



STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS.

S.I. No. XXX of 2026

MEDICAL COUNCIL (RECOGNITION AND REGISTRATION) RULES 2026

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The Medical Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 11 (as amended by section 81 of the Regulated Professions (Health and Social Care) (Amendment) Act 2020 (No. 16 of 2020) (as amended by section 12 of the Regulated Professions (Health and Social Care) (Amendment) Act 2023 (No. 14 of 2023)) of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 (No. 20 of 2007), hereby makes the following rules:-

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Citation

1. These Rules may be cited as the Medical Council (Recognition and Registration) Rules 2026.

Commencement

2. These Rules come into operation on [XXXX] 2026.

Definitions

3. In these Rules, “Act” means the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 (No. 20 of 2007), as amended by the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007 (No. 42 of 2007), the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2010 (No. 18 of 2010), the Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Act 2011 (No. 12 of 2011), the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013 (No. 14 of 2013), the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (No. 30 of 2014), the Health Identifiers Act 2014 (No. 15 of 2014), the Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Act 2017 (No. 10 of 2017), the European Union (Recognition of Professional Qualifications) Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 8 of 2017), the Regulated Professions (Health and Social Care) (Amendment) Act 2020 (No. 16 of 2020) and the Regulated Professions (Health and Social Care) (Amendment) Act 2023 (No. 14 of 2023).

PART 2

REGISTRATION OF INTERNS

Information to be contained in register of interns

4. The Register of Interns and any certificate of registration in relation to an intern shall contain, in respect of each registered intern, the following particulars:

- (a) name;
- (b) qualification(s);
- (c) date(s) qualification(s) awarded;
- (d) registration number;

- (e) postal address and/or email address for correspondence;
- (f) gender;
- (g) registration status (which, where relevant, shall include particulars of any condition attached to registration or any undertaking given);
- (h) registration date; and
- (i) such other information as the Council, from time to time, considers appropriate.

Registration in register of interns

5. The period of internship referred to in section 36F(3) of the Act must be a minimum of twelve months of supervised practice, to be completed consecutively save where approved by the Council, and in accordance with standards and guidelines issued by the Council in that regard.

PART 3

REGISTRATION OF ADAPTERS

Information to be contained in register of adapters

6. The Register of Adapters and any certificate of registration in relation to an adapter shall contain, in respect of each adapter, the following particulars:

- (a) name;
- (b) qualification(s);
- (c) date(s) qualification(s) awarded;
- (d) registration number;
- (e) postal address and/or email address for correspondence;
- (f) gender;
- (g) registration status (which, where relevant, shall include particulars of any condition attached to registration or any undertaking given);
- (h) registration date;
- (i) the adaptation period required to be completed (including particulars of the training in medical practice to which the adaptation period relates);
- (j) the date of expiration of the adaptation period; and

- (k) such other information as the Council, from time to time, considers appropriate.

PART 4

REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Recognition of qualification as general qualification

7. (1) The examination referred to in section 44B(1)(a)(i) of the Act is an examination which consists of both a test of clinical knowledge and a test of clinical skill, and, on the date of commencement of these Rules, the examination is referred to as either the Pre-Registration Examination System (“the PRES”) or the pre-registration examination delivered by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom currently known as the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board test (“the PLAB”).

(2) For the purposes of section 44B(1)(a)(ii) of the Act, the grounds on which a person is exempted from the requirement to pass the PRES or the PLAB are as follows:

- (a) that the person would be in a position to have his or her qualification in medicine recognised by the Council in accordance with section 44B(2) of the Act if he or she was an “eligible person” within the meaning assigned to that term in Regulation 3(1) of the Regulations of 2017, on the basis that he or she provides evidence of formal qualifications in basic medical training which would be recognised under Part 3, 5 or 14 of the Regulations of 2017;
- (b) that the person—
 - (i) has been awarded a postgraduate qualification which is—
 - (I) listed in Schedule 1, or
 - (II) in the opinion of the Council, at least equivalent to one or more of the qualifications listed in Schedule 1, and
 - (ii) has completed—
 - (I) an internship of a minimum of one year supervised practise (to include at least two months in medicine and two months in surgery), or
 - (II) a minimum of two years in an accredited training programme; or
- (c) that the person was registered on the General Register of Medical Practitioners under section 27 (full registration) or section 29 (temporary registration) of the Medical Practitioners Act 1978 (No. 4 of 1978).

