Royal College of Physicians

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Physician Associate Registration Assessment

Regulations for examination candidates

Applicable from 1 November 2026

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1. Introduction

These regulations apply to the Physician Associate Registration Assessment (PARA) from 1 November 2026 and cover the Knowledge-Based Assessment (KBA) and Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

The PARA will continue to change to reflect developments in healthcare, and candidates should refer to the PARA website for the most up-to-date information and examination regulations. By applying for the PARA, candidates are confirming that they have read, understood and will abide by these regulations, the RCP Assessment Unit Candidate Code of Conduct, and the guidance on the PARA website.

2. Entry requirements for the Physician Associate Registration Assessment

The PARA has been designed for candidates who have completed the requirements of the Physician Associate Curriculum (2023) within a UK programme in Physician Associate Studies (or equivalent) and had completion of their programme formally confirmed to the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) assessment unit by the relevant course provider.

Applications to sit the PARA from UK trained candidates will only be accepted upon receipt of formal confirmation from their course provider that the candidate has completed the requirements outlined above. Formal confirmation includes the settlement of any outstanding tuition fees. Provisional declarations of eligibility cannot be accepted as proof of a candidate's completion of their programme. Where formal confirmation is not received by the required deadline a candidate's application will be withdrawn and a full refund provided.

Applications from international candidates will not be accepted until the General Medical Council (GMC) has assessed the applicant's physician associate qualification and confirmed to the RCP assessment unit that it meets the requirements for registration in place at that time. Where the GMC confirm that an international candidate has not met their requirements, the candidate's application will be withdrawn and a full refund provided.

All applicants must have been allocated a GMC reference number before applying to the PARA. Applicants who fail to provide a GMC reference number will have their application withdrawn and a full refund provided. Details on how to obtain a GMC reference number can be found on the GMC website.

2.1 Limited number of attempts

Candidates are permitted a maximum of four attempts at each part of the PARA. After four unsuccessful attempts at a component of the PARA, a candidate will no longer be eligible for any further attempts at either examination component, will not be able to complete the PARA, and will not be able to apply for registration with the GMC.

2.2 Physician Associate Registration Assessment eligibility period

Candidates may take the KBA and OSCE components of the PARA in either order. Candidates have 18 months from the date of notification that they have successfully completed their first component to then pass the second component (be this the KBA or OSCE).

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Candidates who do not complete the second component within 18 months of completing the first will be required to retake the previously completed component. Candidates who retake and pass a component will receive a new 18-month eligibility period, beginning when they receive their results.

2.3 Application process

Details of how to apply are given on the PARA website.

All applications must be received by 11:00 UK time on the advertised closing date. Late applications will not be accepted.

2.4 Examination fee payments

Details of the current examination fees, examination dates, and opening and closing dates for applications are published on the PARA website.

Payment of examination fees can only be made via credit or debit card during the online application process. Any card details received in emails or as attachments will be deleted immediately and payments will not be actioned.

Candidates who are having their application fees covered by their course provider must indicate this during the application process, and this will then be verified with the course provider once the application period has closed. Where a course provider indicates they are not covering a candidate's fees the individual will be contacted and will be expected to either provide payment or withdraw their application.

2.5 Identification

Candidates will not be allowed into any PARA KBA or OSCE without passing the appropriate identification (ID) checks.

For the KBA, a candidate's identity will be verified during the boarding process. If the facial recognition software detects that the individual present on the day of the assessment does not match the image provided by the candidate during the installation process, then the candidate will not be permitted entry to the assessment. Additional identity checks may also be carried out by invigilators, at the discretion of the RCP Assessment Unit.

For the OSCE, candidates will not be permitted to sit the examination unless they produce suitable identification upon arrival at the assessment centre.

This will normally be a passport. Where candidates do not possess a passport, other forms of identification may be acceptable, providing that they include both a photograph and signature of the candidate (see list of Primary ID below).

