POLICY RE FOREIGN GRADUATES RECOGNITION & LICENSING

Numerous queries have been communicated to the Council by Foreign MBBS and BDS Graduates who were previously required to sit for the NEB exam in order to qualify for grant of a Provisional License and permission to undertake Housejob.

Under Section 21(2) of the PMC Ordinance, 2019 a person who has obtained “an undergraduate medical or dental qualification issued by a foreign institution recognized by the Commission, shall be granted a provisional license to undertake his house job within fourteen days of having duly passed and qualified the NLE”.

Therefore, a foreign MBBS or BDS graduate will be permitted to sit the NLE if the foreign institution they have obtained their qualification from is “recognized” by the Commission. This the mandatory pre condition to permitting a foreign graduate to enter the process for licensing in Pakistan. The following steps would be required;

Step 1: The foreign graduate would apply for permission to register for the NLE.

Step 2: If the foreign institution awarding the qualification is not recognized by the Commission, the recognition process of the foreign institution would be undertaken by the Medical Authority who after assessing the program of study offered by such foreign institution and determining as to whether it is equivalent or comparable to the MBBS or BDS program of study in Pakistan as per standards applicable, recommend its recognition.

Step 3: If the foreign institution is recognized by the Commission, the foreign graduate would be registered and permitted to sit in the NLE.

Step 4: If the student qualifies the NLE they would be granted a Provisional License for a House Job in Pakistan to work towards their Full Licensing.

The second proviso to Section 21(2) provides for an exception for students graduating before March 2020 in that they can start their Housejob and would be required to take their NLE after completion of their Housejob. This exception is solely to ensure no students time is wasted due to the new requirement and as the NLE would take some time to prepare and initiate.

It is clarified that this second proviso does not apply to foreign graduates as the mandatory condition of pre recognition of the foreign institution from where they have obtained qualification has not been exempted. Therefore, the second proviso is primarily for the benefit of students graduating from Pakistani medical and dental colleges which are already recognized by the Commission.

Notwithstanding that the NEB exam has been converted in the future to an equivalence exam for students wishing to transfer from a foreign college to a Pakistani college in the midst of their program of study, the Council after taking into consideration the fact that; a) the Medical Authority is yet to be fully formed requiring the appointment of the seven designated Members and thereafter, would initiate the process of recognition of foreign institutions and b) the National Academic Board would require some reasonable time to
formulate and setup the first NLE exam, decided in its 2\textsuperscript{nd} Meeting held on 8\textsuperscript{th} November, 2019 that to facilities foreign graduates and avoid wastage of time the NEB exam as was already scheduled for 1\textsuperscript{st} December, 2019 under the previous regulations shall be held and foreign students permitted to register and sit the exam as well as the Step2 and Step 3 exams to give them the opportunity to qualify and avoid waiting till their foreign institutions are duly recognized and the first NLE exam is held.

It is however, clarified that this would be the last NEB exam under the previous regulations and is being offered as an exception to facilitate foreign students who are at liberty to avail of this opportunity or elect to wait for recognition and the subsequently held 1\textsuperscript{st} NLE exam.