



## PAKISTAN MEDICAL COMMISSION

### Minutes Seventh Council Meeting Friday, June, 04<sup>th</sup> 2021 Held at PMC, Islamabad

#### Present

1. Dr. Arshad Taqi, President
2. Mr. Muhammad Ali Raza, Vice President
3. Lt. General Nigar Johar Khan, Surgeon General of Pakistan, Member (Concurrence provided)
4. Dr. Rumina Hassan, Member (on line)
5. Mr. Aamir Ashraf Khawaja (Secretary, M/o NHR&C), Member
6. Dr. Asif Loya, Member
7. Dr. Anees ur Rehman, Member
8. Ms. Roshana Zafar, Member (on line)
9. Mr. Tariq Ahmed Khan, Member
10. Dr. Shaista Zeeshan (Secretary Commission)

Meeting was chaired by the President and called to order.  
The meeting started with recitation of the Holy Quran.  
The President welcomed all members of the Council.

Item No.1	Approval of Structure and Syllabus of MDCAT
Discussion	<p>Pursuant to PMC Act 2020, Section 13(c), the National Medical and Dental Academic Board (NMDAB) formulated the examination structure and standards for the MDCAT which were placed before the council for approval. In this regard, the Chairman Academic Board Dr. Adil Haider joined the council meeting online to brief the Council members regarding all the hard work done by the subcommittees of the Board to finalize the Syllabi. He appreciated the support of National Medical Authority and recurrent guidance from President PMC which helped in expediting the given task. With regards to the Syllabus for the MDCAT he informed that the Board agreed that Biology, Chemistry, Physics and English would be the main subjects for assessment. Moreover, he informed that questions from logical reasoning were extensively discussed in several meetings but the Board agreed that this could be added for MDCAT 2022.</p> <p>He further informed the council that the Board has taken into consideration</p>



syllabi of all provincial boards of the country and also considered the concept of smart syllabus. He informed that the Board studied the syllabi in detail and noticed that a few provincial boards had deleted some important content which is essentially required to train a doctor. The Board after spending a lot of hours finalized a minimum set of syllabus which also includes a few items which were deleted by some provincial boards such as digestive system, brain, respiratory system etc. He emphasized that a student pursuing medical or dental degree must have the baseline knowledge and must be able to answer basic questions from Biology. Furthermore, he informed that the Board debated on the English test and informed that the overall weightage must be decreased to 10% to not to disadvantage students from diverse background. Moreover, in addition to grammar, comprehension has also been added for which the time duration for attempting the test has also been increased.

The Chairman informed the Council that the subcommittee of the NMDAB held more than 40 meetings and the Board itself met more than 14 times from January to May 2021. The structure, standards and syllabi of the MDCAT for 2021 was one of the agenda items during these meetings. The Member Education was given the task to develop a preliminary syllabus of Physics, Chemistry and Biology based on previous years' topics received from IBCC and in consultation with President IBCC, Secretary IBCC, Chairmen of Provincial Boards and subject experts.

The Council appreciated that despite of various other important and pressing personal and professional engagements, the Members of the Academic Board have been sparing their invaluable time pro bono for the work of the Academic Board. In a short span of time, the National Medical and Dental Academic Board has been able to achieve and accomplish what some considered almost an impossibility a few months back.

The Council agreed that the PMC MDCAT syllabus must be based not only on what students have studied in intermediate studies but also on what core knowledge applicants should have to enter medical and dental undergraduate programs.

The council discussed that the provincial governments must be requested and recommendations may be made to raise the standard of education at the high school and FSc. Level. The education system must inculcate logical reasoning in the students which will help them in their professional training and every day work.

The council agreed that for English assessment, having adequate vocabulary is more important than grammar and appreciated board recommendation to assess English by adding comprehension to the grammar testing



	<p>questions. The council further appreciated the boards view on logical reasoning. However, keeping in view that PMC cannot immediately direct the provincial boards to include logical reasoning in their syllabi, the council agreed that inclusion of the same in the MDCAT exam would be helpful. It was agreed that logical reasoning will also be assessed for which simple and logical common-sense questions will be provided in online sample test on the computer before the conduct of MDCAT. This addition would help in checking whether these students have the capacity to think beyond their textbooks and will train them for future similar assessment and exams.</p> <p>The Council further reiterated that MDCAT is the exam owned by Pakistan Medical Commission and therefore it can be tailored and structured in the best interest of the Medical and Dental college aspirants.</p> <p>It was further discussed that the result of a student shall be ready for delivery within half hour of having given the exam and shall be provided to the student through PMC Online. Moreover, the students shall be given choice to select all the colleges they want to apply for admissions and the PMC will directly send the MDCAT result of the student to the relevant college.</p>
<p><b>Decision</b></p>	<p>The Medical &amp; Dental Council approved the structure and syllabus for the MDCAT examination as recommended by the National Medical and Dental Academic Board. The syllabus/content formed by the Academic Board was mainly derived from the existing curriculums of biology, chemistry, and physics of all HSSC boards across Pakistan and took into consideration the curriculum of the A-Level structure. The MDCAT being an assessment exam will test the aptitude and reasoning abilities of students, ensuring they are academically and cognitively capable of enduring the rigorous medical and dental education. The syllabus of all the disciplines and the breakdown of each subject shall be made available on the PMC website.</p> <p>The Medical and Dental Council also approved the recommendations of Academic Board regarding pass marks for the MDCAT 2021 to be fixed as 65%.</p> <p>Moreover, it was decided that question breakdown for the exam shall be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Biology - 68 questions</li> <li>2. Chem - 56 questions</li> <li>3. Physics - 56 questions</li> <li>4. English - 20 questions</li> <li>5. Logical Reason - 10 questions</li> </ol> <p>MDCAT shall be a computer-based exam for which practice questions shall</p>