Acceptable primary ID

- Current valid passport (containing photograph and signature)
- Full or provisional photocard driving licence
- Biometric residence permits for non-EEA foreign nationals
- Identity card issued by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland

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Alternatively, two forms of identification, one with a photograph and the other with a signature, will be accepted (see list of secondary ID).

Acceptable secondary ID

Two forms of secondary ID will need to be shown together, e.g. NHS/hospital identity card with a debit card. At least one of these must contain a photograph:

- Valid credit or debit card
- Valid student card with photograph
- NHS/hospital identity card
- Paper driving licence
- Certified copy of passport or driving licence[1]

Additional forms of ID may be considered provided candidates contact the RCP Assessment Unit well in advance of the examination.

The name on the candidate's ID must exactly match that on the admission document issued by the RCP Assessment Unit. This will be the name provided during your application, usually your first name(s) followed by surname.

Name discrepancies

Candidates must notify the RCP Assessment Unit if the name as it appears on the identification that will be used to gain entry to the examination is different from the name that was provided on their application.

Names can have significant spelling variations, including those that are phonetically translated into English from other languages. For example, the name 'MacDonald' may appear as 'McDonald' or 'Macdonald'; the name 'Mohammed' may appear as 'Mohamed', 'Mahammed', 'Mahamed', or 'Muhammed'. Such discrepancies will not be accepted for the purposes of entry to the PARA, as they do not allow invigilators to accurately identify candidates.

It is the candidate's responsibility to resolve any discrepancies with the RCP Assessment Unit before the examination. Please contact the RCP Assessment Unit via PAexams@rcp.ac.uk with any queries regarding name discrepancies.

Name changes

Candidates who wish to be admitted to an examination under identification which displays a name that differs from that provided during their application must submit original or authenticated documentation proving the link between the two names

Candidates must provide authenticated copies of any original documentation by email. Postal copies will not be accepted, and the RCP Assessment Unit cannot accept responsibility for any items lost in transit.

[1] These documents must be accompanied by an official stamp or letter from the issuing organisation in order to qualify as an acceptable form of ID. Self-made photocopies will not be accepted without such official corroboration.

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Name format

RCP Assessment Unit records, and the PARA certificate, show forenames followed by the family name, for example Alan John Smith. Correspondence will typically be addressed using the candidate's first name and family name, for example Alan Smith.

3. Format

The PARA consists of two examinations: an online KBA and an OSCE.

The KBA comprises 200 multiple choice ('best-of-five' or single best answer format) questions, which are split into four papers of 50 questions. Candidates have 1 hour to complete each paper, with all four papers completed during a single day. The papers are sat online at an appropriate location (a candidate's home or office, for example).

The OSCE comprises 14 clinical stations designed to assess a candidate's ability to carry out essential clinical skills. In each of the 14 stations candidates will be presented with either a patient with a given medical condition or a trained simulation patient. Each station lasts 8 minutes, with an additional 2 minutes prior to each station allocated to allow candidates to familiarise themselves with the scenario.

The PARA certificate is awarded on successful completion of both parts of the examination.

3.1 Marking system for the KBA

Candidates' overall results are calculated as an aggregated total of the points awarded in all four papers. For the purpose of the exam and subsequent result processing, the four papers are considered a single exam, with candidates receiving a single overall mark for the KBA in its entirety.

The marking system is as follows:

- One mark (+1) is awarded for each correct answer
- No mark is deducted for an incorrect answer (ie there is no negative marking)
- No mark is awarded or deducted if a question is left unanswered
- The pass mark for the written exam is calculated using the modified Angoff method of standard setting.
- One standard error of measurement (SEM) is then added to this total exam score to generate the total pass mark for each KBA[2]
- To achieve a pass in the KBA candidates must achieve or exceed this overall pass mark.

3.2 Marking system for the OSCE

Candidates will be awarded marks in each station by an examiner. The pass mark for each station in the OSCE is calculated using the borderline regression method. Each station will therefore have its own individual pass mark, with each of the 14 individual stations' pass marks being aggregated to generate a total exam score. One standard error of measurement (SEM) is then added to this total exam score to generate the total pass mark for each OSCE.

