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## MEDICAL COUNCIL'S PRE-REGISTRATION EXAMINATION SYSTEM HANDBOOK

THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING LEVEL 2  
AND LEVEL 3 OF THE PRE-REGISTRATION EXAMINATION SYSTEM (PRES)

THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE  
MEDICAL COUNCIL REGISTRATION RULES 2009,  
THE RULES SPECIFYING PRE-REGISTRATION EXAMS AND EXEMPTIONS,  
AND THE GUIDE TO THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND REGISTRATION RULES  
FOR REGISTRATION.

### IMPORTANT:

- PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION
- PLEASE RETAIN THIS DOCUMENT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

**EFFECTIVE: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009**

***THIS HANDBOOK WAS LAST UPDATED IN SEPTEMBER 2009  
PLEASE ENSURE YOU READ THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION REGARDING EXAMINATIONS***

PRE-REGISTRATION EXAMINATION SYSTEM (PRES) HANDBOOK

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## 1. What is PRES and who can apply for it?

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### 1.1. Introduction

The Medical Practitioners Act 2007 and the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007 replace the Medical Practitioners Acts 1978-2002. Part 6 of the Act deals with registration matters. The Council has made Registration Rules 2009 under Section 11 of the Act.

The Register of Medical Practitioners is established under section 43 of the Act. It comprises of four Divisions, which includes Trainee Specialist Division and the General Division. As part of the Trainee Specialist Division, **Trainee Specialist Registration** is specifically for medical practitioners who practise in individually numbered, identifiable postgraduate training posts, so that they may complete all or part of their medical specialist training in Ireland and be awarded a Higher/Specialist qualification. **General Registration** in the General Division is specifically for medical practitioners who have not completed their specialist training and do not occupy an individually numbered, identifiable postgraduate training post.

The Registration application process comprises of **five** levels.

- **LEVEL 1** - Document Examination
- **LEVEL 2** - Written Examination
- **LEVEL 3** - Clinical Examination
- **LEVEL 4** - Evaluation of postgraduate education, training, qualifications and experience
- **LEVEL 5** - Evaluation of postgraduate education, training, qualifications and experience in specialist training

### 1.2. What is PRES?

All applicants for Registration will be required to undergo a **Level 1** assessment and verification of their documentation (which may include the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) if applicable). Eligible medical practitioners will then be either required to sit or be exempted from Levels 2 and 3 known as the Pre-Registration Examination System (PRES).

The Pre-Registration Examination System (PRES) consists of two parts. **Level 2** is a written examination and is *currently* in the form of a Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) examination. **Level 3** is a clinical examination and is *currently* in the form of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). **Level 4** comprises of an evaluation of a candidate's postgraduate training, education, qualifications and experience. Candidates applying for **Trainee Specialist Registration** are required to **pass Levels 2 and 3** (unless exempt if they meet the eligibility criteria for categories 1, 2 or 3 under Registration Rules C.2.(i) and/or E.2.(i); and/or meet the exemption criteria under paragraph 5.1 or 5.2 of the Medical Council [Rules Specifying Pre-Registration Exams and Exemptions](#)). Candidates applying for **General Registration** are required to **pass Levels 2, 3 and 4** (Applicants for General Registration must first pass or be exempt from Levels 2 and 3 of the PRES see details above). Further details about Levels 2 and 3 are found under the relevant sections of this Handbook. Further details about Levels 1, 4 and 5 are found on the Medical Council's website [www.medicalcouncil.ie](http://www.medicalcouncil.ie).

### 1.3. Who can apply for PRES?

Only candidates from Category 4\* applying for **Trainee Specialist Registration** and **General Registration** are required to **pass** the Pre-Registration Examination System (PRES).

(\*who are Medical practitioners who have graduated from a medical school in a third country (outside EU/EEA/ Switzerland) and have their qualification listed in WHO/IMED, who have completed recognised internship training, hold full/general registration in another jurisdiction (other than Ireland) and do not meet the criteria for any of the other categories).

Please refer to the [Registration Rules](#) for further information regarding categories.

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The required documentation specified below *must* be provided with an application for both Trainee Specialist Registration and General Registration.