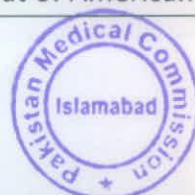
	<p>be available online. Moreover, online tutorial shall be made available online to guide the students regarding the conduct of exam. The facility to take one practice/mock exam with option to take more shall also be made available and the exam system shall allow students to give the science subjects first. Students shall be able to select any of the science subjects or shift from one to the other. On completion of science subjects, students shall do English and lastly Logical Reasoning. Students shall be able to review their questions before making final submission of answers. Result will be announced within half hour of conclusion of the exam to the student only.</p>
<b>Action Required</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The approved syllabus to be uploaded on the PMC Website immediately.</li> <li>2. Decisions of the Council to be announced immediately through PMC Website, press release and social media to inform all concerned.</li> </ol>
<b>Compliance by</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council Secretary Office</li> </ol>
<b>Item No.2</b>	<b>Approval of Structure and Syllabus of NLE</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Pursuant to PMC Act 2020, Section 13(d), the National Medical and Dental Academic Board (NMDAB) held several meetings to formulate the examination structure and standards for the NLE for grant of provisional medical and dental practice licenses upon completion of undergraduate training. The Council was informed that the NMDAB held more than 40 meetings from January to May 2021 in which the structure, standards and syllabi of the NLE for 2021 was one of the agenda items.</p> <p>The structure and distribution of disciplines finalized by the Board were placed before the Council for approval. The Council was informed that minimum pass percentage for NLE has been fixed at 70% by the Board. It was agreed upon that PMC as a regulator aims to provide safe and competent medical and dental graduates to the public therefore, becomes imperative that only those graduates be allowed to enter the practical field whose knowledge and skills are of above average quality.</p> <p>The Council was informed that members of the Board had meetings with several subject experts to finalize the syllabus and structure for NLE and validate the content of the NLE Exam. Moreover, the Board also ensured nation-wide inclusion of experts and participation of experts from all provinces was ensured. A mix of faculty members from public and private institutions were taken onboard. The experts gave their opinions about the content of the exam and its weightage in exams.</p> <p>Syllabus, standard and structure for the Medical NLE along with recommendations by the board were placed before the Council for</p>



	<p>consideration and approval. The Council agreed that the minimum passing marks for the theory and the clinical to be fixed as 70% for each. The Council agreed that the NLE shall consist of two exams with the first being a MCQ based theory component and the second a Clinical Skills Exam.</p> <p>The MCQ based theory component Step 1 of the NLE will also be a computer-based examination to be conducted at multiple centres across Pakistan multiple times a year, with no bar on the number of times a candidate can attempt the examination. Moreover, it was agreed that questions of this theory exam will be from applied sciences.</p> <p>The Clinical Skills Exam (CSE) shall be taken to assess essential clinical skills for a practicing general practitioner medical and dental practitioner. The format of this exam will be similar to that of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).</p> <p>It was also agreed that the result of NLE Step 1 will be valid for 5 years, enabling a student to attempt and qualify the Step 2 exam during this 5-year period. The Step 2 or skills exam will be taken through physical examiners during 2021-2022.</p>
<p><b>Decision</b></p>	<p>The Council also unanimously approved the structure and syllabus for NLE as formulated and recommended by the Academic Board and directed to upload the same on PMC website.</p> <p>The Council decided as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The NLE, as per the Board recommendations approved by the Council in 2021-2022, consist of two exams with the first being a MCQ based theory component and the second a Clinical Skills Exam.</li> <li>2. The MCQ based theory component of Step 1 of the NLE will also be a computer-based examination to be conducted at multiple centres across Pakistan minimum two times a year, with no bar on the number of times a candidate can attempt the examination.</li> <li>3. MCQ based Theory Exam (Step 1) will be 3.5 hours exam with a total of 200 questions - 60 questions from basic sciences and 140 questions from clinical sciences.</li> <li>4. The result of NLE Step 1 will be valid for 5 years, enabling a student to attempt and qualify the Step 2 exam during this 5-year period. The Step 2 or skills exam will be taken through physical examiners during 2021-2022.</li> <li>5. The qualifying marks for the NLE will be 70% for both Step 1 and Step 2.</li> <li>6. Students who qualify the Step 1 can take the Clinical Skills Examination (CSE – STEP 2).</li> <li>7. For Clinical component there will be 20 stations with three mandatory stations to pass (Medicine &amp; Allied, Surgery &amp; Allied and Gynae and Obs / Pead).</li> </ol>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Result will be announced within half hour of conclusion of the exam to the student only.</li> <li>9. Exam system will allow students to select any category and questions in any order.</li> <li>10. Students shall be able to review their questions before making final submission of answers.</li> <li>11. For Pakistani Students who have graduated in 2021, only STEP 1 required to qualify for Full License.</li> <li>12. For Foreign Students both STEP 1 and STEP 2 are mandatory.</li> </ol>
<b>Action Required</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The approved Medical NLE syllabus to be uploaded on the PMC Website immediately.</li> <li>2. Decisions of the Council to be announced immediately through PMC Website, press release and social media to inform all concerned.</li> <li>3. Acknowledgement letter to be issued in the name of Chairman Academic Board on behalf of the Council.</li> </ol>
<b>Compliance by</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council Secretary Office</li> </ol>
<b>Item No.3</b>	<b>Approval of the Specialist Register and list of Countries</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The council was informed that as per PMC Act 16(i), the National Medical Authority is mandated to maintain a register of registered and licensed medical and dental practitioners in the prescribed manner and make the information publicly available. Pursuant to this clause, the National Medical Authority has to create a Specialist Register for the benefit of the public.</p> <p>For this purpose, any doctor possessing a post graduate qualification shall be treated as a specialist of that subject and will be registered in the specialist register.</p> <p>List of countries and their postgraduate qualifications thoroughly verified by the authority from the relevant websites was placed before the Council. The council was informed that in some cases (e.g. GMC and ECFMG), correspondences were made with international regulators to seek clarification and information.</p> <p>It was discussed that the Specialist register is for informing and guiding the public about the available specialists for consultation so the qualifications making a doctor eligible to enter the specialist register will comprise of all clinical post graduate qualification from Pakistan along with the alternative qualification and the foreign postgraduate qualification.</p> <p>Pakistani qualifications for the said purpose have already been approved like FCPS and MD/MS however the foreign qualification needs to be endorsed by the Council.</p> <p>It was further discussed that Diplomat of American Board if recognized then</p>



any qualification endorsed by the Board may be added to the specialist registered. All such qualifications will be added in the licensing system as and when updated by the Diplomat of American Board.

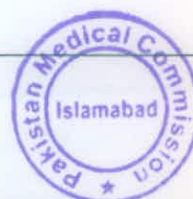
The Council further discussed that if any person possessing post graduate qualification attains a second qualification it will be considered as an additional qualification which will add to his privileges and credentialing.

Moreover, it was discussed that qualifications such as FRCS without CCT will be considered as an additional qualification which will not allow the doctor to enter the specialist register but will add to his privileges.

Member Education informed that in countries like Germany, Austria and France there are certain degree titles that are the same for clinical and basic sciences. It was agreed that to avoid any confusion regarding registration of such qualifications a disclaimer must be added that no academic qualification comes on a medical practitioner license.