[2] For clarity, the working process will be that a non-integer (whole number) total pass mark will be rounded up to the next integer.

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To achieve a pass in the OSCE candidates must meet or exceed the required overall pass mark, as well as the individual pass marks in a minimum of 9 of the 14 stations undertaken.

As a part of the RCP Assessment Unit's quality assurance procedures individual stations may be excluded from the above calculations. Exclusions are rare and typically focused upon stations where equipment failure may have led to candidates being unable to undertake the scenario as part of their OSCE. Where stations are excluded the pass mark and the minimum number of stations needed to pass will be reviewed, and if necessary adjusted, to ensure no candidate is disadvantaged.

3.3 Results

Result letters will be sent to candidates via email from the RCP Assessment Unit. Certificates will be issued to all candidates who successfully complete both components of the examination.

4. Candidate responsibilities

Candidates should:

1. Ensure that their application is fully complete

Candidates must submit their application within the application period. Late applications will not be accepted.

An application is considered complete only upon receiving full payment of fees and confirmation from the relevant course provider (or the GMC, in the case of international candidates) that the candidate has completed their programme. The RCP Assessment Unit will contact candidates to advise them of any outstanding information and will provide a deadline for receipt.

Candidates will not be permitted to take any part of the examination until formal confirmation has been received from the relevant course provider that the candidate has completed their programme. Candidates who submit an application and pay the required exam fee but are subsequently declared ineligible by their course provider will have their application withdrawn and a full refund of their fees provided. Applications will also be withdrawn, and a full refund of fees provided, in instances where formal confirmation of eligibility is not received from a candidate's course provider by the required deadline ahead of an assessment period.

Eligible candidates will not be permitted to take any part of the examination unless all outstanding fees have been paid in full, or notification has been received from the candidate's course provider that they will be covering the relevant examination fees.

If payment of fees is not completed by the provided deadline, the candidate's application will be rejected. Once rejected, an application cannot be reinstated.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that any correspondence is sent securely and received within given deadlines.

2. Provide full contact details

It is the candidate's responsibility to provide full and accurate contact details (email address and telephone number) at the time of registration, and to ensure that any change is notified to the RCP Assessment Unit as soon as possible.

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Candidates should ensure the email address provided at the point of application is fully accessible for the duration of the assessment period, including the date upon which results are released. Candidates are strongly advised to provide a personal email address, not a university account.

3. Read and act on any correspondence from the RCP Assessment Unit

Candidates must ensure that they read all correspondence issued by the RCP Assessment Unit up to and including the day of the examination.

On rare occasions changes to the examination arrangements may have to be made at short notice. The RCP Assessment Unit will use the email address provided to inform candidates of these changes. Candidates who are absent or late for an examination because they did not read such an email will not be automatically entitled to a refund.

4. Not give false information

Giving false information on the application form for any part of the examination, or submitting falsified documentation before, during or after an examination, will be regarded as an act of suspected misconduct and be investigated accordingly.

5. Be feeling well enough to undertake the examination

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit to sit an examination. Should a candidate feel they are not fit to take an examination, either in the lead up to the examination or on the day itself, the opportunity to withdraw is available. The withdrawal process is outlined in section 5 of these regulations.

Where a candidate becomes unwell during an assessment, they should inform a member of staff or an invigilator immediately.

Candidates are reminded to be aware of their responsibilities as physician associates to consider any risks that their own health may pose to others, such as candidates, examiners, RCP staff and patients.

6. Consider the time required to obtain any necessary visas

If a candidate requires a visa to sit an examination, it is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that they are eligible to receive a visa for entry to the UK.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that a visa application is made in sufficient time before the examination date for which it has been sought.

A refund will not be given if a candidate is unable to attend the examination as a result of visa-related problems.

