

**PAKISTAN MEDICAL COMMISSION**  
**PMC CONDUCT OF EXAMINATIONS REGULATIONS 2021**

Islamabad, the June 4, 2021

**NOTIFICATION**

*In exercise of the powers conferred section 40 and sub-section 2(f) of section 8 of the Pakistan Medical Commission Act, 2020 (XXXIII of 2020), the Medical and Dental Council is pleased to make the following regulations, namely:-*

**PMC Conduct of Examinations Regulations 2021**

**1. Short title, application and commencement.**-(1) These regulations may be called the Pakistan Medical Commission Conduct of Examinations Regulations 2021.

(2) These regulations shall apply to all medical and dental examinations to be conducted by the National Medical Authority.

(3) These regulations shall come into at once.

**2. Definitions.**- In these regulations, unless the context otherwise provides;

(a) "Act" means the Pakistan and Medical Commission Act, 2020;

(b) "Authority" means the National Medical Authority established under the Act;

(c) "Board" means the National Medical and Dental Academic Board constituted under the Act;

(d) "Council" means the Medical and Dental Council constituted under the Act;

(e) "Dental National Licensing Examination" or "Dental NLE" means national licensing examination for dental practitioners as described in section 20 of the Act;

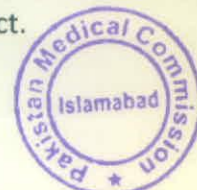
(f) "Medical and Dental Colleges Admissions Test" or "MDCAT" means the medical and dental colleges admissions test as described in section 18 of the Act;

(g) "Medical National Licensing Examination" or "Medical NLE" means national licensing examination for medical practitioners as described in section 20 of the Act;

(h) "National Equivalence Board Examination" or "NEB" means the national equivalence board examination as described in section 21 of the Act; and

(i) "NEB examination standards" means five standards as provided in regulation 19 of the regulations.

(2) The words and expressions used in these regulations, but not defined herein shall have the same meaning as are assigned to them in the Act.



**CHAPTER II**  
**Medical and Dental Colleges Admissions Test (MDCAT)**

- 3. Medical and Dental Colleges Admissions Test (MDCAT).**-(1) The Authority shall conduct or cause to be conducted in each calendar year between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> October the Medical and Dental Colleges Admissions Test on dates to be notified where such dates shall be continuous and not exceed a forty five day period.

*Explanation:* The MDCAT may be notified to be held continuously from 1<sup>st</sup> August till 14<sup>th</sup> September of a given year.

(2) The Authority shall conduct the MDCAT exam in accordance with the structure and standards approved by the Council.

(3) The MDCAT exam shall be conducted through a fully computerized and secure method at examination centers in Pakistan located in at least twenty cities with at least five cities located in Punjab, three cities located each in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one city located each in Baluchistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir and one center located in Islamabad Capital Territory.

(4) The MDCAT shall also be conducted outside Pakistan in countries and locations determined by the Authority, and approved by the Council, to reasonably accommodate persons having registered for taking the MDCAT internationally.

- 4. Eligibility for MDCAT and Attempts.**-(1) Any person, being a Pakistan or an overseas Pakistani or foreign national [ ]<sup>1</sup>, shall be eligible to register for and attempt the MDCAT exam.

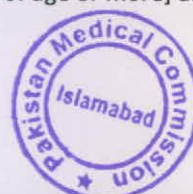
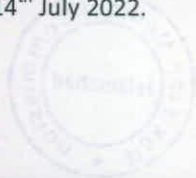
(2) There shall be no restriction on a person having obtained a Higher Secondary School Certificate qualification or equivalent 12<sup>th</sup> grade qualification prior to attempting the MDCAT exam.

(3) A person shall be permitted to take the MDCAT exam only once in each calendar year. A person may re-attempt the exam in any following calendar year and there shall be no restriction on number of re-attempts by a person.

- 5. Structure and Standards of MDCAT.**-(1) The National Medical and Dental Academic Board shall formulate the structure and standards of the MDCAT exam for the approval of the Council.

(2) The MDCAT exam shall consist of such subjects as recommended by the Board and approved by the Council. The questions in each subject shall be divided into at least three difficulty levels and further specify proportion of cognitive level of questions.

<sup>1</sup> Sub- regulation (1) of regulation 4, words [and being sixteen years of age or more] are omitted, vide Council Decision dated 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022.



(3) The Board shall recommend the prescribed number of questions from each subject and from each difficulty level for the formulation of the examination paper and the time stipulated to complete the exam:

Provided that there shall be not less than ten percent of the total questions from each subject.

