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PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

MEDICAL ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 105)

L.D.B. 123/48 II

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,
07th March, 2007.

REGULATIONS

1. These regulations may be cited as the Medical Education (Minimum Standards) Regulations, No. 01 of 2007.

PART I

MINIMUM STANDARDS

2. The Minimum Standards set out hereunder for medical education including those relating to courses of study, examinations, staff, equipment, training and other facilities at the university or medical schools which award degrees and other similar academic qualifications, *inter alia*, enabling a person to obtain registration under the Medical Ordinance, shall be as follows :-

(a) *In respect of mission and objectives :*

The mission and objective of the university or the medical school or any other institution shall be to produce medical graduates who shall be competent to practice medicine safely and effectively. Graduates shall have appropriate foundation not only to function as an intern but also to further train in any branch of medicine, including medical, surgical, investigational and other specialities, community medicine, general practice, medical administration and research.

(b) *In respect of Governance :*

The accountability of the management of the University or the medical school shall be to an ultimate responsible authority external to and independent of the University or 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.

(c) *In respect of administration :*

- (i) The university or the medical school shall be administered effectively and appropriately in light of the university or the medical school's mission and objectives ;
- (ii) 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 University or the medical school performs ;
- (iii) The chief academic officer of the university or 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 officer charged with final responsibility for the University or the medical school, and to other university staff as are necessary to discharge the responsibilities of the chief academic officer's office ;
- (iv) The university's or the medical school's departmental Head and senior clinical faculty members shall have authority consistent with their responsibility for the instruction of students, in affiliated institutions ;
- (v) The chief academic officer of the university or medical school shall be academically qualified and have experience to provide leadership in medical education ;
- (vi) The university or 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 admissions, hiring, retention, promotion, and discipline of faculty and all phases of the curriculum, including the clinical education programme ;
- (vii) Where some components of the educational programmes are conducted at sites that are geographically separated from the main campus of the university or the medical school, the university or school shall have appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure that the educational experiences at all geographically separated sites are comparable in quality with those at the main campus and there is consistency in student evaluations at all sites.

(d) *In respect of course of study and examination (assessments) :*

- (i) The programme leading to the MBBS or equivalent degree shall be a 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. The MBBS or equivalent degree may be awarded after satisfactory completion of the education programme or it may be awarded after completion of internship.

- (ii) The university or the medical school shall define its curriculum model (discipline – system-, community-, based and instructional methods employed).
- (iii) The university or the medical school's curriculum shall provide students with general professional education. The knowledge and skills necessary to become a qualified medical practitioner and evidence based medical education shall be provided in the following aspects :-

(A) The scientific foundation of medicine :

A graduate shall receive instruction and training in and have knowledge of—

- (i) the normal structure and function of the human body, the different organ system and their inter-relationships ;
- (ii) changes occurring during the life cycle ;
- (iii) regulation of body functions, homeostasis and biochemical aspects ;
- (iv) the pathogenesis and pathology, risk factors, and natural history of diseases ;
- (v) laboratory or other practical exercises that facilitate the ability to make accurate quantitative observations of biomedical phenomena and critical analysis of data ;
- (vi) signs and symptoms of diseases, investigations and diagnosis, differential diagnosis, non-pharmacological and pharmacological management of diseases ;
- (vii) management of emergencies ;
- (viii) therapeutics, adverse reactions of therapy, curative and palliative therapy ;
- (ix) disability, rehabilitation and handicap ;
- (x) record keeping ;
- (xi) behavioural sciences and relationships to medical anthropology, sociology, and basic psychology ;
- (xii) the educational principals underlying learning and continuing education ;
- (xiii) ethics and legal aspects in relation to practice of medicine ;
- (xiv) the role of the family and extended family, inter-relationships and interactions with the society ;
- (xv) cultural and ethnic difference about perceptions and response to illnesses ; and
- (xvi) principles of communication.

(B) Clinical skills

A graduate shall receive training to acquire competence in core-clinical, interpersonal, practical and technical skills relevant to general professional practice in Sri Lanka. In relation to all aspects of clinical practice, a graduate shall demonstrate appropriate professional behaviours, safeguarding confidentiality and understanding the need for informed consent. Recognizing his own limitations, he shall seek assistance from more experienced health-care professionals when necessary.

