



CLARIFICATION: Dawn article titled “Nine medical colleges allowed to operate without fulfilling criteria” published on 8 May, 2021 is a patently false and grossly misrepresents facts.

An article titled “Nine medical colleges allowed to operate without fulfilling criteria” that appeared in both the print and online version of Dawn on 8th May, 2021 is patently false and seeks to present facts which are absolutely incorrect and the article seeks to publicly communicate a grossly incorrect and inaccurate account of facts.

The nine (9) private medical colleges referred to in the article were formally inspected in December 2019 by the then Pakistan Medical Commission formed under the PMC Ordinance, 2019. The inspections were carried out following the stringent inspection criteria set by the regulatory body and through proper channels of verification after due diligence.

Pertinent details which are public knowledge are as follows:

- 1) PMC was formed first under the PMC Ordinance in October 2019. At that time there were 14 pending inspections of colleges either as directed by different court orders or first-time applicants. These inspections had been pending for a considerable period.
- 2) The then PMC Council and the HEC jointly agreed to form an Inspection Committee consisting of Mr. Tahir Zaidi (HEC), Mr. Aamir Shehzad (HEC), Dr. Aamir Bilal (nominee of PMC) and Maj. General Muhammad Saleem (nominee of PMC) to undertake the inspections jointly as under the PMC Ordinance 2019 HEC was to conduct the college inspection and PMC was to inspect the affiliated teaching hospitals.
- 3) This Inspection Committee appointed respective conveners and inspection teams to inspect each of the 14 colleges on the basis of the 2019 Inspection Criteria as had been previously approved by the erstwhile PM&DC. HEC assisted by PMC organized the logistics. HEC representative accompanied each of the inspection teams to each college and coordinate the inspections. *(The inspection schedule is given below)*
- 4) Post inspections, 9 of the colleges passed the inspection and 5 colleges failed the inspection.
- 5) The joint Inspection Committee after the inspections also heard the objections by the colleges and decided those.
- 6) The final inspection reports and recommendations of the Inspection Committee were approved by the Joint Inspection Committee on behalf of HEC and PMC and thereafter, the reports were placed before the Council who approved the colleges who had qualified for recognition and admissions.
- 7) The 9 colleges that passed the inspection were notified as accredited and recognized. However, the Council decided that the accreditation would be provisional for one year and they would be re-inspected under a new criteria to be developed by the Academic Board if there were substantive changes in the new criteria.
- 8) The Islamabad High Court declared the PMC Ordinance ultra vires in Feb 2020 and in May 2020 an ad-hoc PM&DC council was formed on application of the Government of Pakistan to the August Supreme Court.
- 9) The ad hoc council of PM&DC decided to treat the accreditation and recognition of the 9 colleges as void on the basis that the High Court judgment had observed that all acts of the PMC Council were void.
- 10) The 9 colleges approached the Honourable Court’s against the PM&DC Ad hoc council decision.
- 11) Meanwhile, on 24th September 2020 the PMC Act was passed by Parliament. The current PMC Council was formed and duly notified.



12) The PMC Act 2020 saved all acts of the PMC Council as had been taken under the PMC Ordinance 2019. Hence the PMC Council in October 2020 re notified these 9 colleges as having been properly and duly inspected in December 2019 and having passed the inspections and recognized.

The article was published without input or comments from Pakistan Medical Commission. Had PMC been contacted prior to the publication of the piece, it would have responded with the correct information supplemented with documentation to verify timelines and inspections. Even otherwise the information provided above is public knowledge.

The article has sought to falsely impute acts to the Pakistan Medical Commission which are false to the knowledge of the author and contrary to public facts. The manner in which the article has been authored and the allegations levelled therein clearly represent an intent to create a false impression about the Pakistan Medical Commission.

The Dawn group is one of the most respected journalistic and media groups in Pakistan and hence it being allowed to become a platform for vested groups who only seek to spread misinformation and malign institutions is disheartening.

The Pakistan Medical Commission is a public institution, and it cannot allow its reputation to be tarnished with such blatant misinformation. A failure to retract the article on an immediate basis will leave the Commission with no other option but to take all legal recourses available in law against the Dawn Newspaper and the author of the article for dissemination of false information seeking to cause damage to the credibility of the healthcare regulator.

Sr. No	College	Inspection Date	HEC Coordinator
1	The Shifa College of Dentistry, Islamabad	16-12-2019	Mr. Muhammad Rizwan
2	Abbottabad International Medical College	17-12-2019	Mr. Aamir Shehzad
3	Ruth Pfau Medical College, Karachi	16-12-2019	Mr. Satram Das
4	Watim Medical College, Rawalpindi	16-12-2019	Mr. Aamir Manzoor
5	Khairpur Medical College, Khairpur	18-12-2019	Mr. Satram Das
6	Azra Naheed Dental College, Lahore	16-12-2019	Mirza Ali Raza
7	Dow Dental College, Karachi	16-12-2019	Mr. Hakim Ali Talpur
8	Muhammad Dental College, Mirpurkhas	18-12-2019	Mr. Hakim Ali Talpur
9	Swat Medical College, Swat.	16-12-2019	Mr. Saim Pervaiz