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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

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PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

MEDICAL ORDINANCE

REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Healthcare and Nutrition under Section 19 read with Section 72 of the Medical Ordinance (Chapter 105) in consultation with the Sri Lanka Medical Council.

NIMAL SIRIPALA DE SILVA,
Minister of Healthcare and Nutrition.

Colombo,
10th August, 2006.

Regulations

1. These regulations may be cited as the Foreign Medical Institutions (Standards) Regulations, No. 01 of 2006.
2. A foreign University or a medical school and a degree of Bachelor of Medicine or Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) or any other degree equivalent thereto awarded by such University or Medical School to qualify for recognition, and registration under Section 29 of the Medical Ordinance, as the case may be, the Sri Lanka Medical Council shall satisfy itself that-

PART I

DESIGNATED BODY FOR ACCREDITATION, APPROVAL OR RECOGNITION OF UNIVERSITIES AND MEDICAL SCHOOLS

- (a) There exists in the country where such foreign University is situated a designated body responsible for evaluating the quality of medical education in Universities and medical schools in that country and that body has authority to accredit, approve or recognize Universities and medical schools in that country that offer medical educational programme leading to the M.B.B.S. or equivalent qualification and that the University or medical school and the course of study offered by it are recognized by the designated body ;
- (b) The University or medical school (hereinafter referred to as “medical school”) that seeks approval from the Sri Lanka Medical Council has already been approved by such designated body.

PART II

ACCREDITATION / APPROVAL STANDARDS

- (c) The designated body that is responsible for evaluating the quality of medical education in that country and has authority to accredit, approve or recognize medical schools has standards set for medical schools comparable with the following :-

(I) In respect of Mission and Objectives -

- (A) the educational mission of the medical school shall be to serve the general public interest, and its educational objectives shall be to support the mission. The medical school's educational programme shall be appropriate in light of the mission and objectives of the school ; and
- (B) the objective of the programme of medical education leading to the M.B.B.S. or equivalent qualification shall be to prepare students to enter and graduate in medical education, qualify for registration, provide competent medical care, and have the educational background necessary for continued learning.

(II) In respect of Governance -

- (A) the medical school shall be legally authorized to provide a programme of medical education in the country in which it is established ;
- (B) the accountability of the management of the medical school shall be to an ultimate responsible authority external to and independent of the medical school's administration and such authority shall have sufficient knowledge of the medical programme to develop policies in the interest of both the medical school and the public.

(III) In respect of Administration -

- (A) the medical school shall be administered effectively and appropriately in light of the medical school's mission and objectives ;
- (B) adequate administrative personnel shall ensure the administration of admission, student affairs, academic affairs, hospital and other health facility relationships, business and planning, and other administrative functions that the medical school performs ;
- (C) the chief academic officer of the medical school shall have power vested in him by the institution to administer the educational programme. He shall have access to the Vice Chancellor or other university official charged with final responsibility for the medical school, and to other university staff as are necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the chief academic officer's office ;
- (D) the medical school's department Heads and senior clinical faculty members shall have authority consistent with their responsibility for the instruction of students, in affiliated institutions ;
- (E) the chief academic officer of the medical school shall be academically qualified and have experience to provide leadership in medical education ;
- (F) the medical school shall be competent to determine the administrative structure that best suits its mission and objectives, but that structure shall ensure that the faculty is appropriately involved in decisions related to -
 - (i) admissions ;
 - (ii) hiring, retention, promotion, and discipline of faculty ; and
 - (iii) all phases of the curriculum, including the clinical education programme ;

(G) where some components of the educational programmes are conducted at sites that are geographically separated from the main campus of the medical school, the school must have appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure that -

(i) the educational experiences at all geographically separated sites are comparable in quality with those at the main campus ; and

(ii) there is consistency in student evaluations at all sites.

(IV) In respect of Educational Programme -

(A) the programme leading to the MBBS or equivalent degree shall be minimum of five academic years' duration scheduled over a minimum of four and half calendar years. The student shall complete the entire course within a period of ten years from the time of entry to the course. However, in the event of an intercalated degree course being followed during the main course, the duration of the subsequent course shall be added to the duration of the main course.

(B) the medical school's curriculum shall provide students with general professional education, *i.e.*, the knowledge and skills necessary to become a qualified medical practitioner and at the least evidence based medical education in the following :-

(i) The science basic to medicine, including -

(a) the contemporary content of those expanded disciplines that have traditionally been titled anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, microbiology and immunology, pathology, pharmacology and therapeutics, and preventive medicine ; and

(b) laboratory or other practical exercises that facilitate the ability to make accurate quantitative observations of biomedical phenomena and critical analyses of data.