(3) For the purposes of section 44B(1)(a)(iv) of the Act, a document is at least the equivalent of a certificate of experience if it—

- (a) meets the standards published by the Council pursuant to section 88(3)(d) of the Act, and
- (b) has been awarded following a period of employment, for such period as is specified in rule 5 of these Rules, in a hospital, health institution, clinic, general medical practice or other health service setting which provides, in the opinion of the Council, an equivalent standard of training to those hospitals, health institutions, clinics, general medical practices or other health service settings as are specified under section 11(2)(r)(ii) the Act.

Recognition of qualification as specialist qualification

8. The Council shall be satisfied that a person has achieved a standard which is adequate for recognition as a specialist qualification pursuant to section 44C(1)(a)(ii) of the Act where —

- (a) the Council determines the programme of training completed and experience in specialised medicine acquired by the person to be of a standard equivalent to that which would have caused a body referred to in section 44C(1)(a)(i) of the Act to have granted evidence of satisfactory completion of specialist training, or
- (b) the person would be in a position to have his or her qualification recognised under the Regulations of 2017 if he or she was an “eligible person” within the meaning assigned to that term in Regulation 3(1) of those Regulations, on the basis that he or she provides evidence of formal qualifications as a specialised doctor which would be recognised under Part 3, 5, 7 or 14 of the Regulations of 2017.

Details to be entered in register of medical practitioners

9. The register of medical practitioners and any certificate of registration in relation to a medical practitioner shall contain, in respect of each registered medical practitioner, the following particulars:

- (a) name;
- (b) qualification(s);
- (c) date(s) qualification(s) awarded;
- (d) registration number;
- (e) postal address and/or email address for correspondence;
- (f) gender;
- (g) division of the register of medical practitioners in which the medical practitioner is registered;
- (h) registration status (which, where relevant, shall include particulars of any condition attaching to the registration or any undertaking given);

- (i) registration date and expiry date;
- (j) where the medical practitioner is registered in the Trainee Specialist Division and holds trainee specialist registration for the purposes of medical specialist training, the details of the individually numbered, identifiable post in which he or she is currently practising;
- (k) where the medical practitioner is registered in the Specialist Division, the specialty or specialties in respect of which the medical practitioner is registered;
- (l) where the medical practitioner is registered in the Visiting EEA Practitioners Division, the particulars of the temporary and occasional medical services being rendered and the period(s) in which the medical practitioner expects to render them; and
- (m) where the medical practitioner is registered in the Supervised Division, the individually numbered, identifiable post to which such registration applies.

Registration in Supervised Division

10. (1) The criteria referred to in section 50A(2)(b) of the Act to be met by medical practitioners seeking to be registered in the Supervised Division of the register of medical practitioners are the Level 1 and Level 2 assessments provided for in this Rule.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the Level 1 assessment is as follows:

- (a) verification of documentation; and
- (b) production of a declaration demonstrating compliance with the requirements of section 50A(5) of the Act, signed by the chief executive officer (or equivalent) of the hospital or clinical site and the medical practitioner's clinical supervisor.

(3) Where any details regarding the supervised post changes during a medical practitioner's registration in the Supervised Division of the register of medical practitioners, the employer shall inform the Council in writing.

(4) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the Level 2 assessment comprises an examination which will assess general clinical knowledge.

(5) A medical practitioner may be considered for exemption from examination at Level 2 where he or she—

- (i) is eligible for registration in the General Division of the register under section 44B of the Act, or
- (ii) has obtained a qualification or passed an examination which is—
 - (I) listed in Schedule 2, or

- (II) in the opinion of the Council, at least equivalent to one or more of the qualifications or examinations listed in Schedule 2.