In relation to clinical skills, a graduate shall be able to –

- (i) take a history which is patient-centered, sensitive, structured and relevant ;
- (ii) undertake relevant and systematic physical and mental state examination in a sensitive manner, appropriate for age, gender, culture and clinical condition ;

- (iii) define problems and formulate diagnosis or differential diagnosis based on history and examination ;
- (iv) select appropriate investigations and interpret their results ;
- (v) make clinical decisions based upon evidence and findings ;
- (vi) plan patient management ;
- (vii) carry out those practical and technical procedures, including investigative and therapeutic measures, which are relevant to general professional practice in Sri Lanka, taking into account costs, risks and hazards ;
- (viii) recognize emergency situations which require immediate action and be able to carry out the initial treatment of such conditions ;
- (ix) recognize conditions which require early or immediate intervention by the health care team and under appropriate supervision, undertake tasks to initiate and be involved in the care of acutely ill patients ;
- (x) evaluate the health needs of patients with chronic illness and disability, initiate relevant medical investigations and interventions, and plan management including referral ;
- (xi) give appropriate input to the multi-disciplinary and multi-professional teams involved in the management of patients in need of rehabilitation or palliative care including care of the dying.

(C) Communication skills

In relation to interpersonal skills, a graduate shall in the area of communication, be competent in :

- (i) listening to patients, relations and other health care professionals ;
- (ii) explaining and providing adequate information to patients and relations ;
- (iii) mediating and negotiating with patients and colleagues ;
- (iv) handling complaints appropriately ;
- (v) liaising with other members of the health-care team ;
- (vi) dealing with bereavement and grief.

(D) Population Health and Health Systems –

A graduate shall receive training towards developing the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to deliver primary-care and shall be trained in the skill of understanding –

- (i) demography and vital statistics ;
- (ii) basic and applied epidemiology ;
- (iii) basic statistics as applied to medicine ;
- (iv) epidemiological method ;
- (v) health promotion and prevention including healthy environment, quality of life, quality of health care provision and community care ;
- (vi) needs assessment and health care planning ;
- (vii) health care management and economics ;
- (viii) the organization of curative and preventive health services in the country ;

- (ix) health care provision and disaster situations ; and
- (x) international health.

(E) Management of information :

A graduate shall be able to –

- (i) display proficiency in the English language necessary for his professional activities ;
- (ii) retrieve and manage information of all types, including electronic information ;
- (iii) present information clearly in written, electronic and oral forms, and communicate ideas and argument effectively ; and
- (iv) produce and maintain contemporaneous, legible, accurate and pertinent records for patients under his care.

(F) Critical thinking and research :

The intellectual attributes possessed by a graduate of medicine desiring to practise in Sri Lanka shall include :-

- (i) the ability to critically evaluate information and use reasoning and personal judgement ;
- (ii) understanding and appreciating of the scientific method and its limitations ;
- (iii) coping with uncertainty and error in decision making ; and
- (iv) creativity, resourcefulness and adaptability.

(G) 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 university or the medical school's evaluation of achievement by a 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 university or 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 ;
- (iv) When a University or the medical school changes the objectives of its medical course, the assessment process should reflect these changes. Methods of student assessment shall match the objectives of the medical course.

(H) Design, Implementation and Evaluation :

- (i) There shall be an integrated responsibility with the university or the medical school for the design, implementation and periodic evaluation of all aspects of the curriculum, including basic sciences, clinical education and exit examination ;
- (ii) The university or the medical school shall regularly evaluate the effectiveness of its medical education programme by documenting the achievement of its students in verifiable ways that show the extent to which institutional and programme purposes are met. A variety of measures may be used 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 mission and objectives ;

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

(I) Twinning and Parallel Medical Education of Programmes and Affiliated Institutions :

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

(e) In respect of Medical Students :

- (i) Students admitted to the university or medical school shall have not less than thirteen years of formal education, and pass at GCE Advanced Level (AL) or equivalent examination in the biological sciences. Alternatively the students may have eleven years of formal education and thereafter a formal, foundation or pre-medical course in basic biological science and have passed the entrance examination of the respective university or medical school.

Transfer of students can be effected only between two recognized Universities or medical schools, to follow the recognized medical education programme at the appropriate level and such students shall be able to follow the entire curriculum in two medical schools. The transfers shall be completed within a period not exceeding twenty four months.

- (ii) A University or 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) shall provide an accurate description of the school, its educational programme, its admissions requirements for students (both new and transfer students), the criteria 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).
- (iii) Students shall have access to preventive and therapeutic health services including confidential mental health counseling, facilities for extracurricular activities, student academic advisers and more informal and readily accessible advice from individual academic staff.
- (iv) The University or medical school shall have a policy on student representation and appropriate participation in the design, management and evaluation of the curriculum. Student organizations and activities should be encouraged and facilitated.

