COVID-19 MRCGP FAQs

MRCGP

I cannot find an answer on the RCGP website to my specific questions about the AKT, CSA or WPBA.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic the RCGP is following national guidance and the vast majority of the exams team will be working from home for a potentially prolonged period. We still have a full team of staff dedicated to the exam who will be responding to queries from trainees, but the change in our working arrangements may impact our ability to respond as quickly by telephone. If you email the exams team at exams@rcgp.org.uk we will endeavour to reply as soon as we can. Please bear in mind that although we would usually try to get back to you within five working days, the unprecedented number of queries coming through may mean some delays. We will continue to update the MRCGP website as the situation changes. Please bear with us, we know how important this is to your career.

My GP specialty training ends this summer. How will I be able to obtain a CCT if I haven’t been able to take the AKT and/or CSA?

This is a really challenging situation which involves the RCGP, COGPED, GMC and government. We would like to reassure you that important cross-party discussions are already taking place and we will update this document as soon as we have more clarity.

It is likely that ST3 GP trainees, who have been progressing satisfactorily, will be asked to work in primary care under less direct supervision during the pandemic, but will have to take any outstanding MRCGP assessments once national pandemic restrictions have been lifted.
Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA)

I was able to sit CSA in early March 2020. When will results be released?

We will release results as per the original publicised date.

I was able to sit CSA in early March 2020. What do I do if I did not pass?

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic all medical specialty postgraduate assessments, including the MRCGP, have been cancelled until further notice and this applies to any candidate needing to request a re-sit.

It is currently uncertain when we will be able to re-schedule the CSA, but once government advice is clear, the MRCGP exams team will prioritise additional CSA sittings as soon as is practical to do so.

I was due to sit the CSA in March, April or May 2020. When will the CSA examination be re-scheduled?

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic all medical specialty postgraduate assessments, including the MRCGP, have been cancelled until further notice.

It is currently uncertain when we will be able re-schedule the CSA, but once the government advice is clear, the MRCGP exams team will prioritise additional CSA sittings as soon as is practical to do so.

I was due to sit the CSA in March and April 2020. What will happen to the fee I paid?

Payment for an exam that has been postponed, or where the candidate can demonstrate the reason for their inability to attend, will be automatically carried over until the next booked CSA sitting. We will refund any fees on request, however due to the ongoing pandemic these are unlikely to be paid until April 2020.

It is important to note that there will likely be an extremely high demand for examination sittings when the CSA resumes, and so priority for re-booking will be given to those already booked and carrying forward their fee.

For refunds, please email the exams team at exams@rcgp.org.uk.
I was due to sit the CSA between March 19th – 28th 2020. What will happen to the travel and accommodation costs I have paid and which cannot be reclaimed because of the short cancellation notice?

We regret that we cannot refund any advance travel and accommodation costs. This means you will need to seek a refund from the supplier in the first instance, and failing that, your insurance company.

I was due to sit the CSA in April or May 2020. What will happen to the travel and accommodation costs I have prepaid?

We regret that we cannot refund any advance travel and accommodation costs. This means you need to seek a refund from the supplier in the first instance, failing that your insurance company.

I booked and paid for an examination preparation course which I feel is now wasted - can I get a refund?

Refunds in this case will depend on the provider and so may vary. Please contact your provider for information.

I am a trainee that is part of the Targeted GP Training scheme (TGPT). How will these changes affect me?

As stated, we plan to provide the CSA and AKT exams when it is safe and responsible to do so. For further advice please see the relevant TGPT section in either the HEE or NES website.

With the CSA exams suspended, can I submit a video of patient consultations instead?

No. The format of the MRCGP is approved by the GMC and remains unchanged. Videos of patient consultations are not an acceptable substitute for the CSA component of MRCGP. We shall restart the CSA exams as soon as it is safe and responsible to do so.
Applied Knowledge Test (AKT)

I was due to sit the AKT in April 2020. When will the AKT examination be re-scheduled?

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic all medical specialty postgraduate assessments, including the MRCGP, have been cancelled until further notice.

It is currently uncertain when it will be safe to re-schedule the AKT, but once the government advice is clear, the MRCGP exams team will prioritise additional AKT sittings as soon as is practical to do so.

I was due to sit the AKT in April 2020. What will happen to the fee I paid?

Payment for an exam that has been postponed, or where the candidate can demonstrate the reason for their inability to attend, will be automatically carried over until the next booked AKT sitting. We will refund any fees on request, however due to the ongoing pandemic these are unlikely to be paid until April 2020.

It is important to note that there will likely be an extremely high demand for examination sittings when the AKT resumes, and so priority for re-booking will be given to those already booked and carrying forward their fee.

For refunds, please email the exams team at exams@rcgp.org.uk.