Annual retention

11. (1) Registered medical practitioners wishing to continue their registration shall—

- (a) apply for retention of their name in the appropriate division of the register of medical practitioners annually by way of the relevant application form specified pursuant to section 107 of the Act, and
- (b) pay the relevant retention fees,

and the Council shall not consider an application for retention to be valid without completion of the relevant form and payment of the relevant fees.

(2) In accordance with section 36(1)(b) of the Act, the fees for retention on the register of medical practitioners shall be determined by the Council from year to year.

(3) An additional fee as may be specified by the Council from year to year shall become payable in respect of all applications under this Rule not submitted on or before 30 June in the relevant year.

(4) The Council shall only issue an annual registration certificate after receipt of a valid application under this Rule.

(5) In respect of all registered medical practitioners from whom a valid application is not received on or before 30 June, in addition to an additional fee becoming payable in accordance with paragraph (3), the Council may—

- (a) commence the process set out in section 79 of the Act to remove the registered medical practitioner from the register of medical practitioners, or
- (b) make a complaint to the Preliminary Proceedings Committee under section 57 of the Act in respect of a breach of the Act or these Rules.

Restoration to register following cancellation of registration

12. The criteria referred to in section 81(2)(d) of the Act, to be considered by the Council in deciding whether or not to restore the registration of a medical practitioner whose registration in the register of medical practitioners has been cancelled, are the following:

- (a) the circumstances that led to cancellation of the registration;
- (b) the findings of the Fitness to Practise Committee and the reasons relied on by the Council for its decision to cancel the registration;
- (c) whether the medical practitioner has gained any insight into the matters that led to cancellation of the registration;
- (d) what the medical practitioner has done since cancellation of the registration;

- (e) any adverse effect which the restoration of the medical practitioner to the register, with or without conditions, would have on public confidence and professional standards;
- (f) the steps taken by the medical practitioner to keep his or her medical knowledge and skills up to date;
- (g) the steps taken by the medical practitioner to rehabilitate since the cancellation of registration;
- (h) any evidence relevant to the medical practitioner's fitness to practise or practise of medicine; and
- (i) any other matter that the Council considers relevant to the consideration of the application for restoration to the register bearing in mind the object of the Council as set out in section 6 of the Act.

PART 5

LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

Language competence

13. A person shall not be registered in the register of interns, the register of medical practitioners or the register of adapters unless he or she provides, on request, acceptable evidence of language competence as determined by the Council from time to time and set out on the Council's website.

PART 6

REVOCATIONS

Revocations

14. The following are revoked:

- (a) the Medical Council Rules Specifying Particulars to be Contained in the Register of Medical Practitioners 2009 (S.I. No. 592 of 2009);
- (b) the Medical Council Rules Specifying Criteria to be Considered for Applications for Restoration to the Register 2009 (S.I. No. 594 of 2009);
- (c) the Medical Council Registration Rules 2011 (S.I. No. 417 of 2011);

- (d) the Rules Specifying Examinations and Criteria for Registration in the Supervised Division Pursuant to the Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Act 2011 (S.I. No. 733 of 2011);
- (e) the Medical Council Annual Retention Rules 2012 (S.I. No. 171 of 2012); and
- (f) the Rules Specifying Examinations and Criteria for Registration in the Supervised Division Pursuant to the Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Act 2011 (S.I. No. 208 of 2013).