(ii) Clinical subjects, particularly, the core subjects of general medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, paediatrics, surgery, psychiatry and preferably, family medicine.

Explanation 1 : Clinical instruction shall cover all organ systems and include aspects of acute, chronic, continuing, preventive, and rehabilitative care.

Explanation 2 : The medical school's programme of clinical instruction shall be designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviour necessary for further training in the practice of medicine.

Explanation 3 : Instruction and experience in patient care must be provided in both ambulatory and hospital settings.

Explanation 4 : Every clinical training (or equivalent) shall allow the student to undertake through study of a series of selected patients having the major and common types of disease problems represented in the training.

(iii) Disciplines that support the fundamental clinical subjects, such as cardiology, neurology, pulmonology, orthopaedic surgery, otorhinolaryngology, ophthalmology, thoracic and cardiac surgery, neurosurgery, paediatric surgery, anaesthesiology and critical care, biological sciences stream or equivalent. Alternatively, he may have eleven years of formal education and thereafter a formal, a foundation or Pre-Medical course in basic biological sciences and passed the entrance examination of the respective medical school.

Transfer of students can only be effected between two accredited medical schools, to follow the recognized medical education program at the appropriate level and such students shall be able to follow the entire curriculum in two medical schools.

- (iv) A medical school's publications, advertisement, and student recruitment shall present a balanced and accurate representation of the mission and objectives of its educational programme. Its catalogue (or similar document) must provide an accurate description of the school, its educational programme, its admissions requirements for students (both new and transfer students), the criteria it uses to determine that a student is making satisfactory academic progress in the medical programme, and its requirements for the award of the MBBS degree (or equivalent).

(B) Evaluation of Student Achievement

- (i) The University or the medical school shall establish principles and methods for the evaluation of student's achievement, including the criteria for satisfactory academic progress and the requirements for graduation ;
- (ii) The medical school's evaluation of achievement by student shall adopt a variety of measures to gauge the student's knowledge, competence and performance, systematically and sequentially applied throughout the medical programme, including the clinical clerkships ;
- (iii) The medical school shall monitor the progress of students throughout their educational programme, including each course and clinical clerkship and promote only those who make satisfactory academic progress, and award degrees to only those students who successfully complete the programme.

(C) Student Services

Students must have access to preventive and therapeutic health services, including confidential mental health counseling. Policies must include education, prevention, and management of exposure dermatology, venereology, rheumatology, diagnostic imaging and clinical pathology.

- (iv) Ethical, behavioural, medico-legal and socio-economic subjects pertinent to medicine.
- (v) Disciplines in community medicine, accident and emergency medicine and blood transfusion medicine.
- (vi) Communication skills integral to the education and effective function of medical practitioners, including communication with patients, families, colleagues, and other health professionals.

(D) Design, Implementation, and Evaluation :

- (i) There shall be integrated responsibility by faculty within the medical school for the design, implementation, and periodic evaluation of all aspects of the curriculum, including basic sciences, clinical education and also an exit examination.
- (ii) The medical school shall regularly evaluate the effectiveness of its medical programme by documenting the achievement of its students and graduates in verifiable ways that show the extent to which institutional and programme purposes are met. The school shall use a variety of measures to evaluate programme quality, such as data on student performance, academic progress and graduation, acceptance into internship (residency) programmes, and postgraduate performance ; the registration of graduates, particularly in relation to any national norms ; and any other measures that are appropriate and valid in light of the school's mission and objectives.

(iii) The medical education programme shall be a taught course and the degree shall not be conferred on theses.

(V) In respect of Medical Students -

(A) *Admissions, Recruitment and Publications :*

- (i) The medical school shall admit only those new and transfer students who possess the intelligence, integrity, and personal and emotional characteristics that are generally perceived as necessary to become effective medical practitioners.
- (ii) The new students shall have not less than thirteen years of formal education and pass at GCE Advanced Level (A/L) examination in to infectious diseases during the course of the educational programme.

(VI) In respect of resources for the Educational Programme -

(A) *Finances :-* The medical school shall have adequate financial resources commensurate with the magnitude and scope of its educational programme;

(B) *Facilities :*

- (i) The medical school shall have, or be assured the use of facilities and equipment, including clinical teaching facilities that are quantitatively and qualitatively adequate for the magnitude and scope of the educational programme, as well as the size of the student body.

The student staff ratio shall preferably be 7 : 1 but shall not be greater than 14 : 1.

