

***CODE OF PRACTICE
FOR
ANATOMICAL
EXAMINATION***

*Applicable to places licensed to practise
anatomy in the State
by the Medical Council
under the Anatomy Act 1832*



**Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Code of Practice was drafted by Prof D. Ceri Davies, the Medical Council Inspector of Anatomy and Chair of Anatomy, Department of Surgery and Cancer at Imperial College London. Aoise O'Reilly at the Medical Council assisted in the development of the Code.

The Code was prepared following a consultation with key stakeholders and we are grateful to everyone who took time to contribute to that process. It was finalised with advice and support from Prof Deirdre Madden, School of Law, University College Cork, who kindly shared her experience and expertise in relation to medical law and ethics.

The practise of Anatomical Examination in Ireland is only possible through the bequests of people who donate their bodies to be used after their death to advance medical education and knowledge, for the benefit of patients. The generosity of spirit of these 'teachers' is acknowledged through this Code of Practice, which safeguards their gift and ensures that others will have the confidence to make similar benevolent donations in the future.

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

The history of medicine and the practise of anatomy are inextricably linked.

Understanding the structure and function of the human body through the study of anatomy is essential to doctors' learning about health and disease. As importantly – and often overlooked – the study of anatomy introduces medical students to the values of medical professionalism, because learning to respect and appreciate the gift made by the 'silent teachers' in the bequest of their body for Anatomical Examination, begins a relationship of trust with the public that will continue through medical school and into their professional lives as doctors.



In the same way that we do not expect patients to place their trust in doctors blindly, people donating their bodies for Anatomical Examination should be confident that their generosity of spirit will be respected.

I am pleased to present this first draft of a Code of Practice for places licensed to practise Anatomical Examination in the State, by the Medical Council, under the Anatomy Act 1832.

Anatomical Examination is practised at Medical Schools across the country. This long and important tradition is conducted under the Anatomy Act 1832, which regularised practises in the public interest, almost 200 years ago. Since then, the practise of Anatomical Examination in Medical Schools has continued to develop to reflect public expectations. All Anatomical Examination in Ireland takes place following donation by a person who has given consent for their body to be used for education, training and research. Since the Medical Council was assigned functions under the Anatomy Act 1832 through the Medical Practitioners Act 2007, an Inspector of Anatomy has been appointed, who has reviewed places that practise Anatomical Examination. Having confirmed that these meet legislative requirements and reflect modern good practices, each place has been licensed.

Before continuing a programme of regular inspection, at the request of the Medical Council, the Inspector of Anatomy has described what is expected of places holding licenses for the practise of Anatomical Examination through this Code of Practice. In setting out this Code, it is neither our intention, nor our role, to provide a robust and modern legislative framework to support the practise of Anatomical Examination – that can only be provided through a Human Tissue Act, the requirement for which was accepted over ten years ago by Government and is now overdue. In the interim, however, this Code of Practice helps to safeguard public confidence in the practise of Anatomical Examination in Ireland and will support the ongoing generosity of spirit which begins the continuing relationship of trust between the public and the medical profession.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Freddie Wood." The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Prof Freddie Wood
President

INSPECTOR OF ANATOMY'S INTRODUCTION



I am pleased to introduce this first draft of a Code of Practice for places licensed by the Medical Council to practise Anatomical Examination in the State, under the Anatomy Act 1832.

In my role as the Medical Council's Inspector of Anatomy, since 2011, I have objectively and independently reviewed practises at places that conduct Anatomical Examination in Ireland. There had been an interregnum in inspections and therefore, I approached these reviews with an open mind, seeking to gather information about current practises, procedures and facilities, in order to understand the current position with reference both to the 1832 Anatomy Act and 21st century expectations. Despite the interregnum, I found that the places I reviewed were engaged in the practice of Anatomical Examination to high standards and had strong foundations in place to adopt the requirements of a modern regulatory system. Most importantly, I was impressed that a culture of respect for the donors and their families who sustain Anatomical Examination is well-embedded.

Since the initial reviews, licenses have been issued by the Medical Council to all places that are engaged in the practice of Anatomical Examination. Follow on review visits have confirmed that high standards remain in place and it is now appropriate that the strong foundations are built upon, by replacing the requirements of the Anatomy Act 1832 with a new legislative system of regulation that better meets contemporary requirements and expectations. In my experience, many countries have modernised and strengthened their regulation of Anatomical Examination and, while it is welcome that similar plans are afoot through the draft Human Tissue Bill in Ireland, it is disappointing that uncertainty remains as to when new regulations will be put in place.

