

V1. JANUARY 2011

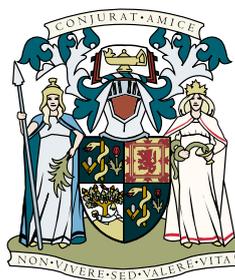
MRCs

Candidate Instructions and Guidance Notes

MRCs Part B

'Six attempt' rule

Conducted under the Regulations for the
Intercollegiate Membership Examination of the
Surgical Royal Colleges of Great Britain and Ireland
held Overseas dated January 2011



1. MRCS Regulation 4.3 (January 2011) permits candidates a maximum of six attempts in which to pass the Part B (OCC) and states that failure to pass the Part B (OCC) within this number of attempts debars a candidate from applying for any component/ part of the MRCS examination.
2. An "attempt" is defined as an occasion when a candidate commences, but not necessarily completes, a component of the MRCS Part B (OCC).
3. With this definition, a candidate may withdraw from an examination diet prior to the examination date, or fail to appear for the examination, without this being classified as an attempt. A candidate who commences a diet (e.g. one of the oral, clinical and communication skills components) but decides to withdraw from the examination before the diet is completed is classified as having attempted the examination.
4. Given the definition of an attempt, the candidate may withdraw from the examination at any stage prior to the diet commencing. The candidate is therefore well placed to make any decision to withdraw based on health, family circumstances, opportunity to study, travel difficulties, and other reason up to the moment when the examination commences. Under these terms the six-attempt rule will be considered absolute in accordance with MRCS Regulation 4.4 (January 2011) which states that the number of attempts for completion of the Part B (OCC) cannot be increased.
5. There may be the very isolated occurrence when a candidate becomes unwell during the course of a diet or lodges a complaint against the conduct of the examination.
6. Should a candidate become ill during a diet, there should be appropriate medical expertise within the examination or shortly after the examination to decide whether the illness is valid. Under these circumstances certification by an examiner or by another doctor should be taken into account when considering any extension to the six-attempt rule.
7. Should the candidate's complaint against an examiner be upheld, then the candidate may be given an additional attempt.
8. If, for any reason, an examination component is cancelled after commencement of the diet, this will not be counted as an "attempt."
9. Should a candidate withdraw, transfer or not appear for any examination, any consideration of refund of all or part fees will be carried out in accordance with current practice.
10. The following table is indicative of the way in which the six-attempts rule is to be applied for the MRCS Part B (OCC). In the interpretation and application of this table the decision of the College will be final.

Candidate enters for oral, clinical and communication skills at the same diet with one of the following outcomes:

Fails oral

Passes oral but fails clinical and communication skills in same diet

Passes oral and clinical but fails communication skills in same diet 1 attempt

Passes oral and communication skills but fails clinical in same diet

Candidate, having passed the oral but failed all/part of the clinical component at a previous diet, re-enters for clinical and/or communication skills with one of the following outcomes:

Fails clinical

Passes clinical but fails communications skills at the same diet 1 attempt

Passes communications skills but fails clinical at the same diet

Candidate, having passed the oral and clinical at previous diet(s), re-enters for communication skills with the following outcome:

Fails communication skills 1 attempt

Candidate, having passed the oral and communication skills at previous diet(s), re-enters for clinical with the following outcome:

Fails clinical 1 attempt