

PUBLIC AWARENESS MESSAGE

ATTENTION ALL

CAUTION AGAINST UNLAWFUL USE OF SPECIALIZATION TITLES

It has been observed by the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC), that certain individuals who have been granted license to practice basic medicine or dentistry as a general practitioner are falsely using specialization titles with their names and are thus misrepresenting to and endangering the lives of the public at large.

Section 29 (2) of the Pakistan Medical Commission Act 2020 (the “Act”) states as follows:

“.....

29. Licensing (2) A general practitioner may treat all ordinarily recognized common medical or dental ailments and shall not practice in fields or specialties, as recognized by the Commission for which formal training is required No practitioner shall represent himself as a specialist or practice as a specialist without having appropriate qualifications, recognized and duly registered by the Commission.”

Sub-section (8) provides further:

“... (8) No medical or dental practitioner shall be permitted to represent in Pakistan as having acquired or seek to practice a specialty unless the same is duly registered on his license by the Authority. ...”

Such misrepresentation as to specialized medical and dental practice is in violation of the code of ethics and tantamount to misconduct. PMC has zero tolerance policy against such an illegal act and gross violation of the Act and mandates a disciplinary action against medical and dental practitioners involved in such deceptive practices and imposition of a penalty which may include imposition of a fine and suspension of license.

Furthermore, any individual found guilty of being in violation of the provisions of the Act shall be tried by the Medical Tribunal and shall, *inter alia*, be imprisoned for a term which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to ten million Rupees or both. Section 34(4) of Act provides:

“... ”

34(4) Whoever falsely pretends to be registered under this Act as a medical practitioner or dentist and uses with his name any title or words or letters representing that he is so registered with the Authority or uses the word "doctor" or any other nomenclature or designation without legal basis, irrespective of whether any person is actually deceived by such pretence or representation or not, shall be guilty of an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to ten million Rupees but shall not be less than one million Rupees or with both. ...”

Henceforth individuals who have been granted license to practice basic medicine or dentistry as a general practitioner are hereby cautioned against unlawful use of specialization titles with their names and deceiving the general public. A medical or dental practitioner shall represent and practice only a specialty which is duly registered on his license by the PMC.



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