This Code of Practice has been developed to consolidate current practises and support continuing improvement. It will provide a fair and objective yardstick against which ongoing, regular external reviews of Anatomical Examination practices will be conducted. The Code is not a replacement for Ireland enacting modern regulations in this area, neither should it be seen as a reason to further delay necessary modernisation. However, in setting out this clear and transparent description of what is expected of places that are engaged in the practice of Anatomical Examination, public confidence and continuing generosity of spirit can be maintained.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. C. Davies". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Prof D. Ceri Davies
Inspector of Anatomy

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ABOUT THE MEDICAL COUNCIL

Through the regulation of doctors, the Medical Council enhances patient safety in Ireland. In operation since 1979, it is an independent statutory organisation charged with fostering and ensuring good medical practice. It ensures high standards of education, training and practice among doctors, and acts in the public interest at all times. The Medical Council is noteworthy among medical regulators worldwide in having a non-medical majority. Comprising of 13 non-medical members and 12 medical members, and has a staff of approximately 70.

The Medical Council's role focuses on four areas:



MAINTAINING THE REGISTER OF DOCTORS

The Medical Council reviews the qualifications and good standing of all doctors and makes decisions about who can enter the Register of medical practitioners. In December 2015, approximately 20,000 doctors were registered, allowing them to practise medicine in Ireland.

SAFEGUARDING EDUCATION QUALITY FOR DOCTORS

The Medical Council is responsible for setting and monitoring standards for education and training throughout the professional life of a doctor: undergraduate medical education, intern and postgraduate training and lifelong learning. It can take action to safeguard quality where standards are not met.

SETTING STANDARDS FOR DOCTORS' PRACTICE

The Medical Council is the independent body responsible for setting the standards for doctors on matters related to professional conduct and ethics. These standards are the basis for good professional practice and ensure a strong and effective patient-doctor relationship.

RESPONDING TO CONCERNS ABOUT DOCTORS

Where a patient, their family, employer, team member or any other person has a concern about a doctor's practice, the Medical Council can investigate a complaint. When necessary, it can take appropriate action following its investigation to safeguard the public and support the doctor in maintaining good practice.

Through its work across these four areas, the Medical Council provides leadership to doctors in enhancing good professional practice in the interests of patient safety. You can find out more about the Medical Council at www.medicalcouncil.ie

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THIS CODE

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Anatomy Act 1832 is the legislation currently governing Anatomical Examination in Ireland (see appendices). Under Section 106 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 (see appendices), the Medical Council has been delegated specific duties as the licensing authority for the purpose of the Anatomy Act 1832.

SI 158 of 2006 (Quality and safety of human tissues and cells)¹ regulations apply to the human application of human tissues and cells and is not applicable to Anatomical Examination. The Health Products Regulatory Authority is the competent authority and is responsible for authorisation and inspection of establishments under those regulations.² Institutions where Anatomical Examination is practised should determine if other activity is conducted which would require authorisation from the Health Products Regulatory Authority as an establishment under SI 158 of 2006.

NEED FOR MODERNISATION OF REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Since the Anatomy Act 1832, there have considerable changes in society, science, medicine, education and ethical norms in Ireland and internationally. Reflecting these changes, there are plans in Ireland to significantly reform and develop the legislative framework regulating human tissues, including the practice of Anatomical Examination. In 2009 the Department of Health began a public consultation on proposals for a Human Tissue Bill. The consultation document set out proposals to regulate the removal, retention, storage, use and disposal of human tissue from deceased persons, and consent for the use of donated tissue from living persons for the purposes of transplantation and research.

Since that consultation, the Human Tissue Bill has not progressed to enactment and as such, the practise of Anatomical Examination in Ireland continues to be governed by an outdated regulatory framework which is almost 200 years old.

This creates a significant challenge for the places that practise Anatomical Examination and for the Medical Council, to which functions have latterly been delegated under the Anatomy Act 1832. Despite this, Irish Medical Schools are currently, and have for some time, not only been operating in compliance with the Anatomy Act (1832), but also implementing current international best practice, which better reflects the current norms of society, science, medicine, education and ethics.