(4) The Board shall formulate and recommend for approval of the Council each year the syllabus of the MDCAT exam consisting of subjects and topics from each subject on which the student shall be examined and assessed. The syllabus shall be notified at least sixty days prior to the start of the MDCAT exam:

Provided that if there is a substantial alteration to the syllabus from the previous year it shall be notified at least one hundred and twenty days prior to the start of the MDCAT exam.

(5) The MDCAT exam shall be an assessment exam to determine the competency and suitability of a person to be inducted in a medical or dental undergraduate program in Pakistan. The Board when formulating the syllabus of the MDCAT exam shall not be bound to any text book or HSSC board syllabus:

Provided that the MDCAT syllabus in the science subjects does not exceed the general maximum curriculum of HSSC offered in Pakistan.

(6) The Board or the Authority may recommend any reading material for the MDCAT exam.

(7) The MDCAT exam shall be a multiple choice question exam conducted in the English language.

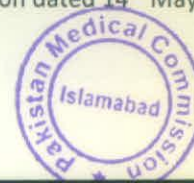
(8) The Board shall recommend and the Council shall approve the pass marks of the MDCAT exam each year:

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**6. Setting of Examination Papers.**-(1) The Authority shall cause for a secured and encrypted examination question bank to be prepared for the MDCAT exam consisting of questions from each subject and indexed at different difficulty levels as prescribed under the structure and standards as recommended by the Board and approved by the Council. The examination question bank shall be supplemented with additional questions each year, while some questions may be deleted from the examination question bank.

(2) The exam papers shall be formulated through a secure computerized program where the questions in each exam paper as per the approved standard and structure are randomly selected from the examination question bank:

<sup>2</sup> Proviso to sub-regulation 8 of regulation 5 is omitted, vide Council Decision dated 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022.



Provided that the standard and difficulty level of each paper is the same in terms of achieving the assessment and merit of a student;

Provided further that no person shall physically set any MDCAT exam paper.

(3) Each person attempting the MDCAT exam shall be provided a unique examination paper randomly selected by the computer program and no person shall have the right to object to the questions contained in the examination or the correct answers.

(4) The Authority shall not disclose the questions, or the answers contained in any of the examination papers or as contained in the examination question bank prior to or after the conduct of the MDCAT exam and nor shall any person have the right to seek a disclosure of such questions or the answers thereof. No question or answer paper shall be physically printed at any time.

(5) The Authority shall cause for a separate and distinct question bank to be developed to be utilized for offering practice exams to persons registered for the MDCAT exam. The Authority shall cause to be offered at least one practice exam online to persons registered for MDCAT as part of the exam fee paid by the person. The Authority or its authorized entity may offer further practice exams against payment of fee.

(6) The Authority shall provide to each person registered for an MDCAT exam an online or mobile based tutorial as part of the exam fee paid by the person on how to take the exam prior to the holding of the exam.

**7. Registration and Fee.**-(1) Every person eligible to take the MDCAT shall register for the MDCAT examination online with the Authority or its authorized entity at least thirty days prior to the start of the exam. The Authority shall each year notify the opening of registrations for MDCAT and the last date.

(2) The Authority shall provide a thirty day window to all persons to register for the MDCAT exam and pay the exam fee as notified by the Authority. Fee for any person opting to take the exam outside Pakistan shall be payable in United Stated Dollars and shall be a fee separately notified for exam to be conducted at international centers.

(3) Any person who has failed to register for the MDCAT exam prior to the final date may apply for late registration not later than ten days of the notified final date for registration, subject to an additional payment of a late fee equal to fifty percent of the notified exam fee.

(4) All persons shall stipulate at the time of registration whether they intend to take the exam in Pakistan or outside Pakistan.

(5) Any person found to have provided false information at the time of registration shall have their registration cancelled by the Authority.



(6) A person having duly registered shall be issued a unique registration number which shall be mandatorily required at the time of conduct of the examination.

(7) A person if holding a CNIC or NICOP shall use the same as the primary authentication at the time of registration. Any person who does not hold a CNIC or NICOP shall use their Pakistani or foreign Passport at the time of registration:

Provided that a person who is not eighteen years old and does not hold a CNIC, NICOP or passport shall use the B-Form issued by NADRA for registration. Any additional fee incurred by the Authority to verify a B-Form or passport shall be paid by the applicant.

**8. Scheduling of Exam.**-(1) The Authority shall announce the schedule of each exam window listing cities, dates and times at least sixty days before the start of the exam in Pakistan and forty five days before the start of the exam at international centers.

