

## Exam data – Recording attempts

### Introduction

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges recently circulated *2020\_07\_23\_Exceptional guidance and conditions for changes to exam delivery methods during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.doc*. Queries have been raised around the recording of data in the exam outcomes return in response to these changes. This note is to advise colleges how to return the data to ensure that we can maintain a consistent dataset.

### Recording attempts for exams where an attempt has not been counted towards the maximum permitted number

The recently issued guidance circulated states:

*“We recognise that doctors’ progression through training, including the ability to plan and prepare for exams has been disrupted during this period.*

*Our policy on the [maximum number of attempts](#) allows flexibility to be applied in these exceptional circumstances. We recommend that the first attempt of an exam using a new delivery method and taken during this period of disruption, should not count toward the maximum number of attempts for that exam.”*

Where you have applied this guidance to your exams we ask that you please record the attempts in two columns containing the following:

1. Attempts as per count using the existing method
2. Attempts adjusted in line with the college exam policy guidance above – i.e. the number of attempts that will now be used to determine the maximum number permitted for that exam

Recording the data in this way will allow us to have a record of the actual number of attempts and the number of attempts counted out of the permitted maximum, and who has applied this guidance to their exams.

## Contact the GMC

If you have any queries in relation to the data collection process of the exam outcomes please contact the GMC by email at [educationdata@gmc-uk.org](mailto:educationdata@gmc-uk.org).

Your contacts at the GMC regarding the exam data collection are:

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All briefing notes from previous collections and this note will be published on the [GMC website](#).