¹ <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2006/si/158/made/en/print>

² <https://www.hpra.ie/homepage/blood-tissues-organs/tissues-and-cells/safety-information>

RATIONALE FOR ESTABLISHING A CODE OF PRACTICE

While enactment of a Human Tissue Bill in Ireland is awaited, the Medical Council has aimed to support best practice through codifying expectations for the practice of Anatomical Examination in the State.

This Code of Practice aims to

- support institutions and individuals in the state to engage in best practice that reflects current society, science, medicine, education and ethics norms.
- enable members of the public to better understand current best practice employed by institutions and individuals in the State that undertake Anatomical Examination, in order that trust in these practices is maintained
- provide a framework for inspections conducted by the Medical Council, through the Inspector of Anatomy, pursuant to its role under Section 106 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007) as the licensing authority under the Anatomy Act 1832, The aim of this Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination is to unify the Anatomy Sector, to achieve Best Practice in the 21st Century.

LIMITATION OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE

The Code of Practice does not constitute primary or secondary legislation in the area of human tissues or Anatomical Examination. It is not an interpretation of existing legislation. It has not been produced under the functions specified for the Medical Council under S7 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007, nor does it constitute rules under S11 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. As a consequence, the Code of Practice is not legally enforceable by the Medical Council.

THE CODE OF PRACTICE DOES NOT REPLACE THE NEED TO MODERNISE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Code of Practice does not negate the need to enact legislation to provide for a modern and fit-for-purpose regulatory framework to govern Anatomical Examination, nor should the establishment of the Code of Practice be seen as a reason to delay such enactment.

STRUCTURE OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE

In Section 1, the Code describes organisational capacity and capability needed to identify, assess and manage specified risks in relation to Anatomical Examination. In Section 2, the Code recommends practices in key areas related to Anatomical Examination.

SECTION 1 - ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

1. LICENSING, AUTHORITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Anatomical Examination must only be practised in institutions where there is a lead individual holding a license issued by the Medical Council at its discretion.

That lead individual holding the license should have appropriate experience and documented delegated authority from the Chief Executive (or equivalent) to practise Anatomical Examination in line with licensing requirements, this Code of Practice and any recommendations arising from inspections conducted with reference to this Code and under S106 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007.

The lead individual holding the license is responsible for the practice of Anatomical Examination at the institution. Since the lead individual holds the license for the institution, he/she is also accountable to the institution and should provide regular reports on the practice of Anatomical Examination at the institution, which should be noted at the level of the Chief Executive (or equivalent) and the Board (or equivalent). The lead individual holding the license must make the required annual returns to the Medical Council under S106 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007.

If an institution wishes to change the lead individual holding the license, it must seek the approval of the Medical Council.

Wherein a license is issued by the Medical Council to a lead individual at an institution, all staff/individuals of the institution who practise Anatomical Examination therein under the supervision of the lead individual are also licensed under the terms of Section 106 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. To give effect to this, the lead individual holding the license should have a system and documentation in place to ensure appropriate training, delegation of responsibility and accountability for these individuals.

2. GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY SYSTEMS

All aspects of Anatomical Examination should be governed by documented, controlled and monitored policies and procedures that form part of the institution's overall governance process.

There should be a systematic record management system that ensures data protection, confidentiality and has suitable provision for data back-up.

There should be a documented internal audit system, with an appropriate schedule and accountability.

Staff should be appropriately qualified and trained for their work and should show care and respect for the donors' remains in their charge at all times. They should undergo documented continuing professional development and have regular documented appraisals and personal development plans. This may form part of the annual performance management and development appraisals.

Risk assessments of the practices and processes related to Anatomical Examination should be in place, including processes to escalate knowledge of risk upward through the institution as

appropriate. These risk assessments should be documented and reviewed regularly and they should be readily available to all staff, who should be aware of their content.

Procedures should be in place to ensure investigation of and response to adverse events. Staff should be able to use incident reporting systems and corrective / preventative action should be taken where necessary.

SECTION 2 - RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

1. CONSENT

Appropriate consent: This can only be given by the donor, in writing, in the presence of at least one witness who attests their signature. A model consent form has been prepared for use throughout Ireland (see appendices). The individual making the donation must be aged 18 years or older and have capacity to consent.

Informed consent: Full and clear information should be provided to a person wishing to donate his/her body for Anatomical Examination, to allow the potential donor with capacity to make a voluntary, informed decision. This information should include the nature of the activities for which the body can be used and the length of time it, or its parts can be retained.