The Council agreed that any Royal College honorary degree will not be endorsed on the specialist register however the degree obtained after examination shall be endorsed on the specialist register. Moreover, it was agreed that any degree that automatically qualifies a doctor for entry into the specialist register in a country shall be accepted. However, if it does not qualify the doctor for the specialist register then it may be treated as "additional qualification" which will add to the privileges of the doctor. For this purpose it was recommended that confirmation may be obtained from the regulator regarding pathway for becoming a specialist in that country. It was further discussed that a lot of masters degrees are not on the pathway and therefore cannot be put on the specialist register.

The council considered the list of countries as presented by the Authority in detail. The Council was informed that the list of countries and the post graduate qualifications has been prepared after thorough assessment and for certain countries the assessment is in process and confirmation will be obtained from the concerned college and the regulator before entering it in the specialist register. It was also discussed that in UK FRCS does not qualify for the specialist register however in Australia FRCS is awarded after structured training. Moreover, in countries like Germany, Austria and China there are no exit exams however the regulator does allow CCT after which the doctor is eligible for the specialist register. With regards to MRCP it was discussed that it is only 2 year training therefore cannot be placed in the specialist register.



	<p>It was agreed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Council will approve the country and granting entity for recognition of PG Qualification.</li> <li>2. Foreign post graduate qualification which may have been accepted in the past and till date shall be accepted by the authority. These postgraduate qualifications will be accepted as foreign "additional qualifications".</li> <li>3. Some of these post graduate qualifications were replaced by another qualification by awarding authority. The former qualification, therefore has an expiry time e.g. MRCP awarded by individual Royal Colleges was replaced by MRCP UK, MRCP (Glasgow for example). Therefore, MRCP awarded in 2019 may be "honorary" and will no longer be accepted as additional qualification.</li> </ol>
<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council agreed that any doctor who underwent the structured training and goes through the exit exam and qualifies for the specialist register for a country will be eligible to enter the specialist register.</p> <p>Moreover, it was decided that the terms of the specialist register need to be further deliberated upon by the Council and the structure needs to be defined.</p>
<b>Action Required</b>	The Council to finalize the terms of the specialist register.
<b>Compliance by</b>	Council / Council secretary office
<b>Item No.4</b>	<b>Approval of Exam Date for NLE – 20<sup>th</sup> Aug to 27<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Council was informed pursuant to Section 20 of the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) Act, 2020 which is reproduced as under, PMC will conduct National Licensing Examination (NLE):</p> <p><b>20. National licensing examination (NLE) :</b></p> <p>(1) The Authority shall at least twice a year as per schedule approved by the Council conduct the NLE. Passing the NLE shall be mandatory for obtaining a full license. The NLE shall be substantially based on objective computer based multiple choice questions and a practical component if determined by the Council.</p> <p>The Council approved the following dates for the conduct of NLE: <b>20<sup>th</sup> Aug to 27<sup>th</sup> Aug.</b></p>
<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council approved the following dates for the conduct of NLE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>20<sup>th</sup> Aug to 27<sup>th</sup> Aug., 2021</b></li> <li>2. <b>The last date for registration shall be 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2021</b></li> <li>3. <b>The date of scheduling the NLE examination will be 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 - 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2021</b></li> </ol>





<b>Action Required</b>	The approved dates to be announced on PMC Website and social media.
<b>Compliance by</b>	Member Examination / Council Secretary Office
<b>Item No.5</b>	<b>Approval of Exam Date for MDCAT – 30<sup>th</sup> Aug to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Council was informed that pursuant to Section 18 of the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) Act, 2020 stated below, PMC will conduct Medical and Dental Colleges Admissions Tests (MDCAT):</p> <p><b>1. Medical and Dental Colleges Admissions Tests (MDCAT):</b></p> <p>(1) The Authority shall conduct annually on a date approved by the Council and as per standards approved by the Board a single admissions test which shall be a mandatory requirement for all students seeking admission to medical or dental under-graduate programs anywhere in Pakistan.</p> <p>(2) No student shall be awarded a medical or dental degree in Pakistan who has not passed the MDCAT prior to obtaining admission in a medical or dental college in Pakistan: Provided that such requirement shall be mandatory for all students who have been enrolled in medical or dental under-graduate programs in the year 2021 and thereafter.</p> <p>Keeping in view that the admissions to the Medical Colleges and Dental Colleges need to be concluded in time the Council considered and approved the following dates for the conduct of MDCAT exam: <b>30<sup>th</sup> Aug to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2021.</b></p>
<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council unanimously approved that the MDCAT Exam to be conducted from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>30<sup>th</sup> Aug to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2021</b></li> <li>2. <b>Last date for registration for MDCAT shall be 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2021</b></li> <li>3. <b>The date of scheduling the MDCAT will be 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 - 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2021</b></li> </ol>
<b>Action Required</b>	The approved dates to be announced on PMC Website and social media.
<b>Compliance by</b>	Member Examination / Council Secretary Office
<b>Item No.6</b>	<b>Approval of Exam Date for NEB – 4<sup>th</sup> Oct to 8<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Council was informed that PMC will conduct National Equivalence Board Examination (NEB) pursuant Section 21 of the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) Act, 2020 which is reproduced as under:</p> <p><b>21. National Equivalence Board examination:</b></p> <p>(1) The Authority shall at least twice a year as per schedule approved by the Council conduct the NEB to assess and overseas the assessment of knowledge, clinical skills and professional attributes of students who have partially completed a medical and dental program in a foreign institution and are seeking transfer to and admission in a medical or dental college in Pakistan. The NEB shall</p>



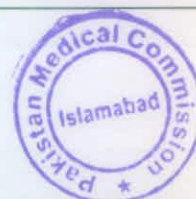
	<p>be substantially based on objective computer based multiple choice questions.</p> <p>The standards and structure for NEB will be finalized by the Academic Board in due course of time and will be submitted to the Council for approval.</p>
<b>Decision</b>	The Council unanimously approved the proposed date for the conduct of NEB Examination that is from: <b>4<sup>th</sup> Oct to 8<sup>th</sup> Oct., 2021</b>
<b>Action Required</b>	Academic Board to finalize the standards and structure for NEB.
<b>Compliance by</b>	Academic Board / Secretary Office
<b>Item No.7</b>	<b>Approval of the Exam Centers for MDCAT, NLE and NEB</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Council was apprised that the Digitalization and IT Project Development Committee which has been constituted to oversee and implement specific development projects including computer based examinations and management systems has decided that a joint venture be entered into with SOAR Testing and Evaluation Platform Limited (TEPS) to deliver the examination and testing facilities required by PMC which would enable PMC to have a permanent facility to not only service PMC needs for MDCAT, NLE and NEB but also later Licensing Verification examinations etc.</p> <p>Moreover, the Council was informed that all testing will be done at test centers setup and organized in the cities of Pakistan as agreed by the Council. These test centers shall provide all necessary facilities required for holding the examination including separated seating for candidates, security, physical and electronic invigilation and appropriate climate control. These self controlled centers shall be fully operational by July 2022.</p> <p>The Council was informed that in light of the data from previous MDCAT conducted by PMC and considering the number of applicants from each province and city, 20 permanent Exam centers in all the provinces of Pakistan in following cities have been proposed: Islamabad, Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Nawabshah, Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Bahawalpur, Sargodha, D.G. Khan, Sialkot, Peshawar, Swat, Abbottabad, D.I. Khan, Quetta, Mirpur, Muzzafarbad.</p> <p>Moreover, the council was informed that exam Centers would also be operational Internationally in USA, UK, Europe, Gulf, Africa, Australia. However, locations will be decided after registration is complete.</p>
<b>Decision</b>	The Council after detailed deliberation decided that in addition to the 20 proposed centers in the cities a center may be made in Gilgit depending upon the number of applicants applying for MDCAT aspirants from Gilgit Baltistan.