(2) Each registered person may within the prescribed period submit their preferred schedule for taking the exam from amongst the schedule notified by the Authority. Each person's exam center, date and time shall be scheduled thereafter, on a first-come-first-served basis from the date of their registration. If no slot is available at the preferred city of the applicant, the person may seek a change of schedule to any other location where a slot is available.

(3) The registered persons shall be informed through their email, mobile phone and PMC Student Online as to their scheduled date of exam at least fifteen days prior to the start of the MDCAT exam.

(4) Registered persons may reschedule their date of exam once only where such reschedule request shall be made online at least twenty four hours prior to the start of the exam or at the exam center if the person arrives late for the exam and has not already rescheduled their exam date previously. Further rescheduling may be permitted solely in the discretion of the Authority, subject to payment of additional fee.

**9. Conduct of Examination.**-(1) The exam shall be conducted at centers to be notified by the Authority at least fifteen days prior to the start of the MDCAT exam and each registered person shall be informed through their email, mobile phone and PMC Student Online as to their center.

(2) The registered person shall be solely responsible to reach the test center on the scheduled date and be present at the designated center by the designate time prior to the start of the exam.

(3) Any person arriving late shall not be allowed to enter the exam center and may reschedule their exam at the exam center subject to terms of regulation 8.

(4) Each person shall mandatorily bring with them in original their primary identification used for registration being either their CNIC, NICOP, passport or B-Form,



as the case may be. No person shall be allowed to sit the exam in the absence of their original identification.

(5) Each person shall be admitted to the center prior to the scheduled start of the exam and after verification shall be assigned a seat and computer: Further identity verification may take place at the center using video cameras and image recognition.

Provided that any person whose identity is not verified shall not be allowed to enter the examination hall by the examination staff;

Provided further any person found to have provided forged identity or false information shall have his registration cancelled by the Authority and such person shall be debarred from taking the MDCAT on a permanent basis.

(6) The person shall start the exam by logging in using their registration number. The time shall start at the time of successful login and authorization of the authorized staff at the center.

(7) The person shall have the option to answer questions by subject category or randomly with one question at a time appearing on the screen along with the multiple answers of which one is to be selected by the person. The person may answer the question or skip to the next question and return to the skipped question later.

(8) The person may review any or all of their answers prior to the end of the designated time and change their answers. Provided at the completion of the designated time the answers submitted shall be treated as final.

(9) A person shall not be allowed to take into the exam hall any paper, pencil, mobile phone, electronic device, food, drink or any other objectional item other than the printed registration number. The examination staff shall have the right to conduct a search of a person prior to entering the examination hall.

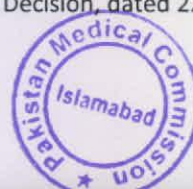
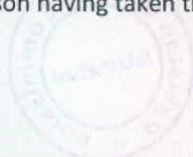
(10) A person found to be talking during the exam or having brought in any banned item shall be immediately disqualified and their examination shall be cancelled and such person shall be debarred from taking the MDCAT for two further consecutive years.

(11) All persons shall be allowed to leave the exam hall on completion of the designated time of the exam and not prior thereto.

**10. Results.**-(1) The result of the MDCAT exam of each person shall be available at the time notified by the Authority after the conclusion of the exam and shall be sent to the persons email and made available on PMC Student Online.

(2) The result of the MDCAT exam as communicated and issued shall be final.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Sub-regulation (2) of Regulation 10, words [and shall be neither available for rechecking or any other objection from the person having taken the exam] omitted by Council Decision, dated 22 April, 2022.



(2a) The student may on payment of prescribed fee be provided option of review of the scoring of their MDCAT exam subject to terms and conditions as prescribed by the Authority.<sup>4</sup>

(3) In the event that persons less than the total number of allocated seats in medical and dental colleges qualify the MDCAT exam, the Authority with the approval of the Medical and Dental Council may elect to adjust the grading on a curve:

Provided that the qualified persons after re-grading shall not exceed five percent of the total allocated medical and dental seats.

(4) A student shall within ten days of conclusion of their MDCAT exam submit a request on PMC Student Online listing the medical or dental colleges to which they have applied to and require their MDCAT result communicated to. The Authority shall cause for the person's result to be communicated to the relevant medical or dental college within forty eight hours of the request having been made.

(5) A person's MDCAT result shall be valid for a period of two years from the date of the exam. If a person re takes the MDCAT exam during this period, the person may use the highest attained result to apply to medical or dental college.

