



The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists®

5 August 2020

Dear Clinical Radiology Trainees and IMGs,

I am writing to provide you with a further update to the Clinical Radiology examinations.

As previously indicated to you on 17 July, the RANZCR Board has approved modified examination plans for 2020 with dates for the Part 1 examination and Part 2 MCQ examinations previously announced.

In line with *Guidelines for decision making related to Covid-19 Crisis*, and the three-months' notice to trainees, the Clinical Radiology **Part 2 E-Film examination will be held on 6 November 2020**. The e-film reading exam will be delivered at the Cliftons centres via a new examination software platform. If readiness of the platform currently under development is delayed, the exam will be held, with images presented on screen and responses typed or hand-written, the details of which will be confirmed at least one month prior to the examination.

A summary of all the examinations details thus far is outlined below:

Examination dates

The planned 2020 examination dates for clinical radiology are:

- Part 1 examinations: **19 and 20 October 2020**
- Part 2 MCQ examinations: **21 October 2020**
- Part 2 E-Film examinations: **6 November 2020**
- Part 2 Viva body system examinations: **November 2020 with dates to be announced**
- Part 2 Pathology examinations: **November 2020 with dates to be announced**

Key takeaway:

- **All examination dates for 2020 are being confirmed and those yet to be announced will be communicated to stakeholders as soon as they are finalised**

Exam format and venues

It has been agreed by the RANZCR Board to run the examinations as closely aligned to normal practice as possible, while complying with public safety requirements stipulated by government health authorities. This is to minimise further disruption to candidates' preparation and minimise risk, recognising the highly dynamic public health situation.

Part 1 exams

The Part 1 examinations (e-Anatomy and e-AIT) will be delivered on the Genix exam delivery platform at Cliftons centres in Australia (Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane), and New Zealand (Auckland and Wellington).

Candidates in Tasmania and the ACT will have the option of travelling to the safest and most convenient Cliftons centre or taking the examination at a designated local training centre, using a paper-based system and invigilators.

In the event of jurisdictional COVID-19 'lockdown' restrictions, examinations will be held in designated local training centres, using a paper-based system and invigilators. The situation will be monitored, and further advice provided to candidates closer to the event.



Part 2 MCQ exams

The Part 2 written multiple-choice question (MCQ) exams (e-Radiology and e-Pathology) will be held on the Genix platform at Cliftons centres in Australia and New Zealand as outlined in the Part 1 exams.

Candidates in Tasmania and the ACT will have the option of travelling to the safest and most convenient Cliftons Centre or taking the examination at a designated local training centre, using a paper-based system and invigilators.

For candidates in jurisdictions where attendance at these venues is affected by COVID-19 'lockdown' restrictions, examinations will be held in designated local training centres, using a paper-based system and invigilators. The situation will be monitored, and further advice provided to candidates closer to the event.

Part 2 e-Film reading exam

Arrangements for the e-film reading component of the Part 2 examinations differ from those for the other Part 2 written components and have therefore been "isolated" from the other written components. The e-film reading exam will be delivered at the Cliftons centres via a new examination software platform on the 6 November. If readiness of the platform currently under development is delayed beyond November, the exam will be held at the Cliftons centres, with images presented on screen and responses typed or hand-written, the details of which will be confirmed at least one month prior to the examination.

Candidates in Tasmania and the ACT will have the option of travelling to the safest and most convenient Cliftons Centre or taking the examination at a designated local training centre, using a paper-based system and invigilators.

For candidates in jurisdictions where attendance at these venues is affected by COVID-19 'lockdown' restrictions, examinations will be held in designated local training centres, using a paper-based system and invigilators. The situation will be monitored, and further advice provided to candidates closer to the event.

Part 2 viva voce body system exams

It is evident to the Board that the seven *viva voce* exams for 2020 cannot be provided in the normal way at AMC National Testing Centre in Melbourne.

The Part 2 *viva voce* examinations that comprise oral film reading of body systems will be managed, as far as is practicable, by local training networks in each branch, with local examiners and other clinicians for support. The examinations will be held at the various Cliftons centres.