4.1 Reasonable adjustments

Any candidate who has a physical disability, specific learning difficulty or any other condition that they believe would disadvantage them compared with other candidates in an examination, may be entitled to reasonable adjustments.

It is the candidate's responsibility to notify the RCP Assessment Unit of any reasonable adjustment request at the time of application via the relevant section of the online application form, providing supporting evidence in line with the RCP Assessment Unit reasonable adjustment policy.

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Candidates should not assume that previously agreed reasonable adjustments will be carried forward to a future examination. Candidates must notify the RCP Assessment Unit of any request at each examination attempt.

If the requested adjustments cannot be implemented, the candidate may either withdraw from the examination or proceed without the adjustments.

Candidates who qualify for reasonable adjustments may not always be able to sit in the location of their choice.

Special arrangements purely for candidate convenience cannot be made. Candidate convenience includes provision for social events (such as holidays), courses, seminars and any other clinical commitments.

4.2 Candidate conduct

The standards of behaviour expected of those applying to and sitting the examinations are outlined in the code of conduct for examination applicants and candidates.

Candidates are advised to be aware that any breach of the PARA regulations will result in a misconduct investigation and the possibility of severe penalties.

The RCP Assessment Unit reserves the right to use various methods to identify candidates who attempt to copy, collude or perform some other act that may be regarded as academic misconduct in the PARA. This includes facial recognition, environment and device monitoring and key stroke analysis that seeks to detect instances of misconduct or collusion by recording all candidates' actions and patterns of behaviour. Should it be determined that there is sufficient evidence of possible misconduct, then the candidate(s) concerned will be contacted and the formal misconduct regulations may be invoked.

5. Withdrawal, absence and cancellation of examinations

5.1 Withdrawal from the examination and refund of examination fees

Notice of withdrawal from any part of the PARA must be given to the RCP Assessment Unit via email. Candidates should provide their full name and confirm the assessment component(s) they wish to withdraw from (KBA and/or OSCE) when submitting their withdrawal request. Withdrawal will not count as an attempt at the examination.

Automatic refunds, which do not require supporting evidence, will be provided as follows:

KBA	
Withdrawal request received	**Refund percentage**
During application period	100%
More than 7 days before exam date	90%
Less than 7 days before exam date*	0%

OSCE	
Withdrawal request received	**Refund percentage**
During application period	100%
More than 28 days before exam date	90%
Less than 28 days before exam date*	0%

*90% refunds may be considered after this date, where exceptional circumstances arise that prevent a candidate from attending an examination. Where this is the case supporting evidence must be provided. All requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

This does not apply to candidates who are subsequently confirmed as being ineligible for the examination by their course provider. In such instances a full refund will be provided.

Examination applications and/or fees cannot be transferred from one assessment period to another.

5.2 Absence

Candidates who do not attend the examination, without notifying the RCP Assessment Unit, will be recorded as absent.

Refunds will not be made where candidates are absent unless there are circumstances deemed exceptional that can be substantiated.

Absence will not count as an attempt at the examination.

5.3 Cancellation of examinations

On very rare occasions, it may be necessary for the RCP Assessment Unit to cancel an examination. In these circumstances, the RCP Assessment Unit will refund the examination fee of any candidate allocated to the affected examination centre(s) and change the status of each affected candidate to 'withdrawn'.

Unfortunately, the RCP Assessment Unit cannot be responsible for any expenses (such as travel or accommodation) incurred by a candidate in the event of such a cancellation.

A cancelled examination will not count as one of the candidate's four attempts allowed for an examination.

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6. Attending the Physician Associate Registration Assessment knowledge-based assessment (KBA)

Any infringement of the following rules and regulations may be reported to the RCP Assessment Unit for consideration in accordance with the RCP Assessment Unit Candidate Code of Conduct.

