

ORE Part 1 - Suspected Malpractice Policy

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1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 This policy sets out the procedures for managing suspected malpractice in ORE Part 1.
- 1.2 It applies to all candidates and all personnel involved in delivery and oversight of the examination.
- 1.3 The UCL Consortium will investigate all suspected malpractice and take action, including referral to the GDC.

2. Principles

- 2.1 ORE Part 1 reflects real-world clinical practice and professional standards.
- 2.2 Candidates must behave in accordance with the standards expected of a registered dental professional.
- 2.3 Any behaviour compromising patient safety, examination integrity, or professional standards will be treated as suspected malpractice.
- 2.4 The UCL Consortium will act proportionately, fairly, and in accordance with due process.

3. Definition of Malpractice

- 3.1 Malpractice is any act or omission that threatens examination integrity or confers unfair advantage.
- 3.2 Examples of behaviour that may constitute malpractice include, but are not limited to:
 - 3.2.1 possession or use of unauthorised materials or devices;
 - 3.2.2 copying, collusion, or unauthorised communication with another candidate or third party;
 - 3.2.3 impersonation or facilitating impersonation;
 - 3.2.4 obtaining, recording, reproducing, retaining, or sharing examination content without authorisation;
 - 3.2.5 removal or attempted removal of examination materials from the examination venue;
 - 3.2.6 falsification of documents, records, or candidate information;
 - 3.2.7 failure to comply with examination regulations or instructions issued by examination personnel;
 - 3.2.8 disruptive, abusive, threatening, or inappropriate behaviour;
 - 3.2.9 conduct that compromises the integrity, security, fairness, or reputation of the examination.
- 3.3 The examples above are illustrative only and are not exhaustive. The UCL Consortium reserves the right to determine whether particular conduct constitutes malpractice having regard to the circumstances of each case.

4. Identification and Immediate Action

- 4.1 Suspected malpractice must be reported immediately to the Lead Examiner.
- 4.2 Incidents must be recorded by the Lead Examiner using the Lead Examiner Malpractice Report Form. Candidates will normally be allowed to continue unless there is risk, disruption or compromise.
- 4.3 Following an initial assessment by the Lead Examiner, the candidate may be permitted to continue the examination where doing so does not pose a risk to examination integrity, examination security, candidate safety, or the fairness of the assessment process.
- 4.4 The Lead Examiner may immediately remove a candidate from the current examination session, the remainder of the examination diet, or any examination area where there are reasonable grounds to believe that:
 - 4.4.1 the integrity or security of the examination may be compromised;
 - 4.4.2 the candidate may obtain, record, retain or communicate further examination content;
 - 4.4.3 the candidate's behaviour poses a risk to safety; or
 - 4.4.4 the candidate's behaviour is disruptive to the examination process.
- 4.5 Any decision to remove a candidate from the examination shall not constitute a determination that malpractice has occurred but shall be treated as a precautionary measure pending investigation and formal consideration under this policy.
- 4.6 Evidence will be confiscated and retained.
- 4.7 The candidate will be informed of the allegation.

5. Investigation Process

- 5.1 Following the Lead Examiner's initial assessment, all reported cases of suspected malpractice will be investigated by the UCL ORE Consortium Administrative Team.
- 5.2 The investigation may include gathering examination records, reports, witness statements, candidate representations, and any other relevant evidence.
- 5.3 The UCL ORE Consortium Administrative Team will arrange for the candidate to be notified in writing of the allegation and given an opportunity to respond before an exam-level outcome is determined.
- 5.4 The candidate's results will be withheld while the investigation and any Conduct Panel consideration is ongoing.

6. Conduct Panel

- 6.1 Following the initial investigation by the lead examiner, cases will be referred to a Conduct Panel where required.
- 6.2 The Panel will review evidence, determine whether malpractice has taken place and determine the appropriate exam-level outcome.
- 6.3 The Panel will operate in accordance with fairness and proportionality.

7. Outcomes and Sanctions

- 7.1 In cases where it is suspected that malpractice has taken place within the examination, in order to protect examination integrity, security, safety or fairness, a candidate may be removed from the examination in accordance with the Identification and Immediate Action section. Any final examination outcome will be determined following completion of the investigation and, where required, consideration by a Conduct Panel.
- 7.2 Following consideration of the case, the Conduct Panel will determine whether the allegation of malpractice is upheld and the appropriate exam-level outcome. Exam-level outcomes may include:
- 7.2.1 No further action where the allegation is not upheld
 - 7.2.2 Annulment of results for specific components
 - 7.2.3 Annulment of the entire examination attempt
- 7.3 Sanctions will be applied at the Consortium's discretion, taking into account severity, intent, and impact on examination integrity.
- 7.4 All cases of suspected malpractice shall be reported to the GDC within 2 working days following the incident.
- 7.5 The outcome of any Conduct Panel will be reported to the GDC. The GDC may consider whether the circumstances require action beyond the examination attempt concerned, including any restriction on the candidate's future participation in the ORE or any other matter falling within the GDC's regulatory responsibilities.
- 7.6 The Consortium's exam-level decision will apply subject to any review undertaken through the GDC's formal review process. Any separate regulatory action shall be processed by the GDC, independent of the Consortium.

8. Communication of the outcome

- 8.1 Following completion of the investigation and, where required, consideration by a Conduct Panel, the GDC will notify the candidate of the outcome. The candidate will be notified in writing of:
- 8.1.1 whether the allegation of malpractice has been upheld;
 - 8.1.2 the examination outcome **and** any additional sanctions the GDC determines are required independent of the UCL consortium
 - 8.1.3 the reasons for the decision; and
 - 8.1.4 their right to request a review of the outcome.
- 8.2 The outcome will usually be communicated by the GDC within 25 working days of the exam.

9. Record Keeping

- 9.1 All documentation will be securely retained by the UCL Consortium.
- 9.2 Records may be used for audit, reviews, and regulatory reporting.

10. Reviews

- 10.1 Candidates may request a review of the outcome in accordance with the reviews process that sits with the GDC, details on this can be found in the [ORE Complaints and Reviews Policy](#).