Explanation: If a person takes the MDCAT exam on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 they may apply to medical or dental college at any time upto 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 using the same result subject to the college admissions having opened prior to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

### CHAPTER III

#### Medical and Dental National Licensing Examination (NLE)

**11. National Licensing Examination (NLE).**-(1) The Authority shall conduct or cause to be conducted in each calendar year at least two times or more the Medical National Licensing Examination and the Dental National Licensing Examination, on dates to be notified.

(2) The Authority shall conduct the Medical NLE and Dental NLE in accordance with the structure and standards approved by the Medical and Dental Council.

(3) The NLE shall be conducted at examination centers in Pakistan located in at least ten cities with at least three cities located in Punjab, two cities located each in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and one city each in Baluchistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir and one center in Islamabad Capital Territory.

<sup>4</sup> Sub-regulation (2a) inserted vide Council Decision, dated 22 April, 2022.



(4) Either or both of the components of the NLE may also be conducted outside Pakistan in countries and locations determined by the Authority to reasonably accommodate persons having registered for taking the NLE internationally.

- 12. Eligibility for NLE and Attempts.**-(1) Any person having obtained an undergraduate degree in medicine or dentistry shall be eligible to register for and attempt the respective NLE exam corresponding to their undergraduate qualification.

Provided foreign graduates would be eligible subject to notified licensing pathways.

(2) A person may attempt the NLE exam at any time after having received their undergraduate degree whether having completed their house job/, internship/ foundation year.

(3) There shall be no restriction on the number of attempts by a person;

Provided that a student must qualify all components of the NLE exam within a maximum period of 5 years from the date of completion of house job or the first attempt, whichever is earlier.<sup>5</sup>

- 13. Structure and Standards of NLE.**-(1) The Board shall formulate the structure and standards of the Medical NLE and Dental NLE for the approval of the Council.

(2) The NLE shall consist of such subjects and topics from the curriculum of MBBS or BDS as the case may be, as recommended by the Board. The questions in each subject shall be divided into further difficulty and cognitive levels.

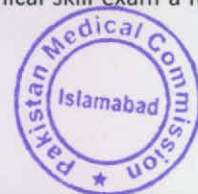
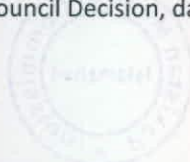
(3) The Board shall recommend the prescribed number of questions from each subject and from each difficulty and cognitive level for the formulation of the examination paper and the time stipulated to complete the exam.

(4) The Board shall formulate and recommend for approval of the Council each year the syllabus of the NLE consisting of subjects and topics from each subject on which the student shall be examined and assessed. The syllabus shall be notified at least sixty days prior to the start of the NLE:

Provided that if there is a substantial alteration to the NLE syllabus from the previous year it shall be notified at least one hundred and twenty days prior to the start of the NLE.

(5) The NLE shall consist of a theory exam and a clinical skills examination. The theory component of the exam shall be multiple choice questions which shall be conducted through a fully computerized and secure method. The clinical skills examination shall be conducted either through physical examiners or through a 3D computerized and

<sup>5</sup> Proviso to Sub-regulation (3) of Regulation 12 [Provided the validity of the theory component of the exam shall be 5 years and during this period the student may attempt the clinical skill exam a maximum of 3 time] substituted vide Council Decision, dated 22 April, 2022.





secure method. The theory and clinical skills examinations may be divided into more than one paper.

(6) Both the theory and clinical skills component shall together represent an assessment to determine the competency and suitability of a person to be licensed as a medical or dental practitioner by the Pakistan Medical Commission.

(7) The Authority shall propose the minimum passing marks of an NLE exam to the Board for consideration and recommending for approval to the Council.

(8) The validity period of an exam result shall be determined by the Council on recommendations of the Board.

**14. Setting of Examination Papers.**-(1) The Board shall set up and authorize a committee of not less than three persons, to be chaired by a member of the Board, to formulate the structure of the examination papers of NLE for approval of the Council.

(2) The Authority shall cause for a secured and encrypted examination question bank to be prepared for the Medical and Dental NLE consisting of questions from each subject and indexed at different difficulty levels as prescribed under the structure and standards as recommended by the Board and approved by the Council. The examination question bank shall be supplemented with additional questions each year, while some questions may be deleted from the examination question bank.

(3) Every recognized medical and dental college registered with the Pakistan Medical Commission shall provide each year to the Authority ten questions from each of the subjects of the approved syllabus for the NLE for review by the Authority for inclusion in the question banks.

(4) The exam papers shall be formulated through a secure computerized program where the questions in each exam paper as per the approved standard and structure are selected from the examination question bank:

Provided that the standard and difficulty level of each paper is the same in terms of achieving the assessment and merit of a student;

Provided further that no person shall physically set any NLE paper.