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Approved post-graduate qualifications

Specialty	Higher Qualifications
Anaesthesia	• Fellowship of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland (FCAI), (formerly FCARCSI and FFARCSI) • Membership of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland (MCAI), formerly Primary Fellowship Examination of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland • Overseas Qualifying Examination of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland (OQE) • Fellow of the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine of Ireland (FJFICMI) • Diploma in Pain Management, College of Anaesthetists of Ireland • Fellowship of the Faculty of Pain Medicine, College of Anaesthetists of Ireland • Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists UK (FRCA) • Primary Examination of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (UK) • Fellow of the Australian & New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (FANZCA) • Fellow of the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand • Fellow in Anesthesiology of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada • Fellow of the College of Anaesthetists of South Africa (FCA(SA)) • Diploma of American Boards in Anesthesiology (DABA) • Diploma of American Boards in Critical Care Medicine • European Diploma in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (EDAIC, formerly EDA) • European Diploma in Intensive Care Medicine (EDIC) • Fellow in Anaesthesia of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Pakistan (FCPS (P) taken after 1998) • Doctor of Medicine in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, University of the West Indies
Occupational Medicine	• Member of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MFOM) • Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (FFOM) • Licentiate of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (LFOM) • Membership of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Royal College of Physicians (London) • American Board Certification in Occupational Health • American Board of Preventive Medicine

	• Certificate of the Canadian Board of Occupational Medicine • Fellow of the Australasian College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine
Pathology	• Fellow of the Faculty of Pathology Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (FFPath RCPI) • MRCPPath (UK) • Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (FRCPA) • American Board Certification in Pathology (ASCP) • Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists (UK) (FRCPath) • Fellowship of the College of Pathologists of South Africa – Haematology
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	• Member of the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI Ob&Gyn) • Membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (MRCOG) (UK) • Membership of the Royal Australian and/or New Zealand College(s) of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (MRACOG / MRNZCOG / MRANZCOG) • Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada (O&G) • Fellowship of the College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of South Africa (FCOG (SA)) • Current Certification by the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Paediatrics	• Member of the Faculty of Paediatrics of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI Medicine of Childhood) • Membership of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (MRCPCH) • American Board in Paediatrics
Medicine	• Member of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI) • Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (FRCPI) • Member of the Royal College of Physicians (London) (MRCP)(Lon) • Member of the Royal College of Physicians (Glasgow) (MRCP)(G) • Member of the Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh) (MRCP)(Ed) • Member of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (MRACP) • Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada (FRCP(C)) • Fellow of the College of Physicians of South Africa (FCP(SA)) • American Board in General (Internal) Medicine
Surgery	• Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (FRCSI) • Collegiate Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (MRCSI(C)) • Intercollegiate Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (IMRCSI) (must be accompanied by an original/certified copy Certificate of Completion of Basic Surgical Training (CCBST)).

	• Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (MRCSI) • Associate Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (AFRCSI) • Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh • Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons & Physicians of Glasgow • Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (London) • Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh • Member of the Royal College of Surgeons & Physicians of Glasgow • Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (London) • Fellow of the Royal College of Medicine of South Africa • Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons • Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada (Surgery) • American Board Certification • Fellowship of European Board of Otorhinolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery • Joint Surgical College's Fellowship Examination (JSCFE)
Emergency Medicine	• Membership/Fellowship of the College of Emergency Medicine (MCEM/FCEM) (UK) • Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (in Accident and Emergency Medicine and Surgery) (FRCSEd (A&E)) • Fellowship of the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine (FACEM) • Diplomate of the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) • Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (FRCPC) • Exit examination in Emergency Medicine of the Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine
Radiology	• Fellow of the Faculty of Radiologists Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (FFR RCSI) • Fellow of the Royal College of Radiologists (FRCR) (UK) • American Board of Radiology • Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (FRCPC) - Division of Radiology or Radiation Oncology
General Practice	• Membership of the Irish College of General Practitioners (MICGP) • Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP) • Member of the Royal College of General Practitioners (MRCGP) • American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) • Certification in Family Medicine (College of Family Physicians of Canada)
Psychiatry	• Member of the Royal College of Psychiatry (UK) (MRCPsych) • The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology • Fellowship of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatry

Ophthalmology	• MRCSI (Ophth) • Fellow of the Royal College of Australia & New Zealand (FRANZCO) • Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh • Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons & Physicians of Glasgow • American Board of Ophthalmology • FRCOphth (London) • Canadian Board

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Schedule 2

Qualifications providing exemption from examination at Level 2, for entry to the Supervised Division