	<p>The Council approved that to set up of Exam centers in the following 21 cities:</p> <p>Islamabad, Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Nawabshah, Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Bahawalpur, Sargodha, D.G. Khan, Sialkot, Peshawar, Swat, Abbottabad, D.I. Khan, Quetta, Mirpur, Muzzafarbad and Gilgit.</p> <p>Moreover, the Council also approved the establishment of international Exam Centers based on the number of application received.</p>
<b>Action Required</b>	DIPD Committee to be informed regarding the addition of one new center at Gilgit.
<b>Compliance by</b>	Council Secretary Office
<b>Item No.8</b>	<b>To Approve Conduct of Examination Regulations 2021</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Council was apprised that in exercise of the powers conferred in 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 pleaded to make the following regulations, namely <b>Pakistan Medical Commission Conduct of Examinations Regulations, 2021.</b></p> <p>The regulations approved by the Law and Regulatory Committee were submitted before the Council for consideration and approval.</p> <p>The Council was further informed that these regulations shall apply to all medical and dental examinations to be conducted by the National Medical Authority.</p>
<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council considered the Pakistan Medical Commission Conduct of Examinations Regulations 2021 and advised that in light of the Academic Boards recommendations, necessary amendments to be made at Section 12 (3) as follows :</p> <p><b>12. Eligibility for NLE and Attempts:</b>  <i>(3) "There shall be no restriction on the number of attempts by a person. 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."</i></p> <p>The Council unanimously approved the Examinations Regulations 2021 and directed to upload the same on PMC Website and agreed that the regulations shall come into act at once.</p>
<b>Action Required</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Section 12(3) of the proposed regulations to be amended in light of the decision of the Academic Board.</li> <li>2. Regulations to be uploaded on PMC Website.</li> </ol>



<b>Compliance by</b>	Council Secretary Office / Member Legal
<b>Item No.9</b>	<b>To Approve Medical and Dental Undergraduate Education (Admissions, Curriculum and Conduct) Regulations, 2021</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Council was apprised that in exercise of the powers conferred Section 40 and sub-section 2(d)(e)&amp;(f) of Section 8 of the Pakistan Medical Commission Act, 2020 (XXXIII of 2020), the Medical and Dental Council is pleaded to make the following regulations, namely <b>Pakistan Medical Commission Medical and Dental Undergraduate Education (Admissions, Curriculum and Conduct) Regulations, 2021.</b></p> <p>The regulations as approved by the Law and Regulatory Committee were submitted before the Council for consideration.</p> <p>Moreover, the Council was informed that these regulations shall apply to all admissions at medical and dental institutions for the Session 2022 and onwards.</p>
<b>Decision</b>	The Council unanimously approved the Pakistan Medical Commission Medical and Dental Undergraduate Education (Admissions, Curriculum and Conduct) Regulations, 2021. The Council further directed to upload the same on PMC Website as the regulations come in vogue at once.
<b>Action Required</b>	To upload the approved regulations on PMC Website.
<b>Compliance by</b>	Council Secretary Office / Member Legal
<b>Item No.10</b>	<b>Approval of Fee for MDCAT, NLE and NEB</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Council was briefed that the Digitalization and IT Project Development Committee constituted to oversee and implement specific development projects including computer-based examinations and management systems has entered into a joint venture with a company to deliver the examination and testing facilities required by PMC which would enable PMC to have a permanent facility to not only service PMC needs for MDCAT, NLE and NEB but also later Licensing Verification examinations etc.</p> <p>The main purpose is to effectively provide modern entrance test and testing services including computer-based tests (CBT), test-preparation resources, random and dynamic test-question creation, digital encryption and identification for secure entry, and a comfortable environment for taking tests in Pakistan and internationally.</p> <p>It was further discussed that establishment, maintenance and provision of computerized examination, testing and evaluation services, including the necessary hardware and the soft solutions for management and conduct of the services, as required by PMC in Pakistan and internationally will be</p>



ensured for the following examinations:

- a) Medical & Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT),
- b) National Licensing Exam (NLE),
- c) National Equivalence Board Exam (NEB),
- d) License Revalidation Exam (LRE),

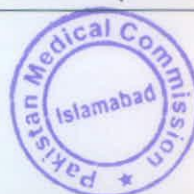
Council was further informed that in order to utilize the services offered, students will be enabled for registration to create a personal account and associated profile which will be non-editable and fully in sync with the PMC databases. All testing will be done at test centers setup in various cities in Pakistan. Moreover, provision of internationally located centers for foreign students seeking to take the MDCAT, NLE or NEB exam based on geographical mapping of students will also be provided. It was discussed that the MDCAT and NLE exams are being offered internationally as a large number of Overseas Pakistanis apply for admissions each year and in the past they were permitted to use SAT II scores however, with SAT II being discontinued and MDCAT being a mandatory requirement, it was essential to offer the exam internationally. These test centers shall provide all necessary facilities required for holding the examination.

The Council agreed to the recommendations of the DIPD Committee and appreciated their efforts to setup a quality standard computer-based examination structure. The Council agreed to the proposed fee structure for the exams keeping in view the services being provided which would include:

1. A computer-based exam
2. Online registration at student online (@ PMC Online)
3. Roll number will be delivered to the student immediately on completion of registration.
4. Provision of exam slot selection and scheduling
5. Practice questions available online
6. Online tutorial
7. One-time mock exam for practice
8. Result will be announced within half hour of conclusion of the exam to the student only.
9. Student can select all the colleges applied to for forwarding of the result to the colleges by PMC automatically.
10. For MDCAT, exam system will allow students to give the science subjects first. Students can select any of the science subjects or shift from one to the other. On completion of science subject students can do English and lastly Logical Reasoning.
11. For NLE, exam system will allow students to select any category and questions in any order.
12. Students can review their questions before making final submission of answers.