6.1 Before the assessment

Candidates must download the required software and complete the installation process by the deadline stated. Candidates who complete the installation of software after the stated deadline will still be permitted to take the examination but do so entirely at their own risk. The RCP Assessment Unit accepts no responsibility for any technical issues encountered by candidates who complete the setup of their device after the stated deadline. No refund will be given in these instances, unless there are circumstances deemed exceptional that can be substantiated.

Candidates must comply fully with all the requirements of the online assessment software to complete the set-up process. This includes providing an image of themselves and their environment via their webcam, as well as allowing the software access to their device to capture screenshots (of both themselves and their interactions with the software) and undertake keystroke analysis for the duration of their assessment.

The Royal College of Physicians observes sensitivity in the visual identification of candidates, but advance notice should be given by candidates of any anticipated difficulties.

Candidates should install the assessment software on the device they wish to use on the day of the examination. Technical difficulties encountered during the installation process should be reported using the help facility within the software as soon as possible so support can be provided in resolving these ahead of the assessment.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that the device they use for their assessment meets the minimum specification required. Candidates who choose to use devices which do not meet the minimum specification do so entirely at their own risk. The RCP Assessment Unit accepts no responsibility for technical issues encountered by a candidate which are caused by devices which do not meet the minimum specification.

Candidates who wish to take the KBA at their course provider must have this approved by both the RCP Assessment Unit and their course provider prior to commencing the KBA, to ensure that the environment in which they are taking their KBA conforms with examination regulations. Candidates who fail to declare they are taking their KBA at their course provider may be in breach of the examination regulations and may be the subject of candidate misconduct proceedings.

6.2 On the day of the assessment

Candidates should start the boarding process for their assessment at the time indicated in their pre-assessment information email. Candidates will not be permitted to sit the assessment if they start their examination more than 10 minutes later than the indicated start time for the relevant paper, unless they have been affected by technical difficulties that have been brought to the attention of the RCP Assessment Unit.

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6.3 During the assessment

Examination content must not be copied or recorded in any way. If an invigilator suspects that a candidate is attempting to copy assessment content, they will contact the candidate, ask them to stop any activity, and make a report of the incident to the RCP Assessment Unit.

Candidates are permitted to use blank paper for making notes (a maximum of six loose pages, i.e., not bound in a notebook). These must be shown to the invigilator at the start of each paper and destroyed in front of the invigilator at the end of each paper.

Candidates must not switch off their webcam during the assessment or attempt to disable any feature of the software. Technical difficulties should be reported using the help facility as soon as possible during the assessment so support can be provided in resolving these. Candidates should also report any issues encountered to the RCP Assessment Unit after the assessment via email so these can be considered during results processing.

Maintaining the security and integrity of the PARA KBA is of paramount importance. If any candidate is unable to comply fully with all the requirements of the online assessment software at any point during their KBA, by providing an image of themselves and their environment via their webcam, as well as allowing the software access to their device to capture screenshots, then their participation will be ended, and the attempt annulled. A refund of a candidate's KBA fee will only be provided where there is clear evidence that technical issues outside of the candidate's control were responsible for the lack of webcam images or capturing of screenshots.

Candidates must:

- Ensure that they are in an appropriate environment for sitting the examination with no other people present and demonstrate this to the invigilator prior to starting.
- Accept the non-disclosure agreement prior to starting the examination.
- Complete all examination papers in the correct order on the same day or their results will not be counted.

Candidates are permitted to:

- Submit their answers and exit from the assessment software if they finish before the advertised end time. They are not required to stay online for the full duration of the paper if they have completed it. Candidates will not be permitted to re-enter a paper once they have submitted their answers.
- Use devices connected to their computer to ensure uninterrupted internet connectivity during the examination. These devices should not be capable of storing information, accessing the internet, or communications and must be declared prior to commencing the assessment.
- Toilet breaks are permitted; however, candidates must inform the invigilator before leaving the room. All non-toilet breaks must occur within camera view, unless a reasonable adjustment explicitly permits otherwise. Invigilators will keep records of any breaks taken by candidates. No additional time will be added to the examination to compensate for breaks (unless agreed prior to the assessment as part of a reasonable adjustment request)
- Have drinks or snack on their desks.

