



## **Press Release (Pakistan Medical Commission)**

### **President PMC chaired Media Briefing over MDCAT & NLE**

**Islamabad 10th October 2022:**

President Pakistan Medical Commission Prof.Dr. Noshad Ahmad Shaikh chaired a Press Conference today merely to discuss MDCAT 2022 & NLE exam. During the press conference officials of PMC were also present. President PMC said that after the appointment of the new council of the Pakistan Medical Commission from the worthy Prime Minister of Pakistan, the council after assuming the charge on 7th September 2022, took the following necessary steps to resolve the genuine and relevant issues of doctors, students, and relevant stakeholders. He added that till now almost 2 lac 10 thousand candidates have been registered for MDCAT whereas the total seats for medical and dental Colleges are 20800 (Twenty thousand two hundred) in the country. He shared that MDCAT exam will be held on 13th November 2022, through the following public universities of all provinces and Islamabad on a single day and time:

- Bolan University of Medical & Health Sciences (Baluchistan).
- University of Health Services (Punjab).
- Khyber Medical University (KPK).
- Dow University of Health Sciences (Sindh).
- Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (Islamabad, AJK, Gilgit Baltistan).

All the vice chancellors of public universities and important concerned stakeholders were taken on board to decide the conduct of MDCAT through meetings in every province to smooth conduct of the exam. Exam conducting universities will decide on the modalities of conducting exam i.e. either by themselves or through testing agency.

NUMS for NUMS constituent and affiliated Medical and Dental Colleges. NUMS MDCAT will be under umbrella of PMC and shall only be valid for admissions in NUMS constituent and affiliated Colleges. President PMC said that in order to facilitate Pakistani students seeking admission in recognized colleges offering MBBS and BDS programs, the Council decided that the pass percentage of MBBS will be 55% and that of BDS will be 45% so that the maximum number of students are catered in the country. Moreover, FSc (Pre-Medical) or Equivalent with 60% marks will be eligible to apply for admission to MBBS or BDS. The pass percentage has been reduced from 65% to 60%. MDCAT exam will be paper based manual exam and the answer keys of the papers will be uploaded by the concerned universities on the PMC website on the same day after the exam. He disseminated that provincial centers for MDCAT are

Punjab: Lahore, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Multan, Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan. Sindh: Karachi, Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Khairpur.

KPK: Abbottabad, Peshawar, Swat, Dera Ismail Khan. Baluchistan: Quetta

Gilgit / Baltistan: Gilgit.

AJK : Mirpur AJK, Muzaffarabad.

ICT: Islamabad. He also told the media that the Council decided to conduct the MDCAT in two international centres i.e. UAE and Saudi Arabia due to the maximum number of students in these countries. Accordingly, candidates in other countries may either change their centres to UAE and Saudi Arabia or come to Pakistan for the exam.

Online portal will remain open till 13th October 2022 for registration and change of Centre for foreign students. The council decided that the syllabus for MDCAT 2022 which is already available on the PMC website will be the syllabus for MDCAT 2022. President PMC said that PMC will facilitate the public universities by providing them with question banks which will be optional for them to utilize. The Council decided to hold the NLE step 1 exam in the last week of October 2022. Registration for National Licensing Examination Step-1 will be opened from 1st October till 15th October 2022, at one venue i.e. Islamabad. NLE step 2 exam will be conducted in the last week of November for foreign graduates.

The Council has decided that the NLE examination for local Students shall be conducted through their degree awarding Universities under the umbrella of PMC. Pass percentage of NLE 1 & NLE 2 has been reduced from 70% to 50% but it will not be used as a retrospective. Talking about WFME he said that PMC has qualified eligibility for the WFME. A task force has been constituted aiming to sum up the work that has been done so far along with proposed steps for the WFME accreditation. The task force will expedite the finalization of the accreditation application to be submitted to the WFME before the deadline fixed by ECFMG i.e 2024. WFME accreditation process is undertaken as a priority as future of our graduates is depending on it. He also told that Earlier only clinical qualifications were allowed to be registered on the PMC registration licenses. Whereas the academic qualifications such as MPhil & PhD etc., and all non-clinical qualifications such as basic medical subjects (Physiology, Anatomy, etc.) were removed from the licenses. Approximately 6500 Postgraduate qualifications were deleted by PMC. The Council decided that PMC, being the medical and dental regulatory body, will register basic postgraduate medical and dental qualifications and medical education qualifications duly recognized by PMC.

Foreign medical dental postgraduate qualifications shall be scrutinized and after due process shall be registered with PMC.

The Council decided that the inspections of Medical dental Colleges shall be carried out by the PMC. He said that Renewal of doctor's registration certificates has been extended from 2 years to 5 years as several complaints in this regard were received at PMC. A special leverage has been given to senior doctors who are 60 years and above shall renew their registration certificate and will have to pay 50 % of the total fee. The Council has decided to cancel the existing Pathways for foreign medical & dental graduates and to issue a list of recognized foreign medical and dental colleges/universities duly recognized by the Commission, irrespective of categories. The Council decided that foreign Medical & Dental graduates having completed their qualifications from the approved list shall be issued provisional licenses to undertake

house jobs after having verification of their basic degrees from the granting institutes. These provisional license holders must complete the mandatory requirement of passing the NLE-1 & 2 at any time prior to issuance of full license. The Council further decided that the medical & dental graduates from unrecognized/unapproved institution/program have to mandatorily appear and pass NLE 1 & 2 before issuance of provisional license. He said that It was decided that regional offices in Karachi and Quetta will be upgraded keeping in view the distance of these cities from head office. Muzaffarabad, and Gilgit regional offices shall also be established at the earliest to facilitate the general public and doctors. Further more He also told the Press that

In 30 days of new council 7290 renewals and licenses have been issued,1085 good standing certificates, 454 faculty members have been registered , 338 post-graduate clinical qualifications have been registered,110 foreign graduates have been registered