	<p>The Council agreed to the fee structure for the MDCAT, NLE and NEB as proposed by the committee.</p> <p>It was agreed that the fee will include the online tutorial and 1 mock exam and there shall be 10% yearly increase in the price for the year 2023 onwards. Moreover, for NEB Exam International student pricing may be increased once overseas students' locations are finalized.</p>
<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council unanimously approved the document entailing detailed fee structure for the exams.</p> <p>Following fee structure was approved for the year 2021:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MDCAT Exam fee for 2021 (Pakistan): PKR 6,000 per student</li> <li>2. MDCAT Exam fee for 2021 (International): US\$ 99 per student</li> <li>3. NLE Step 1 Exam fee for 2021 (Pakistan): PKR 12,000 per student</li> <li>4. NLE Step 1 Exam fee for 2021 (International): US\$ 175 per student</li> <li>5. NLE Step 2 Exam fee for 2021 (Pakistan): PKR 8,000 per student</li> <li>6. NEB Exam fee for 2021 (Pakistan): PKR 10 ,000 per student</li> <li>7. NEB Exam fee for 2021 (International): US\$ 135 per student</li> </ol>
<b>Action Required</b>	The approved Exam fee for MDCAT and NLE to be used for online registration of the students.
<b>Compliance by</b>	Member IT / Member Finance
<b>Item No.11</b>	<b>To Approve PMC Finance Regulations 2021</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Council was informed that in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 40 read with clause (b), (c) and (t) of sub-section 2 of Section 8 of the Pakistan Medical Commission Act 2020, the Medical &amp; Dental Council has the power to make the Finance Regulations.</p> <p>The Pakistan Medical Commission (Finance) Regulations, 2021 as approved by the Finance Committee and Law and Regulatory Committee were submitted before the Council for consideration.</p>
<b>Decision</b>	The Council unanimously approved The Pakistan Medical Commission (Finance) Regulations, 2021 and directed to upload the same on the website.
<b>Action Required</b>	Regulations to be uploaded on PMC Website.
<b>Compliance by</b>	Member Finance / Council Secretary office
<b>Item No.12</b>	<b>Update on the steps taken by the Committee on Digitalization and IT Project Development</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	The Council was apprised that committee on Digitalization and IT Project Development notified with approval of the Council vide Notification dated 27 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021 has been constituted for a period of 6 months to plan,



oversee and implement specific development projects including;

- a) Fully automated Version 2 of PMC Online;
- b) Upgrade of PMC Website;
- c) Financial ERP;
- d) HR ERP;
- e) Office management and communication systems;
- f) Computer based examination conduct and management system;
- g) Question bank development system; and
- h) Digitalization and archiving of all records.

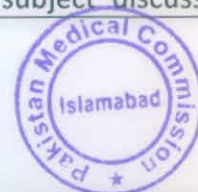
The Committee has the authority to;

1. Finalize the plan and structure of each project;
2. Select, recruit and recommend to the HR Committee for hiring special development resources for short term contracts not exceeding 6 months;
3. Select and recommend to the HR Committee for hiring a project development manager for a period not exceeding 6 months;
4. Oversee the development of the planned projects;
5. Oversee the implementation and roll out of each project on completion and its integration with and handing over to the PMC IT team for operation and maintenance;
6. Form task forces and their TOR's for implementation of different projects.
7. Advise, develop and approve guidelines for the PMC IT team for the management of existing IT operations and products/solutions in operation and installation of solutions for achieving IT efficiency.

The Council was further informed that the objective of DIPD Committee is to achieve the requisite solutions in a short time with quality development and to develop the solution while focusing the PMC in house team to streamline the management and maintenance of the existing operating solutions like PMC Online and in office communications etc. During the development of each product, the in house IT team will be integrated with the external teams hired so that they can be trained on the solutions for purposes of long term maintenance.

The Council was apprised regarding the tasks undertaken and completed by the DIPD:

1. Implementation of PMC Online Ver 2, PMC Website Ver 2, Upgrade of existing systems including Licensing Online-In progress.
2. Chrome Books conversion to have a single platform equipment and environment across the institution-Testing complete and chrome books will be acquired through tender.
3. Internal Operational and Cloud management environment and its Implementation-Initiated and Google Suites Selected as environment implementation plan being finalized.
4. Internal Approval & Communication Systems for Council, Board and Authority level approvals and subject discussions with option to

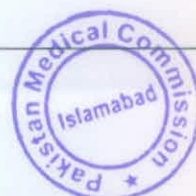


	<p>centralize and streamline all 3<sup>rd</sup> party applications- Testing and Training completed- Initial operational phase initiated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Digitalization of Existing Record for conversion of paper to digital and archive and recall systems- Tender being prepared for advertising.</li> <li>6. Virtual PMC Conference Facility to setup a permanent facility to enable online information archive facility for seminars and conferences.</li> <li>7. Financial &amp; HR ERP- Microsoft Dynamics selected as platform.</li> <li>8. Computer Based Examination Systems and Question Banks for holding the MDCAT, NLE and NEB exams in Pakistan and internationally- Contract Executed-Implementation Underway.</li> <li>9. Internal Document Generation and Maintenance System to streamline issuance of all official correspondence and its retention in digital form in each registered entity's mail box.</li> <li>10. Hospital Management Systems for approval and licensing to be available for all teaching hospitals as a mandatory requirement.</li> <li>11. Inspection Software with automated inspections on site and feed from HIMS systems.</li> <li>12. Biometric Verification of Doctors-Negotiations with NADRA in progress.</li> <li>13. VOIP Exchange- Tender under Preparation for advertising.</li> </ol>
<b>Decision</b>	The Council appreciated the efforts of DIPD Committee in bringing reforms in such a short time. Moreover, Council acknowledged the steps taken by DIPD in streamlining the existing system and for introducing automation which will ensure transparency and efficiency.
<b>Action Required</b>	DIPD Committee to continue with the tasks as per the plan.
<b>Compliance by</b>	DIPD Committee / Council Secretary office
<b>Item No: 13</b>	<b>Approval of Interim Medical Policy</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Council was informed that the Administration department is working on the health insurance plans for which tender will be published to hire an insurance company. In the meantime, an Interim Medical Policy is required to provide medical bills reimbursement facility which shall cease to exist as soon as the Health Insurance plans come into force.</p> <p>The proposed "Interim Medical Policy" as approved by the HR Committee was forwarded via circulation on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 to the Council members for consideration.</p> <p>In light of the queries raised by the Council members with regards to the entitlement of rooms and entitlement of children and parents a few amendments were made and the proposed document was placed before the council for consideration. With regards to the hospital entitlement following was proposed:</p>





