

Honorable colleagues,

It is more than a month that we had sent the draft for FMG regulations to all of you and we had also put in on our website for comments through public domain.

After reviewing all the comments, critics and suggestions, we have modified the new draft making it crisp and addressing all the issues. Judicial consultation was also taken.

The most important issues were:

1. Education before seeking admission to undergraduate medical course in foreign universities:

- (a) We have removed details of schooling and college since this will become redundant in view of eligibility to MBBS. If we keep the clause of school/ college education, we will be inviting litigations and in addition, we are very much likely to lose our stand on this issue because we are already mentioning that passing in NEET-UG is mandatory for seeking admission to MBBS.
- (b) Passing in NEET-UG is mandatory to seek admission to MBBS/ equivalent UG medical education in foreign institution. Hence NEET-UG criteria may be set up separately by the body admitting application forms.

2. Actual training in MBBS:

- (a) Course curriculum, duration and training of MBBS: This is the mandate of NMC and same criteria as established for Indian medical graduates/ MBBS can be applied to FMGs. The major advantage is that these details will be put up on the website of NMC as guidelines. These can be amended whenever NMC deems fit in view of evolving and improving medical education of the country. The jurisdiction being technical, law/ judiciary will be in full support of NMC, ultimate aim and objective being to train the candidates so as to provide them the best education to cater to the needs of Indian citizens all across.
- (b) For getting provisional certificate to do internship, all medical students, Indians and FMGs will be subjected to the same National Exit Test (NExT). This will test the knowledge of all students and the chances of improving the level of education in our own country universally also stand strong.
- (c) Making 12 months internship/ clinical clerkship mandatory to FMGs also cannot be questioned since it is the part of training an MBBS candidate to take a field trial to make him eligible to treat patients efficiently and make a 'doctor of first line' out of him. FMGs will be mandatorily required to undergo this clinical training in their foreign universities, in addition to have an exposure of clinical environment in India where they aspire to practice, they will have to undergo 12 months internship similar to Indian counterparts. This being mandate of NMC will be accepted universally.

Thus I am attaching herewith the FMG Draft Regulations along with schedule (to be displayed on website of NMC) for kind perusal of all esteemed members.

Aruna Vanikar

President, UGMEB and ex-officio NMC member

**NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION [FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATE  
LICENTIATE] REGULATIONS, 2021**

**WHEREAS**, with the endeavor of qualified and competent medical professionals providing healthcare services to all; and carry out the mandate of National Medical Commission Act that every medical student shall be screened through National Exit Test, before he is allowed license to practice independently; and

**WHEREAS** in exercise of powers conferred by Section 57 of National Medical Commission Act, 2019; the National Medical Commission hereby make the following Regulations –

**Short title and commencement**

1. These Regulations may be called the **National Medical Commission [Foreign Medical Graduate Licentiate] Regulations, 2021** or ‘FMG’ Regulations in its abbreviated form.
2. All these Regulations at once, shall come into force on such designated day by National Medical Commission, after their publication in the Official Gazette.

**Definitions**

3. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires the terms defined herein shall bear the meaning assigned to them below and their cognate expressions and variations shall be construed accordingly –
  - a) “Act” shall mean National Medical Commission Act, 2019 [Act XXX of 2019].
  - b) “Board” shall mean Undergraduate Medical Education Board, duly constituted under Section 16 of the Act.
  - c) “Commission” means the National Medical Commission duly established under Section 3 of the Act.
  - d) “Foreign Medical Graduate” shall be a person who does not have basic graduation or primary qualification, from an Indian university or Indian medical college or an Indian institution, as the case may be, to seek license for medical practice in India.
  - e) “Medicine” means modern scientific system of medicine or allopathy in all its branches and includes surgery and obstetrics, but does not include veterinary medicine and veterinary surgery or such recognized qualification as may be prescribed by Central Government.
  - f) “Permanent Registration” is the registration of eligible persons with a duly recognized primary medical qualification as regulated under Chapter VI of the National Medical Commission Act 2019, which permits or provides license to the individual to independently practice modern scientific system of medicine or allopathy in India, as regulated under the Permanent Medical Regulations,

2021 of the NMC.

- g) 'Supervised Internship' shall mean training of an intern by mentor(s) so that he becomes a clinician with reliable competencies in diagnostic and therapeutic skills in different disciplines of medicine, appropriate for a primary care physician, to independently provide safe preventive, promotive, curative, palliative and holistic care with compassion and is confident of handling common acute emergencies.

