

**DGM Part 2 Clinical Examination:
Changes during covid-19 2020**

In order to allow us to safely run the DGM Clinical exams in the current environment we have implemented several changes to the way that the exam will run. These changes do not affect the validity or credibility of the exam and have been agreed between the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) Assessment Unit as well as the DGM Senior Examiner and DGM Clinical Examination Lead.

In normal circumstances the DGM exam consists of four stations with two examiners per station; a total of eight examiners. Four patients/surrogates are involved in three of the four stations.

For November/December 2020 the following changes will be applied:

- There will be one examiner instead of two for each patient, apart from station 2. This means that five examiners will be present at the centre and two presents remotely via video link.
 - For all stations other than station 2, marks awarded to each candidate by the single examiner present in the station will be duplicated. This is instead of two separate examiners each awarding marks individually.
 - The impact of this change has been carefully considered by the RCP. Given the highly skilled examiners required for DGM, and the training they undertake prior to examining, we anticipate the impact upon candidates to be minimal. Moreover, DGM examiners consistently display extremely high levels of concordance (agreement between examining pairs).
 - Considering the above, candidates should note that their results will be dependent on the marks awarded by five examiners instead of the normal eight.
 - Appeals will not be accepted based on the above changes. Should candidates have any concerns regarding this change they are instead advised to postpone their exam sitting to a time when COVID-19 allows for a safe return to a full complement of examiners.
- Where there may have been two patients in a room at station 4, there will now be one. Candidates will have station 4 split across two separate rooms but will see the same number of patients.
- Station 2 will be run virtually with examiners interacting remotely. The candidate will enter the room and will engage with the examiners and surrogates via video-link.
- A fifth “rest” station will be added in order to accommodate a fifth candidate.
- Three cycles of five candidates will be run per day.
- All examiners, staff and patients/surrogates will be risk assessed as “low risk” and will have completed a health questionnaire just prior to the exam to ascertain that they are free from any COVID-19 symptoms.
- All attendees at the centre (including candidates) will be temperature checked upon entry.
- Level 1 PPE will be worn by patients and candidates whilst moving around the centre.

- Examiners will be two metres away from candidates and Perspex screens provided for safety.
- Examiners may be wearing PPE. Candidates must wear a face mask whilst moving around the exam circuit but may remove their masks once they enter a station. This may change depending on local and national guidance prior to the exam date.
- Full cleaning of all stations in between each group of candidates will take place.
- All stations will be cleaned in between each candidate. All touch points and any equipment will be cleaned in between each candidate.
- All candidates will follow a strict 2m social distancing rule when attending the centre. This will be maintained throughout the exam.

Should you have any issues, questions or concerns relating to this please contact us at dgm@rcplondon.ac.uk