	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Entitlement to <b>private room</b> in any Armed Forces/ Government/ Private Hospital in the Country entitlement - for the Statutory positions.</li> <li>2. Entitlement to any Armed Forces or Government Hospital in Officer Ward as private patient – All PMC employees.</li> </ol> <p>Reimbursement limits were also discussed and the Council was briefed that Interim Medical Policy shall cover the employee, immediate family, and parents as per below:  “Family” means husband, wife, legitimate children, legally adopted children, and parents of the employee.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. In case of more than one wife, the wife nominated by the employee to receive medical assistance and treatment shall be entitled.</li> <li>b. With regards to the age of children for entitlement, the Council agreed that up to the age of 21 years (<i>Marital Status: Single</i>) children shall be deemed to be wholly dependent.</li> <li>c. Those employees who are childless and have adopted children after completing all codal formalities may avail the medical facility on production of guardianship certificate and such other documents to the satisfaction of the Authority.</li> <li>d. Parents shall be deemed to be dependent if they are neither pensioner nor they are availing any medical facility through other sources.</li> <li>e. Special children shall be covered subject to production of proof of disability and such other documents to the satisfaction of the Authority.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Decision</b></p>	<p>After detailed deliberation the Council agreed to the amendments proposed in the Interim Medical Policy. However, with regards to the matter of “dependent parents” it was decided that conditions of dependency shall be defined as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A dependent parent shall either be retired and living with the employee.</li> <li>2. Parent due to illness is not working irrespective of the age of retirement.</li> <li>3. Parent should not be availing post-retirement medical facilities from an ex-employer and</li> <li>4. Parent is not already entitled to medical facilities offered by an organization in which another sibling of the employee is an employee.</li> </ol>



	<p>It was further decided that the "criteria for dependency" shall be notified by the HR Committee.</p> <p>Council directed Member Administration to design the final structure for the same and forward to HR Committee for approval. Once approved by the HR Committee, the Interim Medical Policy shall be implemented.</p> <p>It was agreed that the interim medical policy shall be applicable from the date of its approval till the Health Insurance comes into force, with no retrospective effect. Moreover, any medical bills, already submitted to the HR Department &amp; pending approval shall also be covered under the interim medical policy.</p>
<b>Action Required</b>	The "criteria of dependency" for the dependent parents to be finalized and forwarded to HR Committee for approval.
<b>Compliance by</b>	Member Administration
<b>Item No: 14</b>	<b>Approval of Life and Health Insurance Policy</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Council was informed that with reference to the decision of the Council in the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting held on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 it was decided that the PMC employees shall be entitled to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Health insurance for immediate family (including parents).</li> <li>2. Life insurance for the employee.</li> </ol> <p>Based on the above, a comprehensive working was done to set the health &amp; life insurance limits which were approved by the HR Committee. The same was forwarded to the respected Council Members for consideration via circulation. However, upon queries raised by the respected Council regarding best practices in other Companies, Member Administration submitted comparison document based on a survey conducted by Mercer/ Abacus carrying some basic information on the type of entitlements/covers being offered by the following 11 organizations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Infrastructure Development Authority, Punjab (IDAP)</li> <li>2. Karandaaz Pakistan (KRN)</li> <li>3. The Punjab Educational Endowment Fund (PEEF)</li> <li>4. Kashf Foundation (Kashf)</li> <li>5. Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC)</li> <li>6. Lahore Knowledge Park Company (LKPC)</li> <li>7. National Rural Support Program (NRSP)</li> <li>8. Pakistan Center for Philanthropy (PCP)</li> <li>9. Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF)</li> <li>10. Punjab Board of Investment &amp; Trade (PBIT)</li> <li>11. Punjab Skills Development Fund (PSDF)</li> </ol> <p>Moreover, the information regarding companies like PKLI, Power-sector and Petroleum sector companies, Ignite and TEVTA gathered for comparison</p>



	<p>and review along with summary of best practices were also presented before the Council for further deliberation.</p> <p>The Council after detailed discussion directed that different companies must be explored for the type of Health Insurance packages they offer. Tender notice to be issued after the assessment of the health insurance packages to obtain the most suitable available health &amp; life insurance plan for PMC employees within the approved max limits.</p>									
<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council agreed that information regarding different health insurance packages offered by the insurance companies must be obtained.</p> <p>Tender notice to be issued after the assessment of the health insurance packages to obtain the most suitable available health &amp; life insurance plan for PMC employees within the approved max limits.</p>									
<b>Action Required</b>	<p>To obtain health insurance packages from the insurance Companies and forward to HR Committee for consideration and review.</p> <p>Tender notice to be issued after the assessment.</p>									
<b>Compliance by</b>	Member Administration									
<b>Item No: 15</b>	<b>Approval of Temporary Licensing Category</b>									
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Council was informed that currently, Pakistan Medical Commission is issuing Temporary Licenses to foreign doctors for fulfilling their required purpose for following durations:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="461 1249 1428 1440"> <thead> <tr> <th>S.No.</th> <th>DURATION</th> <th>FEE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>03 Months</td> <td>Rs. 10,000/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>06 months</td> <td>Rs. 15,000/-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The temporary license aspirants are the foreign license holder doctors who apply for a license for the following purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertaking post graduate Training</li> <li>Imparting Training</li> <li>Temporary Practice Privileges</li> </ol> <p>The Council agreed that a temporary license must be issued to all such foreign doctors for the specific purpose they apply for and PMC must have a data of the types of temporary licenses issued to such foreign doctors and purpose of the license must be on record. At present temporary licensure is granted on a case-to-case basis and depends upon foreign doctor's education, training and experience.</p> <p>The Council further discussed that verification of the foreign license and</p>	S.No.	DURATION	FEE	1.	03 Months	Rs. 10,000/-	2.	06 months	Rs. 15,000/-
S.No.	DURATION	FEE								
1.	03 Months	Rs. 10,000/-								
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	<p>post graduate qualifications if any must be undertaken before issuance of any such license. Moreover, confirmation must be sought from the sponsoring/hiring or the training institute.</p> <p>The purpose of categorizing the temporary license is to have proper data and also to facilitate the foreign doctors who are willing to provide their services or impart training in Pakistan. Moreover, online application and online payment facility will further promote all such aspirants sitting abroad to apply for the license and provide services.</p> <p>The Council further deliberated on the issue of Telemedicine services which are on the rise during the Covid Pandemic. It was decided that the all telemedicine providers must also be issue a temporary license for the record purpose and in the public interest.</p>
<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council agreed to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Temporary License will be issued in following Categories to Foreign License Holders; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Undertaking Training (valid for the period of training);</li> <li>b. Imparting Training (valid for the period of employment);</li> <li>c. Temporary Practice Privileges (valid for a maximum of 3 months); and</li> <li>d. Telemedicine (valid for one year).</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Processing Fee (One Time) Rs.5,000.</li> <li>3. License Fee for (a) to (c): Rs.2,000 for a period upto one year.</li> <li>4. Online Application and Online Payment.</li> <li>5. Requirements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. verification of foreign license.</li> <li>b. for (b) to (d) qualifications.</li> <li>c. for (a) to (c) training, hiring or sponsoring institutions confirmation.</li> <li>d. for (d) confirmation by telemedicine provider.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>Code of Ethics and practice regulations to apply to all Temporary License holders.</p>
<b>Action Required</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Licensing department to develop the form for each category of the license.</li> <li>2. IT department to ensure that the facility to apply for temporary license is available on PMC Online.</li> </ol>
<b>Compliance by</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Member Licensing</li> <li>2. IT Team</li> </ol>
<b>Item No: 16</b>	<b>Formal approval of Policy decisions which were taken by the Council from time to time via circulation</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	It was discussed that the council has taken various policy decisions through



