

University of Birmingham

**Request for Exemption from Regulations concerning the number re-sits for a  
Level C module on the MBChB**

**Topic and Purpose of the Paper**

1. APRC is asked to **consider**, and if thought appropriate, **approve** a request for an exemption from Regulations for students on the MBChB programme to allow a third assessment attempt for up to 20 credits of Level C modules.

**Consultation**

2. The exemption was requested by the MBChB Curriculum Development Committee in the College of Medical and Dental Sciences in order to regularise existing procedure.

**Proposals/Recommendations**

3. That the MBChB (to be understood as all programmes at the University leading to the award of MBChB, including programmes leading to this award not yet approved) Level C assessments be exempt from Regulation 7.2.6 (a), which reads as follows:

*Subject to sub-clause 7.2.6 (b) below, all Registered Students who fail a module, other than modules taken in the final stage of a classified honours degree programme not exempted from this clause by decision of the Senate, shall have one opportunity to retrieve the failure, either by re-assessment (i.e. re-sitting the examination and/or resubmitting coursework) or repetition. Such opportunity shall be normally provided and taken within one year of the initial failure except when, for reasons of frequency of module delivery, the Senate or a delegated authority has agreed otherwise.*

**Argument to Support Proposal**

4. The MBChB requires students to pass all modules at Level C - the argument being that to allow students to progress with gaps in their knowledge may affect future patient safety. This is allowed under Regulation 7.3.1 (a) (i), which reads as follows:

*Registered Students are required to pass 100 credits at a given stage of a programme in order to progress to the subsequent stage. Where programmes have different requirements in terms of credits passed, this shall be agreed by the Senate or under delegated authority and shall be specified in the programme requirements.*

5. A third attempt at up to 20 credits at Level C only is requested to ameliorate the effect of these demanding progression rules on students who may still be settling in to University life and learning. This practice was granted annual exemption in the 2003/04 and 2004/05 sessions and this proposal regularises the practice.