The exams will use hardcopy film in the normal way. Viva exam dates for each jurisdiction are not yet finalised but they are likely to be held in November. Given the inherent uncertainties surrounding possible 'lockdowns', in some jurisdictions a delay beyond November to a safer time remains a possibility.

Candidates in Tasmania and the ACT will need to travel interstate to the safest and most convenient Cliftons Centre to sit their viva examinations.

Part 2 viva voce pathology exams

For the Part 2 pathology viva, the Board has approved a remote examination between candidates at a central location and a pathology examiner at a remote location. Examiners will ask questions and share images with candidates via a video link. Details of the process will be given closer to the viva. The pathology viva is likely to be held in November as well but likely not on the same dates as those for the other part 2 vivas.

Candidates in Tasmania and the ACT will *not* need to travel interstate for the pathology viva but instead present to a suitable central location with appropriate technology support, the details of which will be given closer to the viva.

Key Takeaway:

- **Part 1 exams and Part 2 MCQ exams will be held on the current Genix platform at Cliftons centres in most jurisdictions, to minimise change**
- **Part 2 e-Film examinations will be held on a new exam platform, at the Cliftons centres in most jurisdictions, at a separate time to the MCQ exams**
- **Viva examinations will be held at Cliftons centres in local jurisdictions, facilitated by local training networks, examiners and clinicians**
- **Contingency plans exist in the event of local jurisdictional lockdowns.**

Overseas candidates and International Medical Graduates (IMGs)

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) already residing in Australia and New Zealand will be able to sit their exams within their local jurisdictions, notwithstanding the above requirements specific to candidates in Tasmania and the ACT. Preferably they should seek exam sittings outside NSW and Victoria, recognising and complying with local jurisdictional quarantining arrangements.

IMGs currently residing outside Australia and New Zealand will be unable to undertake examinations in 2020, recognising jurisdictional travel restrictions.

IMGs and Singapore trainees unable to attend their exams may defer until 2021 via a Consideration of Special Circumstances request.

Key takeaway:

- **IMGs currently residing in Australia and New Zealand can sit examinations in their local jurisdictions**

Further postponement

The arrangements outlined here are subject to the impact of further possible restrictions imposed by health authorities in each jurisdiction in coming weeks. While we have built-in contingency plans in the event of jurisdictional lockdowns impacting Clifton Centre availability, we cannot anticipate all scenarios. We are currently hopeful that a further postponement will not be necessary, but trainees and IMGs will need to keep abreast of developments that may affect them.

Key takeaway:

- **The College is planning for contingencies that will allow examinations to proceed in 2020. Our responsibility for trainee and examiner wellbeing will guide the College in decision making around further postponement.**

Trainee applications and deferments

Application forms for examinations will be available shortly and open for a period of 4 weeks. Late applications after this time will not be accepted. A separate notice of this will be sent to trainees and IMG's and the information uploaded to the College's website.

Candidates who do not feel ready to sit the examinations on the indicated dates are encouraged to seek a deferment via an application for [consideration of special circumstances](#), as per the policy.

Candidates who have not yet started sitting their Part 2 examinations and are not planning to sit the exams, do not need to complete a consideration of special circumstances application.

Candidates who have started sitting the Part 2 examinations and are not planning on sitting do need to complete a consideration of special circumstances application requesting a deferment.

The College is acutely aware of the potential adverse impact of the pandemic on candidates' exam preparation and the delivery of training generally. Therefore, the Board has agreed to recommendations that any candidate who sits the examinations in 2020 and subsequently records a 'fail' will be offered an additional examination opportunity.

Key takeaway:

- **Candidates will be able to apply to sit soon**
- **Any candidate who wishes to defer their examination sitting should submit a request via a Consideration of Special Circumstances, as per the policy**
- **Candidates sitting in 2020 will be granted an additional exam opportunity in the event of examination failure**

Examination results

The release of examination results is expected to take longer than normal due to the complications arising from the temporary arrangements for 2020.

Key takeaway:

- **Candidates will need to be patient as normal timelines will be disrupted and a timetable for exam results release will be developed specifically for 2020.**

If you have any questions regarding the exam arrangements outlined above, please contact radtaa@ranzcr.edu.au and the College staff will respond to you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Meredith Thomas
Chief Censor
Faculty of Clinical Radiology