(5) Each person attempting the NLE shall be provided a unique examination paper consisting of questions randomly sequenced and selected by the computer program and no person shall have the right to object to the questions contained in the examination or the correct answers.

(6) The Authority shall not disclose the questions or the answers contained in any of the examination papers or as contained in the examination question bank prior to or after the conduct of the NLE and nor shall any person have the right to seek a disclosure of such questions or the answers thereof. No question or answer paper shall be physically printed at any time.



(7) The Authority shall cause for a separate and distinct question bank to be developed to be utilized for offering practice exams to persons registered for the NLE. The Authority shall cause to be offered at least one practice exam online to persons registered for NLE as part of the exam fee paid by the person. The Authority or its authorized entity may offer further practice exams against payment of fee.

(8) The Authority shall provide to each person registered for an NLE exam an online or mobile based tutorial as part of the exam fee paid by the person on how to take the exam prior to the holding of the exam.

**15. Registration and Fee.**-(1) Every person eligible to take the NLE shall register for the NLE online with the Authority or its authorized entity at least thirty days prior to the start of the exam. The Authority shall each year notify the examination schedule for purposes of registration and the last date for registration for each exam window.

(2) A person may register and pay the fee for the NLE selecting any of the scheduled exam windows subject to having registered at least thirty days prior to the selected exam window. Fee for any persons opting to take the exam or any component thereof outside Pakistan shall be payable in foreign currency equivalent to United States Dollars and shall be a fee separately notified for exam to be conducted at international centers.

(3) All persons shall stipulate at the time of registration whether they intend to take the exam or any component thereof in Pakistan or outside Pakistan.

(4) Any person found to have provided false information at the time of registration shall have their registration cancelled by the Authority.

(5) A person having duly registered shall be issued a unique registration number which shall be mandatorily required at the time of conduct of the examination.

(6) A person if holding a CNIC or NICOP shall use the same as the primary authentication at the time of registration. Any person who does not hold a CNIC or NICOP shall use their Pakistani or foreign Passport at the time of registration.

**16. Scheduling of Examination.**-(1) The Authority shall announce the schedule of each exam window listing cities, dates and times at least sixty days before the start of the exam in Pakistan and forty five days before the start of the exam at international centers.

(2) Each registered person may within the prescribed period submit their preferred schedule for taking the exam from amongst the schedule notified by the Authority. Each person's exam center, date and time shall be scheduled thereafter, on a first come first serve basis from the date of their registration. If no slot is available at the preferred city of the applicant, the person may seek a change of schedule to any other location where a slot is available.



(3) The registered persons shall be informed through their email, mobile phone and PMC Student Online as to their scheduled date of exam at least fifteen days prior to the start of the NLE exam.

(4) A person may reschedule their date of exam once only where such reschedule request shall be made online at least twenty four hours prior to the start of the exam or at the exam center if the person arrives late for the exam and has not already rescheduled their exam date previously. Further rescheduling may be permitted solely in the discretion of the Authority, subject to payment of additional fee.

(5) A person having qualified the theory component of the exam shall be provided an option to select any available scheduled window for the clinical skills exam and their exam date shall be scheduled in the prescribed manner.

**17. Conduct of Examination.**-(1) The exam shall be conducted at centers to be notified by the Authority at least fifteen days prior to the start of the NLE and registered person shall be informed through their email, mobile phone and PMC Student Online as to their center.

(2) The registered person shall be solely responsible to reach the test center on the scheduled date and be present at the designated center at the time notified by the Authority prior to the start of the exam.

(3) Any registered person arriving late shall not be allowed to enter the exam center and may reschedule their exam at the exam center subject to terms of regulation 16.

(4) Each person shall mandatorily bring with them in original their primary identification used for registration being either their CNIC, NICOP or passport, as the case may be. No person shall be allowed to sit the exam in the absence of their original identification.

(5) Each person shall be admitted to the center prior to the scheduled start of the exam and after verification shall be assigned a seat and computer for the exam and a circuit consisting of the requisite stations in the case of the clinical skills exam being conducted through physical examiners. Further identity verification may take place at the center using video cameras and image recognition.

Provided that any person whose identity is not verified shall not be allowed to enter the examination hall by the examination staff;

Provided further any person found to have provided forged identity or false information shall have their registration cancelled by the Authority and such person shall be debarred from taking the NLE on a permanent basis.

(6) For a computer based system, the person shall start the exam by logging in using their registration number. The time shall start at the time of successful login and authorization of the authorized staff at the center.