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Violations

To prevent academic misconduct during online assessments, and to ensure that they are not interrupted by invigilators or the monitoring software, candidates are not permitted to:

- Use a mobile phone, tablet, or any other device capable of communication or storing information. This includes during any breaks taken whilst a paper is in progress. All such devices must be removed from the assessment environment prior to starting, and this must be confirmed with the invigilator during initial checks. Candidates can use mobile phones in the event of encountering technical difficulties during the examination.
- Wear any of the following items (this will be checked during the registration process):
  - headphones (in-ear or over-ear)
  - any clothing that can be used to hide materials, e.g., hooded jumper. Items worn for religious purposes are permitted and discretion will be exercised in conducting ID checks
  - Sunglasses (unless permitted for medical reasons) or smart glasses
  - Watches (including smart watches)
- Switch off their webcam or attempt to disable any feature of the assessment software
- Access other applications on their computer, including internet browsers
- Take screenshots of or copy examination content
- Talk to anyone outside the room or attempt to communicate with anyone else sitting the examination using phones or email
- Have any other person in the room
- Use multiple screens
- Use a calculator
- Have textbooks or notes in the examination environment
  - blank paper is permitted but must be displayed to an invigilator at the start of each paper, then destroyed in front of the invigilator at the end of each paper
- Sit in a room that is too dark (your face must be clearly visible at all times)
- Angle their laptop or camera upwards or have their face obscured
- Vape or smoke

If invigilators identify any of the above behaviour, they will make a record of this, and it will be reported to the RCP Assessment Unit. Candidates will also be reported if they are seen to be looking away from their screens repeatedly or looking at their hands or wrists.

Candidates are reminded that in all RCP Assessment Unit assessments and examinations statistical methods are used to detect anomalous candidate behaviours which may be regarded as academic dishonesty. In the online version of examinations these will be supplemented by the detailed analysis of 'click streams' so that candidates' progress through the examination can be monitored and assessed and can be compared with video and other records of candidate behaviour.

6.4 Invigilation

Where an invigilator suspects a candidate or candidates of infringing PARA regulations, they may speak to the candidate(s) involved, making clear what is causing concern, and reminding them of the relevant regulations and instructions.

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Invigilators compile a report of the examination for the RCP Assessment Unit, including any incidents of suspected misconduct.

Invigilators are empowered to refuse to allow a candidate to continue with the examination on grounds of misconduct.

6.5 Paper-based assessments

To ensure that no candidate is disadvantaged in their examination by virtue of their disability or other special need it may be necessary to conduct the KBA via a paper and pencil format. Where this is the case, this will be clearly communicated to the candidate(s) in good time ahead of the examination date.

The following apply to all paper-based assessments:

1. All the required stationery, including the pencil to complete marksheets, will be provided by the RCP Assessment Unit. Candidates must use only the stationery provided.

2. Pens, including highlighters, are not permitted unless they have been given prior approval as a reasonable adjustment. Any rough work must be completed on PARA question booklet.

3. Candidates must not bring to their desk any papers, bags, textbooks or documents, or items of any kind other than those specifically allowed for that assessment and previously notified to them.

4. The possession of calculators, mobile phones, pagers, personal stereos, smart watches or any other such devices that are audible, make calculations, store information or can be used for communication are strictly forbidden on or around candidates' desks. These items must be switched off and stored with candidates' belongings in the designated area at the examination venue. Where examination venues do not have secure areas to store personal items, any coats, bags or other item(s) brought into the examination venue should be stored as directed by the invigilator(s).

5. Any unauthorised items or material will be confiscated and a report detailing the incident and identifying the candidate will be submitted to the RCP Assessment Unit.

6. With prior approval (via submission of a request for reasonable adjustments), candidates may bring into the examination venue aids that will enable them to remedy a disability, e.g. of sight and/or hearing, or a medical condition, e.g. a glucometer for diabetes.