- (ii) The medical school shall be geared to conduct biomedical research and shall provide facilities for the humane care of animals when such animals are used in teaching and research;

(C) *Faculty :*

- (i) Faculty members of the medical school shall be appropriately qualified to teach in a medical programme leading to the MBBS (or equivalent) degree and be effective in their teaching. The faculty shall be sufficient in size, breadth, and depth to provide the educational programme offered, with a student : academic staff ratio of 7 : 1 and not greater than 14 : 1.
- (ii) The medical school shall have policy spelt out to deals with situation where private interests of its faculty or staff come into conflict with their official responsibilities;

(D) *Library :-* The medical school shall have a library well provided for in size, breadth and depth to support the educational programme and adequately and professionally staffed;

(E) *Information technology :-* The medical school shall have adequate and modern facility to support the educational programme;

(F) *Clinical Teaching Facilities :-* The medical school shall have its own clinical teaching facility or agreement to affiliate with each teaching hospital or clinical facility with provisions defining the responsibilities of each party.

PART III

ACCREDITATION OR APPROVAL PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

(d) the medical school complied with the following accreditation or approval processes and procedures :

(I) *Application* :

The medical school seeking recognition shall directly submit an application under the signature of the Vice Chancellor or chief academic officer in the form prescribed by the Sri Lanka Medical Council along with the required documents to support that it is in conformity with the prescribed standards, and with the prescribed processing fee to the Registrar of the Council.

(II) *Scrutiny of Documents* :

The Foreign Degree Committee of the Council established in terms paragraph 5.3.1 of the *Gazette* notification No. 662/11 of 17th May, 1991 shall evaluate the application and the documents against the prescribed standards and submit a report with its recommendation to the Sri Lanka Medical Council.

(III) *Site Visit* :

Unless otherwise decided by the Sri Lanka Medical Council, the accreditation or approval process shall include a thorough on-site review of the school (and all its geographically separated sites, if any) and sufficient information is collected to determine if the school is in fact operating in compliance with the accreditation or approval standards. This review shall also include, among other things, an analysis of the admission process, the curriculum the qualifications of the faculty, the achievement of students and graduates, the facilities available to medical students (including the training facilities) and the academic support and resources available to students.

The accreditation approval or recognition process must include an on-site review of all core clinical clerkship sites.

At least 2 members of the Council shall take part in the site visit and the cost shall be borne by the medical school. The inspection team shall submit a report to the Council within one month of the inspection. The Council's decision shall be conveyed to the medical school within 3 months of completion of the inspection.

If the Council decides to exclude a site visit, it shall adopt effective method of ascertaining the facts mentioned above.

(IV) *Re-evaluation and Monitoring* :

The maximum period of recognition granted shall be for a continuous period of five (05) years and may be renewed thereafter upon a review.

The accreditation, approval or recognition process shall provide for the regular re-evaluation of an accredited, approved or recognized medical school in order to verify that it continues to comply with the approved standards. The designated body shall also provide for the monitoring of a medical school throughout the period of its accreditation or approval to verify its continued compliance with the standards.

The accreditation, approval or recognition process shall provide for the accrediting, approving or recognizing entity's review of complaints received from students and as appropriate, investigation and follow-up action. The entity's procedures need to ensure the timely, fair and equitable handling of all complaints related to the standards and procedures for accreditation or approval. The procedures need to ensure that follow-up action, including enforcement action, as appropriate, based on the results of the investigation. In addition, the accrediting or approving entity shall consider the complaints received by it regarding a medical school when re-evaluating the medical school for accreditation.

(V) *Substantial Change :*

The accreditation, approval or recognition process shall require a medical school to notify the appropriate authority any substantial change to their approved medical educational programme, student body, or resources and to submit the change for a review by the appropriate authority to determine if the school remains in compliance with the standards. If there is substantial change, it shall be notified to the Sri Lanka Medical Council and seek approval.

(VI) *Control over conflict of interest and inconsistent application of standards :*

The accreditation or approval process shall include effective control over conflict of interest and the inconsistent application of the accreditation or approval standards.

(VII) *Decision to Accredite or Approve :*

It is recognized that circumstances within a country may appropriately result in diverse institutional missions and educational objectives. However, those circumstances can never justify the accreditation of a substandard programme of medical education leading to MBBS degree or equivalent qualification. The accreditation or approval process shall ensure that all accreditation or approval decisions are based on compliance with the accreditation or approval standards. The decision shall also be based, in part, on an evaluation of the performance of students after graduation from the medical school.

(VIII) *Twinning and Parallel Medical Education Programmes and Affiliated Institutions :*

Recognition for twinning programmes, parallel programmes and programmes conducted in affiliated institutions shall be obtained separately from the Sri Lanka Medical Council.