Explicit duration of consent: The duration of time that the donor consents to his /her body being used for anatomical examination should be specified in the consent.

Withdrawal of consent: Consent may be withdrawn by the donor at any time before his/her death, in writing, to the institution that his/her body had been offered.

Staff involved in seeking consent should receive appropriate training and support.

In order for lawful Anatomical Examination to take place, the Medical Certificate of the Cause of Death [MCCD] must be signed and the death must be registered. A body may be removed to a receiving institution and embalmed or otherwise preserved before the donor's death has been registered, but Anatomical Examination should not take place until it has been registered. A copy of the MCCD and death registration should be kept at the receiving institution.

2. PREMISES, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

As set out in Section 1, the lead individual holding the license should have appropriate and documented delegated authority from the Chief Executive (or equivalent) to practice Anatomical Examination in line with licensing requirements, this Code of Practice and any recommendations arising from inspections.

Premises: A risk assessment should be carried out and documented to ensure that the premises at which Anatomical Examination is carried out and where bodies and body parts are stored are secure, fit for purpose and ensure the confidentiality and dignity of the donors. The premises should have sufficient space for procedures to be carried out and measures should be in place to prevent unauthorised access. There should be documented cleaning and decontamination procedures and appropriate environmental controls (e.g. air-handling) in place.

Facilities: There should be sufficient storage capacity for the required bodies and body parts. The storage conditions should be monitored, recorded and action taken if required, to ensure the dignity of the deceased and the integrity and traceability of their remains. Documented contingency plans should be in place, in the event of storage facilities being rendered unsuitable.

Equipment: All equipment should be subject to recommended validation, calibration and maintenance. The condition of the equipment should be monitored and documented. Users should be trained in the use of the equipment, have access to relevant instruction manuals and understand how to report equipment problems.

3. RECORD KEEPING / TRACEABILITY

The license holder is responsible for a donor's body and body parts from its acceptance for Anatomical Examination until the burial, cremation, disposal or return to the family. All places where Anatomical Examination is carried out should keep records in a permanent and secure form for each body / body part / tissue in their possession. These records should be held on the premises that the body was first received and on any other premises to which the body / parts / tissues have been transferred. All records must be available for inspection and review. Records should be kept after the disposal of a body / body parts / tissues and maintained in line with a documented Records Management Policy.

A unique code should be assigned to each donation and to each of the products derived from it. The labelling of specimens should be robust to enable traceability of specimens at all times.

A register of donated bodies and parts / tissues derived from them should be kept and an audit trail maintained, including the consent obtained, when and where the body was accepted, the uses to which any specimen was put, when and where any material was transferred and to whom.

Records of delivery and transportation should be kept and a system put in place to ensure traceability of bodies / parts / tissues during transport. Records of service level agreements with undertakers, transport companies / couriers should be kept together with records of agreements with recipients of bodies / parts/ tissues.

4. SENSITIVE DISPOSAL

Processes should be in place to inform donors and their relatives how remains will be sensitively disposed of after use and who will be responsible for any associated costs. Staff should be familiar with the basic legal requirements, the institutions own arrangements and the options available for those wanting to make their own arrangements for disposal. This information should be available in writing.

It is best practice to retain tissue removed from a cadaver during the course of anatomical examination for disposal with it. Body parts retained after disposal of the body and any tissue removed from the parts may be disposed of as clinical waste, and 'best practice' is to cremate or bury such tissue.

The date, method and reason for disposal should be recorded.

5. LOAN / TRANSFER OF CADAVERIC MATERIAL

Given the dependence on generous donation, it is recognised that situations may arise where cadaveric material is loaned or transferred between license holders. Bodies / body parts / tissues should only be loaned / transferred for the purposes for which consent was given.

The loan or transfer of bodies / body parts / tissues should be between license holders only and should be kept on licensed premises only.

A loan should be for a defined period and subject to a written, signed agreement, a copy of which should be kept by both parties. The agreement should indicate the material covered by it, where the material will be held, the purpose and timespan of the loan. While the material is on loan, it will remain the responsibility of the lending institution and should be returned to it upon expiration of the loan period.

If a body / body part is transferred to another institution, the documents pertaining to the donation should be transferred with the material and the institution making the transfer should

keep a record of it. The institution receiving the transfer will be responsible for the disposal of the material in line with the provisions of the consent.

6. USE OF IMAGES

Suitable practices should be put in place to ensure that the dignity of the deceased is maintained at all times and the inappropriate use of images is prevented.

