

Update on College Autumn examinations

The College's exams team have been working at speed to introduce new ways to run the Autumn examinations as safely and fairly as possible for everyone concerned whilst also maintaining standards.

However two issues have come to light. We have emailed all candidates about both of these issues and the work that the exams team have been undertaking to resolve them.

The first relates to access to the online examinations system to allow candidates to familiarise themselves with it in the run up to the examinations. We had hoped that candidates would receive this by the end of August but this was not the case for all candidates. All FRCPATH Part 2 Clinical Biochemistry Module 2 candidates received an email from TestReach on 4 September inviting them to setup their account and go through the tutorial exam. All other candidates will also receive the same email two weeks before their examination date.

The second issue relates to the drawing tool that is available in the online examinations system. Not all candidates will need to use this tool but some of our specialty exams ask questions that could be answered using a diagram. In the [Online Exams FAQ document](#) and the [Exams Q&A webinar](#) held recently, we have stated that it would be possible for candidates to draw diagrams in the online examination platform. However, following extensive testing, it appears that the drawing tool can lead to candidates experiencing considerable problems during the examination.

The decision has therefore been made not to use the drawing tool for this session. All exam Panel Chairs have been notified and all relevant papers are being reviewed to ensure that appropriate amendments have been made where necessary. Examiners will also be made aware of the issue prior to marking.

September 2020.