(f) In respect of Staffing Policy :

- (i) Staff members of the university or medical school shall be appropriately qualified to teach in a medical education programme leading to an MBBS or equivalent degree.
- (ii) University or medical school shall have in place a policy for staff development and review. The process shall be formative, and provide opportunities for the mentoring of staff by their immediate superiors. Opportunities shall be provided for probationary staff to acquire postgraduate qualifications and other requirements for confirmation and promotion. Staff shall have access to staff development courses appropriate to their needs, in areas such as teaching, assessment, evaluation, research, grant writing, management and knowledge information technology.
- (iii) The student staff ratio shall preferably be 7:1 but shall not be greater than 14:1 taking into account, permanent academic staff and the extended faculty of specialist in under graduate teaching institutions.
- (iv) The university or medical school shall have policy spelt out to deal with situations where private interests of its faculty or staff come into conflict with their official responsibilities ;

(g) *In respect of resources for the Educational Programme :*

(i) **Finance**

The University or medical school shall have adequate financial resources in commensuration with the magnitude and scope of its educational programme ;

(ii) **Physical facilities**

The university or medical school shall have adequate facilities for lectures, tutorials and practical classes, including auditoriums, laboratories, tutorial rooms, audio-visual equipment laboratory equipment and computers for satisfactory delivery of the curriculum. Adequate physical facilities shall be provided for student study, sports and recreation. These shall include adequate rest rooms, and food service areas, in all facilities/institutions (including hospitals) where teaching-learning activities take place in proportion to the number of students.

(iii) **Library**

The university or medical school shall have a library well provided for in size, breadth and depth to support the educational programme and be adequately and professionally staffed.

(iv) **Information technology (IT)**

The university or medical school shall have adequate and modern facilities in Information Technology to support educational programmes.

(v) **Clinical Teaching Facilities**

Ideally, a university or medical school shall have its own teaching hospital or agreement to affiliate with other teaching hospitals or clinical facilities with provisions defining the responsibilities of each party. Clinical facilities shall be adequate in proportion to the students.

(vi) **Research**

An active research environment within a medical school is desirable.

(vii) **Medical Education Expertise**

Schools shall have an academic unit dedicated to Medical Education.

3. These regulation, made in conformity with the subject Bench Mark Statement on Medicine, of October 2004, of the Committee of Vice Chancellors, Directors and the University Grant Commission of Sri Lanka, constituting the minimum standards for the purpose of Section 29 of the Medical Ordinance, may, from time to time, be amended to give effect to the changes in the said Bench Mark.

PART II

PROCEDURE

(A) DETERMINATION OF CONFORMITY WITH THE PRESCRIBED MINIMUM STANDARDS OF MEDICAL EDUCATION BY ALL MEDICAL FACULTIES OR INSTITUTIONS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE UNIVERSITIES ACT, No. 16 OF 1978.

4. Determination of conformity with the prescribed minimum standards of medical education by all faculties or Institutions established under the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 shall be periodically undertaken by the Sri Lanka Medical Council in accordance with Part IIIA of the Medical Ordinance.

(B) DETERMINATION OF CONFORMITY WITH PRESCRIBED MINIMUM STANDARDS OF MEDICAL EDUCATION OF ANY UNIVERSITY OR MEDICAL SCHOOL OF ANY COUNTRY OTHER THAN SRI LANKA AND COURSES OF STUDY OFFERED BY THEM

5. Standards of medical education of any university or medical school established in countries other than Sri Lanka shall comply with the following procedures in addition to the requirements of Part IIIA of the Medical Ordinance :-

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

(b) *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 standards herein prescribed, and with the processing fee to the Registrar of the Council.

(c) *Scrutiny of Documents :*

The Foreign Degrees 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.

(d) *Site Visit :*

Unless otherwise decided by the Sri Lanka Medical Council, the recognition process shall include a thorough on-site review of the school (and all its geographically separated sites, if any) and sufficient information collected to determine if the school is in fact operating in compliance with the prescribed standards.

At least two members of the Council shall take part in the site visit. 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 three months of completion of the inspection.

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

(e) *Re-evaluation and Monitoring :*

The recognition process shall provide for the regular re-evaluation of a recognized University or 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 University or medical school throughout the period of recognition to verify its continued compliance with the standards.

(f) *Substantial Change :*

The recognition process shall require a university or medical school to notify the appropriate authority of 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 approval sought.

(g) Control over conflict of interest and inconsistency application of standards :

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

6. Foreign Medical Institutes (Standards) Regulations No. 1 of 2006 published in the *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 1458/16 of 17th August, 2006 is hereby rescinded.

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