7. CHARGING

Whilst a human body / part / tissue cannot be sold, charges may be applied to cover any costs incurred in preparing and transporting them for use by other license holders. These charges should fairly and transparently reflect the costs involved.

8. IMPORT AND EXPORT

Frozen body parts are imported (mainly from the USA) into Ireland for Anatomical Examination. In addition, there may be benefits in collaborating with Northern Ireland in sourcing bodies for Anatomical Examination. Although this importation falls outside of the Anatomy Act 1832, once within the Republic of Ireland, human material to be used for Anatomical Examination falls under the jurisdiction of the Anatomy Act 1832 and the role of the Medical Council. As such, it can only be used by license holders.

The possible misuse of imported material for Anatomical Examination poses a considerable reputational risk to the Medical Council and Anatomy Sector. Imported bodies should be obtained, transported, used and disposed of by license holders in accordance with the consent given by the person from whom it came. License holders should be able to demonstrate to the Medical Council that the requisite consent is in place. License holders should also be able to demonstrate that the required material is not available from within Ireland.

Fresh-frozen cadaveric material poses a number of health and safety risks not associated with embalmed cadaveric material. License holders should therefore ensure that their premises, staff and practices are equipped to deal with the use of fresh-frozen material. License holders should, as far as possible, satisfy themselves that donor material has been screened for transmissible disease, e.g. hepatitis B, hepatitis C, meningitis, tuberculosis, prion disease and HIV and be accompanied by certification from an accredited / licensed laboratory to that effect.

Cadaveric material for export, should be obtained, used, transported and stored in accordance with the consent that has been given. Donors should be provided with adequate information to indicate that their bodies / body parts / tissues may be exported. The donor should be provided with information to indicate whether or not the remains will be repatriated and within what timeframe.

APPENDICES

MODEL CONSENT FORM

Address and contact information of issuing institution

Logo of issuing institution

Part A: to be completed by in BLOCK CAPITALS by person making donation

Title _____ Surname/family name _____

Forename(s) _____

Address _____

Eircode _____ Tel no _____

Date of birth _____ Religion/faith group (if applicable) _____

I WISH TO DONATE MY BODY AFTER MY DEATH. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT MAY BE USED FOR:

- **ANATOMICAL EXAMINATION**
- **EDUCATION OR TRAINING RELATING TO HUMAN HEALTH**
- **RESEARCH IN CONNECTION WITH DISORDERS, OR THE FUNCTIONING, OF THE HUMAN BODY**

Please tick as appropriate

1. I do not place any restrictions on the length of time that my body or body parts may be retained (if you tick this box, go straight to option 3, if not proceed to option 2).

For option 2, please select either a. or b.

2. My body can be retained for a maximum of 3 years only.

- a. Parts of my body may be retained for longer than 3 years.
Or
b. No part of my body may be kept for more than 3 years.

3. I consent to the use of images of my body or body parts. I understand that I will not be identifiable in these images and that they will be used for:
- Education or training relating to human health
 - Research in connection with disorders, or the functioning, of the human body

4. In the event that my body cannot be accepted by this Medical School, I consent to it being offered to another Medical School within the Island of Ireland.

5. I have read and understood the information provided and understand that I can withdraw consent at any time.

Signature _____ Date _____

Part B: Witness declaration (signature of next of kin, executor, GP, friend, etc.)

I confirm that I have witnessed _____ (insert name of donor) completing PART A of this form.

Surname/family name _____ Forename(s) _____

Address _____

Eircode _____ Relationship to donor _____

Signature _____ Date _____

ANATOMY ACT 1832

C A P. LXXV.

An Act for regulating Schools of Anatomy. [1st August 1832.]

Secretary of State to grant Licences to practise Anatomy;