(7) Candidates attempting a computer based exam shall have the option to answer questions by subject category or randomly with one question at a time appearing on the screen along with the multiple answers of which one is to be selected by him/ her. Candidates may answer the question or skip to the next question and return to the skipped question later.

(8) The person in a computer based exam may review any or all of their answers prior to the end of the designated time and change their answers:

Provided at the completion of the designated time the answers submitted shall be treated as final.

(9) A person shall not be allowed to take into the exam hall any paper, pencil, mobile phone, electronic device, food, drink or any other objectional item other than the printed registration number. A person shall be informed what if any items are permissible during a clinical skills exam. The examination staff shall have the right to conduct a search of a person prior to entering the examination hall.

(10) A person found to be talking during the exam or having brought in any banned item shall be immediately disqualified and their examination shall be cancelled and such person shall be debarred from taking the NLE for two further consecutive years.

(11) All persons shall be allowed to leave the exam hall on completion of the designated time of the exam and not prior thereto.

**18. Results.**-(1) The result of the NLE of each person shall be notified by the Authority after the conclusion of the exam and shall be sent to the persons email and made available on PMC Student Online.

(2) The result of the NLE as communicated and issued shall be final and shall be neither available for rechecking or any other objection from the person having taken the exam.

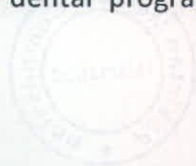
(3) A person's NLE result shall remain valid for applying for licensing for a period of two years.

(4) Qualifying the NLE shall not automatically entitle the qualifying person to the grant of a license. A person having qualified the NLE shall be eligible to apply to the Authority for grant of a license, which shall be granted subject to completion of all stipulated requirements for grant of a license as prescribed.

#### CHAPTER IV

#### National Equivalence Board Examination (NEB)

**19. National Equivalence Board Examination (NEB).**-(1) The Authority shall conduct or cause to be conducted each of the National Equivalence Board Examination for medical and dental programs and for each permissible year of transfer, in each



calendar year at least two times or more, on dates to be notified where such dates for each exam window shall be continuous and not exceed a five day period.

(2) There shall be five NEB examination standards;

- (a) NEB (Medical) Standard 3; for transfer to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a medical program;
- (b) NEB (Medical) Standard 4; for transfer to 4<sup>th</sup> year of a medical program;
- (c) NEB (Medical) Standard 5; for transfer to 5<sup>th</sup> year of a medical program;
- (d) NEB (Dental) Standard 3; for transfer to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a dental program; and
- (e) NEB (Dental) Standard 4; for transfer to 4<sup>th</sup> year of a dental program

(3) The Authority shall conduct the NEB in accordance with the structure and standards approved by the Medical and Dental Council.

(4) The NEB exam shall be conducted through a fully computerized and secure method at examination centers in Pakistan located in at least six cities with at least one city located in each of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu & Kashmir and one center in Islamabad Capital Territory.

(5) The NEB shall also be conducted outside Pakistan in countries and locations determined by the Authority to reasonably accommodate persons having registered for taking the NEB internationally.

**20. Eligibility for NEB and Attempts.**-(1) Any student who has successfully completed more than two years of a medical or dental program in any medical or dental institution or college outside Pakistan shall be eligible to register for and attempt the respective NEB to seek a transfer to a recognized medical or dental institution in Pakistan in the relevant year having successfully completed the period of a foreign program up to the subsequent year in the institution seeking a transfer from.

(2) There shall be no restriction on the number of attempts by a student subject to taking the NEB for the first time within twelve months of having left their program of study in the foreign institution. A person may re-attempt the exam at any future scheduled exam window notified by the Authority.

**21. Structure and Standards of NEB.**-(1) The Board shall formulate the structure and standards of the NEB examination for the approval of the Council.

(2) The NEB exam for each prescribed standard as given in regulation 19 (2) of these regulations shall consist of such subjects and topics from the relevant curriculum of MBBS or BDS of the immediately preceding years of the respective program and as recommended by the Board. The questions in each subject shall be divided into further difficulty levels.

*Explanation: The NEB (Medical) Standard 4 exam for transfer to 4<sup>th</sup> year of a medical program in Pakistan shall be based on the approved national curriculum for the first three years of the MBBS program.*



(3) The Board shall recommend the prescribed number of questions from each subject and from each difficulty level for the formulation of the examination paper and the time stipulated to complete the exam.