circulation keeping in view the urgency of the matter and time constraints.

Council was apprised about the decision taken by the Council from time to time after the 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting via circulation:

S. No.	Subject / Topic	Email dated
1.	Issuance of Recall Order- Abwa Medical College	27.05.2021
2.	JV Agreement for examination, testing and evaluation services- DIPD	26.05.2021
3.	Budget (OPEX & CAPEX) for the period from March 2021 to June 2021	19.05.2021
4.	Delegation of Power of Hiring to the HR Committee	02.05.2021
5.	Draft Orders(Batch-IV) in the matter of complaints against colleges	27-04-2021
6.	Approval of the Committee on Digitalization and IT Project Development	26.04.2021
7.	Draft Orders (Batch-III) in the matter of complaints against colleges	23.04.2021
8.	Draft orders (Batch-II) in the matter of complaints against colleges	23.04.2021
9.	Draft orders (Batch-I) in the matter of complaints against colleges	21.04.2021
10.	Case of unrecognized medical colleges in Baluchistan	16.03.2021
11.	Report on ISRA University	14.03.2021
12.	Amendment to the PMC Service Regulations &The Code of Disciplinary Proceedings	05.03.2021
13.	Minutes of the Selection Committee- interviews conducted for IT positions (11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> of Feb 2021)	23.02.2021

Council agreed that keeping in view the ongoing situation where the Commission is in the process of evolution and various decisions are to be made on urgent basis, approval through circulation helps in expediting the processes and facilitates the day to day functions of the Authority.

The Council received a presentation from the Member Finance and Member Legal on the different aspects of the JV Agreement. The Council noted that after having evaluated that setting up the entire computer based examination systems and centers exclusively by the Commission would not be possible in the time available or viable proposals was called for and received from multiple parties. Discussions were held with two international and fourteen Pakistani entities whereafter it was found that only one entity was capable of providing the CBT systems in Pakistan and Internationally fulfilling the minimum criteria required by the Commission whereas also



	<p>agreeing to undertake a joint venture to offer the CBT system using the most modern technology systems. The evaluation of the proposals of all parties were reviewed by the Council. Majority had no experience in conducting a computer based testing and a few sought to offer computer based testing using third party resources obtained on short term usage basis, which was not tenable to ensure the security and quality of the exams to be conducted by the Commission. It is for deliberated reasons that it was decided to undertake the CBT systems through a joint venture rather than procuring it as a third party service, which even otherwise were not available. This allowed the Commission to retain the level of control required over the examination systems and the conduct of its exams by the Authority while also enabling a resource available in the future for other public examination entities.</p> <p>The Council noted that no public funds or funds of the Commission would be required towards the setting up systems or conduct of the exam. It was also noted that with the urgency in setting up the system there was no other available entity other than the selected joint venture partner who met all the requirements and conditions of the Commission. The Council was satisfied with the process undertaken and the terms of the joint venture.</p>
<p><b>Decision</b></p>	<p>The Council formally approved all decisions which the council had already considered in the past and agreed to continue the practice of granting approvals through circulation whenever required.</p> <p>With regards to the JV agreement on examination, testing and evaluation services the Council appreciated the efforts of the DIPD Committee for the comprehensive assessment of the companies which provided their proposals for the examination services. The Council reiterated the decision taken earlier via circulation regarding joint venture with SOAR Testing and Evaluation Platform Limited (TEPS) to deliver the examination and testing facilities required by PMC.</p> <p>With regards to 3 unrecognized medical colleges in Balochistan the Council ratified the circulated decision and decided as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baluchistan Government to submit requests for inspection and confirm readiness of all three unrecognized colleges (Makran Medical College, Turbat, Jhalawan Medical College, Khuzdar and Loralai Medical College, Loralai) by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.</li> <li>2. The teaching hospitals affiliated to the three colleges will be inspected by PMC in July as per the criteria established by the Academic Board for undergraduate colleges.</li> <li>3. Each college to seek and obtain inspection and qualification of the academic college from HEC.</li> <li>4. If a college and its affiliated teaching hospital post inspection</li> </ol>



