated the skills required but decides that some credit should be given for your performance.
- Thirty eight skills judgements will be made on your performance throughout your seven examiner encounters in 100 minutes allowing you to score a maximum of **88 skill marks** (see skills matrix below).

Skills marking matrix

① Satisfactory = 4 points; borderline = 2 points; unsatisfactory = 0

② Satisfactory = 2 points; borderline = 1 point; unsatisfactory = 0

SKILLS DISTRIBUTION	CCS①	MRP①	DD②	PE②	IPS②	CJ②	MPSQ②	Total
Long case 1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	18
Long case 2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	18
Communication SC	x	x				x	x	12
Cardiology / Respiratory SC			x	x	x	x	x	10
Endocrinology SC			x	x	x	x	x	10
Neuro / Locomotor SC			x	x	x	x	x	10
Abdominal SC			x	x	x	x	x	10
Total number of judgements for each skill	3	3	6	6	6	7	7	38
Total for this skill	12	12	12	12	12	14	14	88
Pass mark for each skill*	8	8	8	8	9	10	12	
Overall Examination Pass Mark *								*(set using borderline regression after the examination)

* Pass mark for each skill is subject to change by the Board

Candidates will fail if:

- They fail both long cases stations
- They fail more than 2 short cases
- They did not reach the pass mark for the above skills in any of the categories
- They failed to achieve the overall pass mark (set after the exam)

See below for sample examiner mark sheets...



Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
Short Case 1

EXAMINER NAME	EXAMINER NO.
Please enter examiner number in the grid to the right and print name below	<input type="text"/>
	c0 c0 c0 c0
	c1 c1 c1 c1
	c2 c2 c2 c2
	c3 c3 c3 c3
	c4 c4 c4 c4
	c5 c5 c5 c5
	c6 c6 c6 c6
	c7 c7 c7 c7
	c8 c8 c8 c8
c9 c9 c9 c9	

Candidate Number: _____ Centre: _____

Candidate Name: _____ Cycle: _____

Title: **Sample Communications Case** Session: _____

Marking Instructions Please indicate your judgement for each of the skills listed below by marking the appropriate box like this and include comments if you award borderline or unsatisfactory

1. Clinical communication skills			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory History is: Relevant/ Fluent/ Focused	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Omits crucial areas/ Unpractised/ Unprofessional
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Managing relationships with patients			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Listens to patient's concerns/ Empathic	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Dismisses patient's concerns/ Not empathic
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Clinical judgement			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Manages expectations, distress or confusion appropriately	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Fails to reassure or manage distress/ Misunderstanding
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Maintaining patient safety and quality of care			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Treats patient respectfully and sensitively, and ensures comfort, safety and dignity	Borderline	Unsatisfactory Jeopardises patient safety Causes physical or emotional pain to the patient
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT (full details of Global Assessment are on reverse)

Please record your overall judgement of the candidates performance

F = Fail B = Borderline P = Pass E = Excellent

Please add any additional comments overleaf



Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

Long Case 1

EXAMINER NAME

EXAMINER NO.

Please enter examiner number in the grid to the right and print name below

- 0 0 0 0
- 1 1 1 1
- 2 2 2 2
- 3 3 3 3
- 4 4 4 4
- 5 5 5 5
- 6 6 6 6
- 7 7 7 7
- 8 8 8 8
- 9 9 9 9

Candidate Number:

Centre:

Candidate Name:

Cycle:

Title:

SAMPLE LONG CLINICAL CASE

Session:

Marking Instructions Please indicate your judgement for each of the skills listed below by marking the appropriate box like this and include comments if you award borderline or unsatisfactory

1. Clinical communication skills (CCS)			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory History is: Relevant/ Fluent/ Focused <input type="checkbox"/>	Borderline <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsatisfactory Omits crucial areas/ Unpractised/ Unprofessional <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Managing relationships with patients (MRP)			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Listens to patient's concerns/ Empathetic <input type="checkbox"/>	Borderline <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsatisfactory Dismisses patient's concerns/ Not empathetic <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Physical examination (PE)			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Accurate/Appropriate/Practised/ Professional <input type="checkbox"/>	Borderline <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsatisfactory Poor technique/Omits important tests/Hesitant, Lacks confidence <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Identifying physical signs (IPS)			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Identifies correct physical signs <input type="checkbox"/>	Borderline <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsatisfactory Misses important clinical signs/ Reports signs that are not present <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Differential diagnosis (DD)			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Presents a sensible and comprehensive differential diagnosis <input type="checkbox"/>	Borderline <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsatisfactory Inappropriate, incomplete differential diagnosis <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Clinical judgment (CJ)			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Evidence of reflective problem solving/ Suggests appropriate investigations and management <input type="checkbox"/>	Borderline <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsatisfactory Poor evidence of problem solving/ Selects unsuitable investigations and treatments <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Maintaining patient safety and quality of care (MPSQ)			
COMMENTS	Satisfactory Treats patient respectfully and sensitively, and ensures comfort, safety and dignity <input type="checkbox"/>	Borderline <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsatisfactory Jeopardises patient safety/ Causes physical or emotional pain to patient <input type="checkbox"/>

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT (full details of Global Assessment are on reverse)

Please record your overall judgement of the candidates performance
F = Fail B = Borderline P = Pass E = Excellent

F
 B
 P
 E

Please add any additional comments overleaf