

Skill test hurdle for docs to get registration

Medical Council Of India Makes Test Mandatory For Students After Their Internship

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New Delhi: What an undergraduate medical student learns in one-year compulsory internship after appearing for MBBS examination will now decide whether s/he gets permanent registration to practice.

Medical Council of India (MCI) is making it mandatory for medical students to appear for a new "skills test" after their internship programme. It will test their "skills to analyse patients and diagnose conditions".

At present, students get their provisional MBBS degree after appearing for the examination at the end of four and a half years. Permanent registration is given after internship.

"Medical education is not about theory but practice. The new curriculum and post-internship test will prepare new doctors to deal with real patients and diseases," chief of MCI's

governing body (GB) Dr S K Sarin told TOI.

GB member Dr Sita Naik added, "Now, no tests are in place to see if they take this year-long internship programme seriously. Most of the students use this time to prepare for their post-graduate examination. Since PG is a multiple answer theory paper, they think this clinical experience from internship is a sheer waste of time."

Dr Naik explained that "new skill tests will make an assessment of their clinical acumen. If they fail to pass this, they will be denied their permanent registration to practice".

GB member professor Ranjit Roy Choudhury said the crucial meeting to finalise the UG and PG curriculum will be held on March 29. Union health secretary K Chandramouli will chair the meeting, which will be attended by top academicians and

SPOT LIGHT

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▶ The new curriculum, focussing on hands-on teaching, is expected to be released on March 29



vice-chancellors.

"We intend to announce the new curriculum on March 29," professor Roy Choudhury said. According to professor Roy Choudhury, the new curriculum will focus on hands-on teaching. "Passing the MBBS exam will not be enough.

They have to pass the skills test, and show that they are ready to take

on the real world of medicine and patients," he said.

Union health secretary K Chandramouli said, "Curriculums always need to be fine tuned to be in sync with times. We will find out what important things don't figure in the present curriculum. We will implement whatever can be incorporated into the curriculum immediately, while the rest will be done later."

As many as 74 special teams each comprising three experts are finalising the new medical education curriculum. At the end of the undergraduate medical training, MCI says, the students should be able to perform a thorough and systematic physical examination of any organ-system of the body, performing core clinical skills, demonstrate competency in communicating with patients at ease, request relevant clinical investigations and analyse abnormal

findings of an investigation.

MCI document adds, "At the end of the posting, students should be able to perform safely, confidently and effectively procedures like generic skills including perform a venepuncture, setting up an intravenous line, give intravenous injection and obtain a sample of arterial blood and catheterise urinary bladder."

"Under medical skills, the doctor should know how to record an ECG, how to use a nebuliser, interpret and analyse reports of clinical investigations. Under surgical skills, the basic doctor should know how to perform a prostate examination and insert a nasogastric tube. Under emergency skills, the doctors should know how to perform advanced life support procedures, perform basic life support and know how to safely transfer a patient after an accident," MCI officials added.