‘Whereas a Knowledge of the Causes and Nature of sundry Diseases which affect the Body, and of the best Methods of treating and curing such Diseases, and of healing and repairing divers Wounds and Injuries to which the Human Frame is liable, cannot be acquired without the Aid of Anatomical Examination: And whereas the legal Supply of Human Bodies for such Anatomical Examination is insufficient fully to provide the Means of such Knowledge: And whereas, in order further to supply Human Bodies for such Purposes, divers great and grievous Crimes have been committed, and lately Murder, for the single Object of selling for such Purposes the Bodies of the Persons so murdered: And whereas therefore it is highly expedient to give Protection, under certain Regulations, to the Study and Practice of Anatomy, and to prevent, as far as may be such great and grievous Crimes and Murder as aforesaid;’ be it therefore enacted by the King’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That it shall be lawful for His Majesty’s Principal Secretary of State for the Time being for the Home Department in that Part of the United Kingdom called Great Britain, and for the Chief Secretary for Ireland in that Part of the United Kingdom called Ireland, immediately on the passing of this Act, or so soon thereafter as may be required, to grant a Licence to practise Anatomy to any Fellow or Member of any College of Physicians or Surgeons, or to any Graduate or Licentiate in Medicine, or to any Person lawfully qualified to practise Medicine in any Part of the United Kingdom, or to any Professor or Teacher of Anatomy, Medicine, or Surgery, or to any Student attending any School of Anatomy, on Application from such Party for such Purpose, countersigned by Two of His Majesty’s Justices of the Peace acting for the County, City, Borough, or Place wherein such Party resides, certifying that, to their Knowledge or Belief, such Party so applying is about to carry on the Practice of Anatomy.

Secretary of State to appoint Inspectors of Schools of Anatomy;

II. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for His Majesty’s said Principal Secretary of State or Chief Secretary, as the Case may be, immediately on the passing of this Act, or as soon thereafter as may be necessary, to appoint respectively not fewer than Three Persons to be Inspectors of Places where Anatomy is carried on, and at any Time after such first Appointment to appoint, if they shall see fit, One or more other Person or Persons to be an Inspector or Inspectors as aforesaid; and every such Inspector shall continue in Office for One Year, or until he be removed by the said Secretary of State or Chief Secretary, as the Case may be, or until some other Person shall be appointed in his Place; and as often as any Inspector appointed as aforesaid shall die, or shall be removed from his said Office, or shall refuse or become unable to act, it shall be lawful for the said Secretary of State

or Chief Secretary, as the Case may be, to appoint another Person to be Inspector in his Room.

and to direct what District every Inspector shall superintend.

III. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Secretary of State or Chief Secretary, as the Case may be, to direct what District of Town or Country, or of both, and what Places where Anatomy is carried on, situate within such District, every such Inspector shall be appointed to superintend, and in what Manner every such Inspector shall transact the Duties of his Office.

Inspectors to make Returns of Subjects removed for Anatomical Examination;

IV. And be it enacted, That every Inspector to be appointed by virtue of this Act shall make a Quarterly Return to the said Secretary of State or Chief Secretary, as the Case may be, of every deceased Person's Body that during the preceding Quarter has been removed for Anatomical Examination to every separate Place in his District where Anatomy is carried on, distinguishing the Sex, and, as far as is known at the Time, the Name and Age of each Person whose Body was so removed as aforesaid.

and to inspect Places where Anatomy is practised.

V. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for every such Inspector to visit and inspect, at any Time, any Place within his District, Notice of which Place has been given, as is herein-after directed, that it is intended there to practise Anatomy.

Salaries to Inspectors.

VI. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for His Majesty to grant to every such Inspector such an annual Salary, not exceeding One hundred Pounds, for his Trouble, and to allow such a Sum of Money for the Expenses of his Office, as may appear reasonable; such Salaries and Allowances to be charged on the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom, and to be payable quarterly; and that an annual Return of all such Salaries and Allowances shall be made to Parliament.

Persons having lawful Custody of Bodies may permit them to undergo Anatomical Examination in certain Cases.

VII. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any Executor or other Party having lawful Possession of the Body of any deceased Person, and not being an Undertaker or other Party intrusted with the Body for the Purpose only of Interment, to permit the Body of such deceased Person to undergo Anatomical Examination, unless, to the Knowledge of such Executor or other Party, such Person shall have expressed his Desire, either in Writing at any Time during his Life, or verbally in the Presence of Two or more Witnesses during the Illness whereof he died, that his Body after Death might not undergo such Examination, or unless the surviving Husband or Wife, or any known Relative of the deceased Person, shall require the Body to be interred without such Examination.

Provision in case of Persons directing Anatomical Examinations after their Death.