7. If a candidate has unwittingly brought any unauthorised item into the examination venue, this should be handed to the invigilator(s) before the examination starts or at the earliest possible opportunity thereafter.

8. Answer sheets are individually numbered (with candidate numbers) in the top right-hand corner. Candidates must sit at the desk where the answer sheet is marked with their candidate number.

9. Candidates must not start reading or answering the examination questions until the start of the examination is announced by the invigilator(s).

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10. Candidates must comply with all instructions given to them by invigilator(s). Such instructions may include the instruction to leave the examination venue and not to return during the period of the examination.

11. A candidate will be prevented from proceeding with the PARA KBA if it is the chief invigilator's view that they are too unwell to continue, or their conduct is likely to endanger the safety of, cause distress to or disrupt the work of other candidates.

12. It is the duty of a candidate to comply with an invigilator's instruction even if they judge the instruction to be unreasonable. There is the right of appeal if a candidate considers that the invigilator has not acted in accordance with these regulations.

13. While in the examination venue, a candidate must not attempt to read the work of any other candidate or communicate in any way with any other candidate or any other person without the express permission of the invigilator.

14. Candidates have a responsibility to help safeguard the security of the examination and their own work. Candidates should make efforts to ensure their work cannot be seen by another candidate, including when leaving the examination venue temporarily to visit the toilet.

15. Candidates have a duty to report to an invigilator or the RCP Assessment Unit any concerns they have that another candidate was attempting to read their work, or any other instances of possible misconduct they notice.

16. Candidates who wish to attract the attention of the invigilator(s) during the examination should do so by raising a hand.

17. Candidates should bring to the attention of the invigilator any factor (eg distracting noise) that is adversely affecting them during the examination. Where necessary they should communicate the same in writing to the RCP Assessment Unit immediately following the examination concerned.

18. Candidates must not leave the examination temporarily, during the period of the examination, unless given express permission by the invigilator(s) to do so. If such permission is given, they must be accompanied by an invigilator and must not attempt to contact any other person or consult any material relating to the examination while outside the examination venue.

19. Candidates may finish their examination at any point but are not permitted to return to the examination room once they have left. A candidate who leaves the room permanently will be considered to have finished the paper in question. Candidates wishing to end their examination early should clearly state this to an invigilator.

20. Candidates should immediately stop working and stop using pencils/erasers when instructed to do so by the invigilator and remain in their seats in silence while papers are collected.

21. Any candidate who is observed to be continuing work on their paper after the end of the examination has been announced will be reported.

22. Candidates must not remove from the examination venue any papers or examination materials. All PARA questions are confidential and are under the copyright of the Royal College of Physicians. The RCP reserves the right to initiate civil action and/or criminal prosecution if theft of intellectual property is suspected.

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23. Question papers or any part of them, including individual questions, must not be copied or removed from the examination venue.

24. Candidates must not communicate any question or part of a question to any other person or organisation. Candidates should inform the RCP Assessment Unit if they are asked to divulge examination content by any individual or organisation.

25. When authorised to do so by the invigilator(s), candidates should leave the examination venue in an orderly manner.

26. Candidates should note that if any information comes to light at a later stage that indicates that examination regulations have been breached, the RCP Assessment Unit reserves the right to invoke the misconduct procedures retrospectively.

7. Attending the Physician Associate Registration Assessment OSCE

1. Candidates must not seek to gain prior knowledge of the clinical cases or scenarios used in the examination.

2. Candidates may not carry electronic devices, including telephones, pagers, 'smart' watches, wireless devices or other forms of communication devices, while in the examination.

3. Candidates wishing to use their own electronic stethoscope, or magnifying ophthalmoscope must inform the RCP Assessment Unit of their intention during their application. Candidates who fail to declare their intention in this manner may be prevented from using the equipment.