	qualifies and is recognized, students inducted over the last three years will be required to take the relevant last year completed professional exam to be conducted by a PMC nominated university. Students who qualify will be registered by PMC.
<b>Action Required</b>	Maintenance of official record of all such approvals.
<b>Compliance by</b>	Council Secretary Office
<b>Item No: 17</b>	<b>Biometric Verification Policy for all Licensed Practitioners</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Council was informed that pursuant to the in-principle decision of the Council to introduce biometric verification of all medical and dental practitioners as currently existing and all new licensees for purposes of proper verification and proof of life, the process has been investigated and finalized. It was discussed that with currently more than 60% of licensees yet to be verified it is imperative to make this a mandatory policy.</p> <p>The Council was further apprised that as step 1 of this policy the online digital ID creation for doctors is already available on PMC Online. Further, meetings with NADRA have been concluded and an API for biometric verification per verification as payable to NADRA has been agreed upon. To undertake biometric verification in addition to the software application which will be added to the current PMC Online, PMC will hire the services of vendors to provide services of setting up kiosks and home verification services. The cost of the biometric verification will be determined upon finalizing the vendors.</p>
<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council approved the following policy with regards to Biometric Verification;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>All existing licensees and those applying for licenses shall register and create their digital ID on PMC Online.</i></li> <li>b) <i>On creation of the digital ID each licensee shall receive a biometric verification code.</i></li> <li>c) <i>The licensee can either visit any authorized facility or undertake biometric verification at PMC stationed kiosks at all major hospitals or order a home biometric service.</i></li> <li>d) <i>The licensee shall pay the fixed fee for biometric verification at the time of verification.</i></li> <li>e) <i>The biometric verification will result in the licensees digital ID becoming fully functional and they being capable of processing and upgrading their license profile as well as applying for any other facilities from renewal to change of data etc.</i></li> <li>f) <i>A period of fortyfive days after the start of verification drive will be provided for all licensees to undertake their biometric verification failing which the license would stand suspended till biometric</i></li> </ol>



	<p><i>verification is done.</i></p> <p>The Council authorized the DIPD Committee to implement the above policy on an immediate basis within June. It was further decided that the fee may be recommended by the DIPD Committee upon finalization of external resources and internal costing.</p>
<b>Action Required</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Setting up of kiosks and home verification services.</li> <li>2. Determination of the cost of the biometric verification.</li> </ol>
<b>Compliance by</b>	DIPD Committee
<b>Item No: 18</b>	<b>Special License for Telemedicine</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Council was informed that currently there are three categories of licenses provided for under the PMC Act 2020; Provisional, Full and Temporary. The Temporary License is further divided into certain categories linked principally with the utilization and need. These temporary licenses are granted to;</p> <p>a) doctors seeking training, b) doctors imparting training and c) doctors visiting for short term.</p> <p>However, with the increase of telemedicine specially in the Covid affected world, there is a large number of medical practitioners sitting in Pakistan and outside Pakistan who are providing medical services using telemedicine platforms. The telemedicine platforms are operating either from or outside Pakistan and are currently not being regulated as healthcare establishments. The Council noted with concern that at present these online platforms and the doctors providing services online are not regulated therefore a very concerning issue has arisen in context of protecting the recipients of telemedicine services to ensure they can verify that they are being serviced by proper licensed practitioners.</p> <p>Moreover, the Council agreed that Code of Ethics and practice regulations to apply to all Temporary License holders including Telemedicine practitioners.</p>
<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council decided that in order to cater to this growing and urgent need, a new category of Temporary License must be initiated; Telemedicine Practitioner License (TPL).</p> <p>The following conditions would apply;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. TPL would be a mandatory requirement for all medical practitioners, based in Pakistan or outside, who seek to provide telemedicine services in Pakistan.</li> <li>b. Any medical practitioner licensed in Pakistan or by a foreign recognized regulator would be eligible to apply for a TPL.</li> </ol>





	<p>c. Verification of the license, qualifications and confirmation by the telemedicine provider would be essentially required.</p> <p>d. Application for a TPL can be made through PMC Online.</p> <p>e. The TPL would be valid for a period of one year renewable for a further similar term.</p> <p>f. One time processing fee for any temporary license would be Rs.5,000.</p> <p>g. The fee for a TPL one year license would be Rs.3,000.</p> <p>h. A separate search link will be placed on PMC Online for public to verify the practitioners authorized for telemedicine services.</p> <p>It was decided that the policy to be made applicable within a fortnight and included thereafter, in the licensing regulations.</p>
<b>Action Required</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Online TPL form to be created.</li> <li>2. TPL to be included in the Licensing Regulations.</li> </ol>
<b>Compliance by</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. IT Team</li> <li>2. Member Licensing</li> </ol>
<b>Additional Agenda -A</b>	<b>Inspection and Registration of Teaching Hospitals in view of the judgement of Honorable Lahore High Court dated 29-04-2021</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Council was informed that pursuant to the Judgment of the Honourable Lahore High Court, all teaching hospitals conducting post graduate programs without having been inspected and recognized by PMC, shall be required to immediately apply for inspections. A hospital shall be inspected by PMC and accredited as a Teaching Hospital for Post Graduate programs.</p> <p>It was discussed that once accredited for Post Graduate programs, the teaching hospital may proceed to impart training towards a post graduate, alternative or additional programs irrespective of whether the program is conducted by a University or CPSP. Therefore, separate accreditation and recognition will not be required for a university or CPSP program.</p> <p>The Council was further informed that the Academic Board is in the process of finalizing the Accreditation standards for teaching hospitals which will be placed before the Council in its next Council meeting for consideration and approval.</p>
<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council decided that :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inspections to be conducted on priority basis in July 2021.</li> <li>2. All teaching hospitals, whether previously recognized or not, conducting Post Graduate or House Job programs are required to register their Digital ID at PMC Online and provide the requisite data by or before 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.</li> <li>3. All teaching hospitals conducting house jobs or seeking to conduct house jobs in the future will be inspected between July and</li> </ol>



	<p>December 2021 to assess the status and for allocation of house job seats for induction in the House Job program for students graduating or inducted after October 2021.</p> <p>4. Any authorized post graduate qualification granting entities (CPSP, Universities etc.) shall be required to conduct their training programs only at teaching hospitals recognized and registered with PMC as Post Graduate Teaching Hospitals.</p>
<b>Action Required</b>	<p>1. All teaching hospitals to be informed to register their Digital ID at PMC Online and provide the requisite data by or before 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.</p> <p>2. Inspection schedule to be finalized.</p>
<b>Compliance by</b>	Member Education
<b>Additional Agenda -B</b>	<b>Agenda and Minutes of the Authority Meetings held at PMC Secretariat</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Council was informed that the Authority holds regular coordination meetings to address the ongoing issues and to streamline the processes.</p> <p>Council appreciated the efforts of the respective members of the authority and directed that the agenda of the weekly meetings and minutes of meetings to be shared with the President's office for information.</p>
<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council decided as follows:</p> <p>The Authority to hold a coordination meeting every Monday.</p> <p>Agenda of the meeting to be forwarded to secretary office by Friday.</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting to be forwarded to the Secretary office before closing hours on Monday for onward submission to the President/Vice President for information.</p>
<b>Action Required</b>	<p>Agenda of the coordination meeting to be emailed to Secretary before closing hours on Friday.</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting to be forwarded to Secretary office on Monday after the meeting.</p>
<b>Compliance by</b>	Executive Member of the Authority
<b>The Council decided to hold the next session on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.</b>	



**Secretary**

Pakistan Medical Commission