(4) The Board shall formulate and recommend for approval of the Council each year the syllabus of each of the NEB standards consisting of subjects and topics from each subject on which the student shall be examined and assessed. The NEB syllabus shall be notified at least sixty days prior to the start of the NEB:

Provided that if there is a substantial alteration to the NEB syllabus from the previous year it shall be notified at least one hundred and twenty days prior to the start of the NEB.

(5) The NEB exam shall be a multiple choice question exam conducted in the English language.

(6) The Authority shall on the basis of internationally recommended methodologies of standard setting propose the minimum passing marks of an NEB exam to the Board for consideration and recommending for approval to the Council;

**22. Setting of Examination Papers.**-(1) The Board shall set up and authorize a committee of not less than three persons, to be chaired by a member of the Board, to formulate the structure of the examination papers of NEB for approval of the Council.

(2) The Authority shall cause for a secured and encrypted examination question bank to be prepared for each standard of the Medical and Dental NEB consisting of questions from each subject and indexed at different difficulty levels as prescribed under the structure and standards approved by the Council. The examination question bank shall be supplemented with additional questions each year, while some questions may be deleted from the examination question bank.

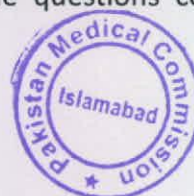
(3) Every recognized medical and dental college registered with the Commission shall provide each year to the Authority five questions from each of the subjects of the approved syllabus for each NEB standard exam for review by the Authority for inclusion in the question banks.

(4) The exam papers shall be formulated through a secure computerized program where the questions in each exam paper as per the approved standard and structure are randomly selected from the examination question bank:

Provided that the standard and difficulty level of each paper is the same in terms of achieving the assessment and merit of a student;

Provided further that no person shall physically set any NEB paper.

(5) Each student attempting the NEB shall be provided a unique examination paper and no student shall have the right to object to the questions contained in the examination or the correct answers.



(6) The Authority shall not disclose the questions or the answers contained in any of the examination papers or as contained in the examination question bank prior to or after the conduct of the NEB exam and nor shall any student have the right to seek a disclosure of such questions or the answers thereof. No question or answer paper shall be physically printed at any time.

(7) The Authority shall cause for a separate and distinct question bank to be developed to be utilized for offering practice exams to persons registered for the NEB exam. The Authority or its authorized entity may offer practice exams against payment of prescribed fee.

(8) The Authority shall provide to each student registered for an NEB exam an online tutorial as part of the exam fee paid by the student on how to take the exam prior to the holding of the exam.

**23. Registration and Fee.**-(1) Every student eligible to take the NEB shall register for the NEB examination online with the Authority or its authorized entity at least thirty days prior to the start of the exam. The Authority shall each year notify the examination schedule for purposes of registration and the last date for registration for each exam window.

(2) A student may register and pay the fee for the NEB exam selecting any of the scheduled exam windows subject to having registered at least thirty days prior to the selected exam window. Fee for any student opting to take the NEB exam outside Pakistan shall be payable in foreign currency equivalent to United States Dollars and shall be a fee separately notified for exam to be conducted at international centers.

(3) All students shall stipulate at the time of registration whether they intend to take the NEB exam in Pakistan or outside Pakistan.

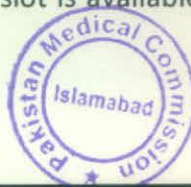
(4) Any student found to have provided false information at the time of registration shall have their registration cancelled by the Authority.

(5) A student having duly registered shall be issued a unique registration number which shall be mandatorily required at the time of conduct of the examination.

(6) A student if holding a CNIC or NICOP shall use the same as the primary authentication at the time of registration. Any student who does not hold a CNIC or NICOP shall use their Pakistani or foreign Passport at the time of registration.

**24. Scheduling of Exam.**-(1) The Authority shall announce the schedule of each exam window listing cities, dates and times at least sixty days before the start of the exam in Pakistan and forty five days before the start of the exam at international centers.

(2) Each student may within the prescribed period submit their preferred schedule for taking the exam from amongst the schedule notified by the Authority. Each person's exam center, date and time shall be scheduled thereafter, on a first come first serve basis from the date of their registration. If no slot is available at the preferred city of



the applicant, the person may seek a change of schedule to any other location where a slot is available.

(3) The registered student shall be informed through their email, mobile phone and PMC Student Online as to their scheduled date of exam at least fifteen days prior to the start of the NEB exam.

(4) A student may reschedule their date of exam to another exam window at least twenty four hours prior to the start of the exam or at the exam center if the person arrives late for the exam and has not already rescheduled their exam date previously. Further rescheduling may be permitted solely in the discretion of the Authority, subject to payment of additional fee.