Anaesthesia	• College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan, Intermediate Module • Anaesthesiology • Saudi Boards for Health Specialties Intermediate Module/Part One Examination in Anaesthesia • Complete Saudi Boards for Health Specialties in Anaesthesia • Omani Medical Specialties Board Certificate in Anaesthesia (OMSB)
Pathology	• Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists, Part One in Clinical Biochemistry • Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists, Part One in Haematology • Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists, Part One in Histopathology • Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists, Part One in Immunology • Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists, Part One in Medical Microbiology • Complete Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisation Board Examinations in Pathology • Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisation Board Examinations Intermediate Module/ Part One Examination in Pathology
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	• College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan, Intermediate Module Obstetrics & Gynaecology • Arab Boards for Health Specialties Intermediate Module / Part One Examination in Obstetrics & Gynaecology • Complete Arab Boards for Health Specialties in Obstetrics & Gynaecology • Saudi Boards for Health Specialties Intermediate Module / Part One Examination in Obstetrics & Gynaecology • Complete Saudi Boards for Health Specialties in Obstetrics & Gynaecology • OMSB Specialty Certificate in Obstetrics & Gynaecology • Complete Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisation Board Examinations in Obstetrics & Gynaecology • Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisation Board Examinations Intermediate Module/ Part One Examination in Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Paediatrics	• College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan, Intermediate Module Paediatrics • Arab Boards for Health Specialties Intermediate Module / Part One Examination in Paediatrics • Complete Arab Boards for Health Specialties in Paediatrics • Saudi Boards for Health Specialties Intermediate Module / Part One Examination in Paediatrics • Complete Saudi Boards for Health Specialties in Paediatrics • OMSB Specialty Certificate in Paediatrics • Complete Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisation Board Examinations in Paediatrics • Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisation Board Examinations Intermediate Module/ Part One Examination in Paediatrics
Medicine	• College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan, Intermediate Module Medicine • Arab Boards for Health Specialties Intermediate Module / Part One Examination in Medicine • Complete Arab Boards for Health Specialties in Medicine • Saudi Boards for Health Specialties Intermediate Module / Part One Examination in Internal Medicine • Complete Saudi Boards for Health Specialties in Medicine • OMSB Specialty Certificate in Internal Medicine • Complete Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisation Board Examinations in Internal Medicine • Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisation Board Examinations Intermediate Module/ Part One Examination in Internal Medicine
Surgery	• College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan, Intermediate Module Surgery • Arab Boards for Health Specialties Intermediate Module / Part One Examination in Surgery • Complete Arab Boards for Health Specialties in Surgery • Saudi Boards for Health Specialties Intermediate Module / Part One Examination in Surgery • Complete Saudi Boards for Health Specialties in Surgery • OMSB Specialty Certificate in Surgery • Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS) Part A
Psychiatry	• College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan, Intermediate Module Psychiatry • Saudi Boards for Health Specialties Final (Part II) Specialty Examination in Psychiatry • Omani Medical Specialty Boards Certificate in Psychiatry (OMSB) • Arab Board Examination in Psychiatry Part II
Ophthalmology	• College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan, Intermediate Module Ophthalmology • European Board of Ophthalmology Diploma (EBOD)

Emergency Medicine	• College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan, Intermediate Module Emergency Medicine
Radiology	• Saudi Board for Health Specialties - Diagnostic Radiology
General Practice	• (OSMB) Omani Board of Family Medicine Examinations • Arab Board of Health Specialisations – Family Medicine Examinations
Non-specialty specific	• Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) at least Part 1 • United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) at least Step 1 and 2 • Australian Medical Council Examination (AMC) • Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada • Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCQE or MCCEE) • Medical Council of New Zealand Registration Examination (NZREX)

L.S. GIVEN under the Official Seal of the Medical Council,
 [Day] [Month] 2026.

President

Chief Executive Officer

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Instrument and does not purport to be a legal interpretation).

These Rules provide for various matters in relation to the recognition of qualifications and the registration of medical practitioners by the Medical Council. They replace and revoke various sets of rules made by the Medical Council between 2009 and 2013.

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