VIII. And be it enacted, That if any Person, either in Writing at any Time during his Life, or verbally in the Presence of Two or more Witnesses during the Illness whereof he died, shall direct that his Body after Death he examined anatomically, or shall nominate any Party by this Act authorized to examine Bodies anatomically to make such Examination, and if, before the Burial of the Body of such Person, such Direction or Nomination shall be made known to the Party having lawful Possession of the dead Body, then such last-mentioned Party shall direct such Examination to be made, and, in case of any such Nomination as aforesaid, shall request and permit any Party so authorized and nominated as aforesaid to make such Examination, unless the deceased Person's surviving Husband or Wife, or nearest known Relative, or any One or more of such Person's nearest known Relatives, being of Kin in the same Degree, shall require the Body to be interred without such Examination.

The Body not to be removed from the Place where such Person may have died without a Certificate.

IX. Provided always, and be it enacted, That in no Case shall the Body of any Person be removed for Anatomical Examination from any Place where such Person may have died, until after Forty-eight Hours from the Time of such Person's Decease, nor until after Twenty-four Hours Notice, to be reckoned from the Time of such Decease, to the Inspector of the District, of the intended Removal of the Body, or, if no such Inspector have been appointed, to some Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary residing at or near the Place of Death, nor unless a Certificate stating in what Manner such Person came by his Death shall previously to the Removal of the Body have been signed by the Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary who attended such Person during the Illness whereof he died, or if no such Medical Man attended such Person during such Illness, then by some Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary who shall be called in after the Death of such Person to view his Body, and who shall state the Manner or Cause of Death according to the best of his Knowledge and Belief, but who shall not be concerned in examining the Body after Removal; and that in case of such Removal such Certificate shall be delivered, together with the Body, to the Party receiving the same for Anatomical Examination.

Professors, Surgeons, and others may receive Bodies for Anatomical Examination.

X. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any Member or Fellow of any College of Physicians or Surgeons, or any Graduate or Licentiate in Medicine, or any Person lawfully qualified to practise Medicine in any Part of the United Kingdom, or any Professor, Teacher, or Student of Anatomy, Medicine, or Surgery, having a Licence from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State or Chief Secretary as aforesaid, to receive or possess for Anatomical Examination, or to examine anatomically, the Body of any Person deceased, if permitted or directed so to do by a Party who had at the Time of giving such Permission or Direction lawful Possession of the Body, and who had Power, in pursuance of the Provisions of this Act, to permit or cause the Body to be so examined, and provided such Certificate as aforesaid were delivered by such Party together with the Body.

Such Persons to receive with the Body a Certificate as aforesaid, which shall be transmitted to the Inspector.

XI. And be it enacted, That every Party so receiving a Body for Anatomical Examination after Removal shall demand and receive, together with the Body, a Certificate as aforesaid, and shall, within Twenty-four Hours next after such Removal, transmit to the Inspector of the District such Certificate, and also a Return stating at what Day and Hour and from whom the Body was received, the Date and Place of Death, the Sex, and (as far as is known at the Time) the Christian and Surname, Age, and last Place of Abode of such Person, or, if no such Inspector have been appointed, to some Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary residing at or near the Place to which the Body is removed, and shall enter or cause to be entered the aforesaid Particulars relating thereto, and a Copy of the Certificate he received therewith, in a Book to be kept by him for that Purpose, and shall produce such Book whenever required so to do by any Inspector so appointed as aforesaid.

Notice to be given to Secretary of State of Places where Anatomy is about to be practised.

XII. And be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any Party to carry on or teach Anatomy at any Place, or at any Place to receive or possess for Anatomical Examination, or examine anatomically, any deceased Person's Body after Removal of the same, unless such Party, or the Owner or Occupier of such Place, or some Party by this Act authorized to examine Bodies anatomically, shall, at least One Week before the first Receipt or Possession of a Body for such Purpose at such Place, have given Notice to the said Secretary of State or Chief Secretary, as the Case may be, of the Place where it is intended to practise Anatomy.

How Bodies are to be removed for Examination.

Provision for Interment.

Persons described in this Act not to be liable to Punishment for having in their Possession Human Bodies.

Act not to prohibit post-mortem Examination.

XIII. Provided always, and be it enacted, That every such Body so removed as aforesaid for the Purpose of Examination shall, before such Removal, be placed in a decent Coffin or Shell, and be removed therein; and that the Party removing the same, or causing the same to be removed as aforesaid, shall make Provision that such Body, after undergoing Anatomical Examination, be decently interred in consecrated Ground, or in some public Burial Ground in use for Persons of that religious Persuasion to which the Person whose Body was so removed belonged; and that a Certificate of the Interment of such Body shall be transmitted to the Inspector of the District within Six Weeks after the Day on which such Body was received as aforesaid.