**25. Conduct of Examination.**-(1) The exam shall be conducted at centers to be notified by the Authority at least fifteen days prior to the start of the NEB and each registered students shall be informed through their email, mobile phone and PMC Student Online as to their center.

(2) The registered student shall be solely responsible to reach the test center on the scheduled date and be present at the designated center at a time notified by the Authority prior to the start of the exam.

(3) Any student arriving late shall not be allowed to enter the exam center may reschedule their exam at the exam center subject to terms of regulation 24.

(4) Each student shall mandatorily bring with them in original their primary identification used for registration being either their CNIC, NICOP or passport, as the case may be. No student shall be allowed to sit the exam in the absence of their original identification.

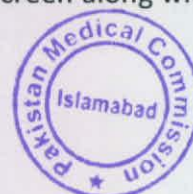
(5) Each student shall be admitted to the center prior to the scheduled start of the exam and after verification shall be assigned a seat and computer. Further identity verification may take place at the center using video cameras and image recognition.

Provided that any student whose identity is not verified shall not be allowed to enter the examination hall by the examination staff;

Provided further any person found to have provided forged identity or false information shall have his registration cancelled by the Authority and such person shall be debarred from taking the NEB examination on a permanent basis.

(6) The student shall start the exam by logging in using their registration number. The time shall start at the time of successful login and authorization of the authorized staff at the center.

(7) The student shall have the option to answer questions by subject category or randomly with one question at a time appearing on the screen along with the multiple





answers of which one is to be selected by the student. The student may answer the question or skip to the next question and return to the skipped question later.

(8) The student may review any or all of their answers prior to the end of the designated time and change their answers. Provided at the completion of the designated time the answers submitted shall be treated as final.

(9) A student shall not be allowed to take into the exam hall any paper, pencil, mobile phone, electronic device, food, drink or any other objectional item other than the printed registration number. The examination staff shall have the right to conduct a search of a student prior to entering the examination hall.

(10) A student found to be talking during the exam or having brought in any banned item shall be immediately disqualified and their examination shall be cancelled and such person shall be debarred from taking the NEB for two further consecutive years.

(11) All students shall be allowed to leave the exam hall on completion of the designated time of the exam and not prior thereto.

**26. Results.**-(1) The result of the NEB of each person shall be available [at the time notified by the Authority at]<sup>6</sup> the conclusion of the exam and shall be sent to the persons email and made available on PMC Student Online.

(2) The result of the NEB as communicated and issued shall be final and shall be neither available for rechecking or any other objection from the student having taken the exam.

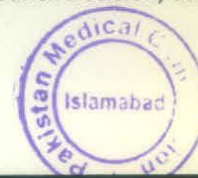
(3) [].<sup>7</sup> The Authority shall cause for the student's result to be communicated to the relevant medical or dental college within forty eight hours of the request having been made.

(4) A student's NEB result shall be valid for a period of two years from the date of the exam. If a student retakes the NEB during this period, the person may use the highest attained result to apply for transfer to a medical or dental college.

Explanation: If a person takes the NEB exam on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 they may apply to medical or dental college at any time upto 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 using the same result.

<sup>6</sup> Sub-regulation (1) of Regulation 26, the words [within thirty minutes of] substituted with the words [at the time notified by the Authority at] vide Council Decision, dated 22 April, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Sub-regulation (3) of Regulation 26, words [A student shall within fifteen days of conclusion of their NEB exam submit a request on PMC Student Online listing the medical or dental colleges to which they have applied to and require their NEB result communicated to] omitted vide Council Decision, dated 22 April, 2022.



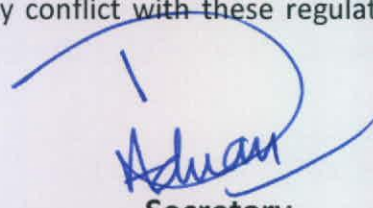
**CHAPTER V  
PENALTY AND REPEAL**

**27. Penalty.**-(1) Any person found to have contravened any provision of these regulations shall be imposed upon the penalty as prescribed in these regulations.

(2) In case no penalty is prescribed, any person who fails or refuses to comply with, or contravenes any of the provisions of these regulations or any direction by the Authority under these regulations, shall be punishable with a fine which may extend to one million rupees in addition to any other penalty that may be determined by the Authority.

(3) A person upon whom a penalty is to be imposed shall be granted by the Authority an opportunity of being heard.

**28. Repeal.**- On commencement of these regulations, all previous notifications, orders, instructions and circulars to the extent that they conflict with these regulations are hereby repealed.



**Secretary**

Pakistan Medical Commission