### **Prohibition of Foreign Medical Graduate to practice medicine in India**

- 4. No Foreign Medical Graduate shall practice medicine in India, unless he is granted permanent registration, or otherwise as per these Regulations and other Regulations in force presently.

### **Grant of permanent registration to Foreign Medical Graduate**

- 5. No Foreign Medical Graduate shall be granted permanent registration, unless he should have –
  - a) Undergone a course leading to foreign medical degree with minimum duration of 54 months, and an internship for a minimum duration of 12 months; and
  - b) Received a foreign medical degree with medium of instructions in English; and
  - c) Studied the mandatory subjects indicated in the Schedule I appended to the Regulations; and
  - d) Registered with the respective Professional Regulatory Body or otherwise, competent to license to practice medicine in their respective jurisdiction of the country in which the medical degree is awarded and at par with the license to practice Medicine given to citizen of that country; and
  - e) Undergone supervised internship in India for a minimum term of 12 months, after applying for the same as specified in the proforma to the National Medical Commission; and
  - f) Has cleared the National Exit Test, conducted under the mandate of National Medical Commission Act.

### **Applicability of the Regulations**

- 6. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained above, the Regulations shall not be applicable
  - a) to a Foreign Medical Graduate who had acquired a foreign medical degree or primary qualification as the case may be, prior to these Regulations coming into force.

Provided, the Foreign Medical Graduate who had acquired a foreign medical degree or primary qualification as the case may be, prior to these Regulations coming into force, shall be governed by the erstwhile applicable Regulations.

- b) to a Foreign Medical graduate who intends to practice medicine in India for a temporary period. Provided that, 'temporary period' for this proviso shall mean a period not exceeding six (06) months.

(2) without prejudice to anything contained in the Regulations a Foreign Medical Graduate, intending to practice medicine in India for a temporary period, as above, shall nevertheless seek permission from NMC, by making an application in the prescribed format.

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## SCHEDULE I

### **REQUIREMENTS / CRITERIA TO RECOGNIZE FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES APPLYING FOR LICENCE / REGISTRATION TO PRACTICE IN INDIA:**

The guiding principle for licensing a Foreign Medical Graduate to practice in India is ensuring that the Foreign Medical Graduate fulfils the requirements of education and training equivalent or commensurate with that of an Indian Medical Graduate.

#### **1. Eligibility /Requirements *prior* to joining the course for a Primary Medical Qualification**

- (a) Person should have successfully qualified in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for Undergraduates [NEET (UG)];
- (b) The eligibility requirements of NEET UG shall be met with, as applicable and available in the Information Bulletin notified by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

#### **2. Eligibility /Requirements related to Primary Medical Qualification in a country outside India**

Having fulfilled the applicable requirements as under 1.1 of these guidelines, the following requirements related to the Primary Medical Qualification shall be fulfilled by the Foreign Medical Graduate to be eligible to apply to practice;

##### **(i) Duration of Course and Training in Subjects leading to Primary Medical Qualification**

- (a) Those who pursue the above course / undergo training as applicable in these regulations, should have undergone a minimum of four and half years (54 months) of theory, practical and clinical training for acquisition of primary medical qualification, equivalent to MBBS of India
- (b) In addition to the duration of the course, a period of internship/ clinical clerkship of additional 12 months should have been completed in the country where the Primary Medical Qualification has been obtained and this shall consist of hands-on training in clinical subjects including but not limited to Community Medicine, General Medicine, Psychiatry, Pediatrics, General Surgery, Anaesthesia, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Orthopaedics, Otorhinolaryngology, Ophthalmology, Dermatology, Emergency / Casualty services, lab services and their subspecialties.

##### **(ii) Content of Course / Training leading to Primary Medical Qualification**

- (a) The course and internship/clinical clerkship shall be commensurate with the MBBS Course of India in the accordance with the Regulations on "*Graduate Medical Education, 1997*" and subsequent amendments duly recognized by the National Medical Commission under Section 61(2) of the NMC Act and shall include the subjects mentioned therein;
- (b) The course curriculum should be available for review by appropriate authorities, if necessary, in the website of the institution/ university where the course is being pursued *at the time of joining the course. It shall be in the interest of the applicant to verify and satisfy with the details of the course prior to joining the course.*

##### **(iii) Location of College/ Institution and administration of the course/ training**

The entire course, training and internship / clerkship shall be outside India in the same foreign medical institution throughout the course of study and no part of medical training

and internship should have been done in India or in any country other than country from where Primary Medical Qualification is obtained.

(IV) The total duration of MBBS course should be completed within 10 years from the date of joining the course.

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