4. All candidates should dress as they would to work in a UK hospital or other clinical setting, as described in the NHS guidance on uniforms and workwear. This includes being bare to the elbow with no watches, bracelets or rings (a single plain ring, such as a wedding ring, is acceptable, where this cannot otherwise be removed by a candidate).

5. Candidates must come prepared to meet these criteria – failure to comply will mean that the candidate cannot sit the examination, and in these circumstances, they will not be eligible for a refund.

6. If any candidate anticipates difficulties in complying with the infection control procedures or dress requirements, they must provide details to the RCP Assessment Unit when submitting their application.

7. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they demonstrate the required skills within the time allowed. Time reminders will be given during each stage of the examination.

8. Clinical scenarios must not be copied or removed from the clinical examination centres.

9. All PARA questions and clinical scenarios are confidential and are under the copyright of the RCP.

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10. Candidates must comply with all instructions given to them by invigilator(s). Such instructions may include the instruction to leave the examination venue and not to return during and/or after the examination.

11. Candidates must not communicate any information about the cases in the examination, including any written instructions such as scenarios, to any other person or organisation.

12. A candidate will be prevented from proceeding with the PARA OSCE if it is the examiners' view that they are too unwell to continue, or their conduct is likely to endanger the safety of patients, cause distress or disrupt other candidates.

13. Where an examiner considers that a candidate is acting in an unprofessional, improper or inappropriate manner during the PARA OSCE they shall ask the candidate to stop that part of the examination. The incident may also be reported to the lead examiner or chief invigilator if it is felt by the examiner that further action is required.

14. The PARA OSCE may be failed in the following ways:

    - a candidate does not achieve the overall minimum total score.

      and/or

    - a candidate does not achieve the minimum score in each of at least 9 of 14 stations.

7.1 Circumstances affecting results

In the event of a procedural irregularity in the conduct of the examination, or exceptional circumstances that adversely affected a candidate's performance, candidates should inform the RCP Assessment Unit as soon as possible. This should ideally be during the examination itself, so a suitable remedy can be offered during the examination, where appropriate, and followed up after the examination by submitting an appeal via email. Details of the process and grounds for appeal can be found in the examination appeals regulations.

Candidates should note that exceptional circumstances that arise before an examination should be notified to the RCP Assessment Unit by email before the candidate commences their examination, and that the opportunity to withdraw is available should candidates feel their preparation for the examination has been adversely affected. Appeals will not be considered in relation to exceptional circumstances that arise before a candidate's examination.

8. Completion of the Physician Associate Registration Assessment and application to the General Medical Council Register

Successful completion of both components of the PARA enables a candidate to apply for registration with the General Medical Council (GMC). Candidates will need to apply for registration within 24 months of passing their final PARA component.

Further information regarding the registration process can be found on the GMC website.

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9. Language requirements

All parts of the PARA are conducted in English.

As all assessments are conducted in English, the RCP advises that in order to be sufficiently prepared to sit the PARA candidates' English language ability should be equivalent to an overall International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 7.5. However, candidates do not need to have taken IELTS or any other language examination prior to taking the PARA.

The PARA cannot be used to demonstrate competence in the English language.

10. Privacy Policy

By applying to a PARA KBA and/or OSCE, an individual consents to the sharing of the following data with the GMC:

- The date they received their result(s)
- The overall pass/fail outcome
- Their first and last name
- Their date of birth
- The name of their university/course provider who awarded their PA qualification
- Their GMC registration number

This data will also be shared with a candidate's university/course provider via the GMC.

In addition, the RCP Assessment Unit reserves the right to use pseudonymised data to assist in the development, research, statistical analysis, monitoring and continuous improvement of the PARA.

The full PARA privacy statement is available on the PARA website.

11. Additional regulations and procedures

Details of other PARA regulations for candidates are available on the PARA website. These are as follows:

- Code of conduct for examination applicants and candidates
- Examination appeals regulations
- Examination complaints procedure
- Misconduct regulations
- Reasonable adjustment policy

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