XIV. And be it enacted, That no Member or Fellow of any College of Physicians or Surgeons, nor any Graduate or Licentiate in Medicine, nor any Person lawfully qualified to practise Medicine in any Part of the United Kingdom, nor any Professor, Teacher, or Student of Anatomy, Medicine, or Surgery, having a Licence from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State or Chief Secretary as aforesaid, shall be liable to any Prosecution, Penalty, Forfeiture, or Punishment for receiving or having in his Possession for Anatomical Examination, or for examining anatomically, any dead Human Body, according to the Provisions of this Act.

XV. And be it enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to extend to or to prohibit any post-mortem Examination of any Human Body required or directed to be made by any competent legal Authority.

So much of 9 G. 4. c. 31. as directs that the Bodies of Murderers may be dissected, repealed.

Such Bodies to be hung in Chains or buried, as the Court shall direct.

XVI. 'And whereas an Act was passed in the Ninth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty, for consolidating and amending the Statutes in England relative to Offences against the Person, by which latter Act it is enacted, that the Body of every Person convicted of Murder shall, after Execution, either be dissected or hung in Chains, as to the Court which tried the Offender shall seem meet; and that the Sentence to be pronounced by the Court shall express that the Body of the Offender shall be dissected or hung in Chains, whichever of the Two the Court shall order;' be it enacted, That so much of the said last-recited Act as authorizes the Court, if it shall see fit, to direct that the Body of a Person convicted of Murder shall, after Execution, be dissected, be and the same is hereby repealed; and that in every Case of Conviction of any Prisoner for Murder the Court before which such Prisoner shall have been tried shall direct such Prisoner either to be hung in Chains, or to be buried within the Precincts of the Prison in which such Prisoner shall have been confined after Conviction, as to such Court shall seem meet; and that the Sentence to be pronounced by the Court shall express that the Body of such Prisoner shall be hung in Chains, or buried within the Precincts of the Prison, whichever of the Two the Court shall order.

Limitation of Actions.

XVII. And be it enacted, That if any Action or Suit shall be commenced or brought against any Person for any thing done in pursuance of this Act, the same shall be commenced within Six Calendar Months next after the Cause of Action accrued; and the Defendant in every such Action or Suit may, at his Election, plead the Matter specially, or the General Issue Not guilty, and give this Act and the special Matter in Evidence at any Trial to be had thereupon.

Offences against this Act.

XVIII. And be it enacted, That any Person offending against the Provisions of this Act in England or Ireland shall be deemed and taken to be guilty of a Misdemeanor, and, being duly convicted thereof, shall be punished by Imprisonment for a Term not exceeding Three Months, or by a Fine not exceeding Fifty Pounds, at the Discretion of the Court before which he shall be tried; and any Person offending against the Provisions of this Act in Scotland shall, upon being duly convicted of such Offence, be punished by Imprisonment for a Term not exceeding Three Months, or by a Fine not exceeding Fifty Pounds, at the Discretion of the Court before which he shall be tried.

Interpretation of certain Words in this Act.

XIX. And in order to remove Doubts as to the Meaning of certain Words in this Act, be it enacted, That the Words “Person and Party” shall be respectively deemed to include any Number of Persons, or any Society, whether by Charter or otherwise; and that the Meaning of the aforesaid Words shall not be restricted although the same may be subsequently referred to in the Singular Number and Masculine Gender only.

Commencement of Act.

XX. And be it enacted, That this Act shall commence and take effect from and after the First Day of August in the present Year.

Act may be amended.

XXI. And be it enacted, That this Act may be altered or amended during the present Session of Parliament.

RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2007

Council to be licensing authority, etc., under Anatomy Act 1832

106.— The
Council—

(a) is, by virtue of this section, authorised to—

- (i) grant a licence to practise anatomy in the State,
- (ii) appoint inspectors of places in the State where anatomy is carried on, and
- (iii) be the person to whom such inspectors shall make returns,

under and in accordance with the Anatomy Act 1832, and

(b) shall, at the request of the Minister and as soon as is practicable after it receives the request, provide the Minister with such information concerning its functions under the Anatomy Act 1832 as the Minister specifies in the request.

LIST OF PLACES LICENSES BY THE MEDICAL COUNCIL FOR THE PRACTISE OF ANATOMY

- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Cork
- University College Dublin
- University College Galway



Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council