- Completed Application Form
- Notarised/attested copy of basic (primary) medical qualification which was received on the day that one was conferred, clearly displaying the full date of conferral. In general, the Medical Council recognises basic medical qualifications awarded by schools listed in the current edition of the World Health Organisation (“WHO”) Directory of Medical Schools and/or the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (“FAIMER”) International Medical Education Directory (“IMED”).
- Notarised/attested copy Internship Certificate or Certificate of Experience or equivalent.
- An original Certificate of Current Professional Status/Good Standing, dated within the last 3 months, which should be sent directly to the Medical Council from all overseas registration authorities with whom you are or have been registered within the past five years.
- Current Certificate of Full Registration with the relevant competent authority of another Jurisdiction (unless full registration status clearly indicated on the CCPS/COGS).
- Original Academic IELTS Certificate with required minimum scores (7.0 in each band and overall band score of 7.5) dated within the last 21 months.
- Notarised/attested copy of current passport. [Where claiming refugee status, applicants must provide a notarised/attested copy of their GNIB Card and travel document.]
- 4 recent colour passport-size photographs signed on the back by the Applicant.
- [Current non-refundable application fee](#)

**In addition, applicants for General Registration must also provide:**

- Notarised/attested copy evidence of Higher Qualifications (if any)
- Evidence of any postgraduate training and experience undertaken since graduation.

Only doctors who satisfy the above requirements may be admitted to sit the Pre-Registration Examination System (PRES). Information about the PRES examination is given in this handbook, the [Registration Rules](#), the [Rules Specifying Pre-Registration Exams and Exemptions](#) and the [Guide to the Application Procedure and Registration Rules for Registration in the Trainee Specialist, Specialist or General Divisions of the Register of Medical Practitioners](#). All prospective candidates should read these documents carefully.

2. What is the process for applying and the format of the PRES?

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For a short series of questions designed to help you determine which type of registration you may be entitled to apply for, [you should click on this link](#).

**APPLICATION PROCESS FOR TRAINEE SPECIALIST REGISTRATION IN THE TRAINEE SPECIALIST DIVISION**

There are THREE different levels to the application process for Trainee Specialist Registration in the Trainee Specialist Division. The levels a medical practitioner is required to complete will depend on whether or not they are exempt from that Level:

**LEVEL 1** - submission of an [application form](#), [fee](#) and required documentation for assessment and verification by the Medical Council. This level applies to all applicants.

**LEVEL 2 - (PRES)** is a written examination, and is *currently* in the form of a Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) examination. Candidates **must** pass Level 2 **before** being admitted to Level 3. ***Candidates have to sit and pass Level 2 within TWO years from the date of being declared eligible to sit the PRES. If a candidate DOES NOT pass Level 2 within two years or fail Level 2 THREE times, THEY WILL THEN HAVE TO REAPPLY TO SIT PRES.***

**LEVEL 3 - (PRES)** is a clinical examination and is *currently* in the form of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). Candidates applying for General Registration must pass Level 3 before being admitted for a Level 4 evaluation. ***If a candidate PASSES Level 2 within the two years allowed, they must ATTEMPT Level 3 within ONE year of passing LEVEL 2, and must PASS Level 3 within TWO years of passing Level 2. If a candidate DOES NOT pass Level 3 within two years or fail Level 3 THREE times, THEY WILL THEN HAVE TO REAPPLY TO SIT PRES.***

**APPLICATION PROCESS FOR GENERAL REGISTRATION IN THE GENERAL DIVISION**

There are FOUR different levels to the application process for General Registration in the General Division. The levels a medical practitioner is required to complete will depend on whether or not they are exempt from that Level:

**LEVEL 1** - submission of an application form, fee and required documentation for assessment and verification by the Medical Council. This level applies to all applicants.

**LEVEL 2 - (PRES)** is a written examination, and is *currently* in the form of a Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) examination. Candidates **must** pass Level 2 **before** being admitted to Level 3. ***Candidates have to sit and pass Level 2 within TWO years from the date of being declared eligible to sit the PRES. If a candidate DOES NOT pass Level 2 within two years or fail Level 2 THREE times, THEY WILL THEN HAVE TO REAPPLY TO SIT PRES.***

**LEVEL 3 - (PRES)** is a clinical examination and is *currently* in the form of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). Candidates applying for General Registration must pass Level 3 before being admitted to a Level 4 evaluation. ***If a candidate PASSES Level 2 within the two years allowed, they must ATTEMPT Level 3 within ONE year of passing LEVEL 2, and must PASS Level 3 within TWO years of passing Level 2. If a candidate DOES NOT pass Level 3 within two years or fail Level 3 THREE times, THEY WILL THEN HAVE TO REAPPLY TO SIT PRES.***

**LEVEL 4** - an evaluation of the candidate's postgraduate education, training, qualifications and experience to establish the candidate's appropriateness or otherwise for general registration. This level applies to all applicants and, in some cases, the applicant's documentation may be referred to a training body or other person or persons authorised by the Medical Council for assessment, on a case by case basis.

**3. How does one know if one is eligible to sit the PRES Examination?**

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If you wish to **apply for registration** and this is **your first contact** with the Medical Council, please answer a short series of questions [at this link](#) designed to help you determine which type of registration you may be entitled to apply for. If you have further questions in relation to registration with the Medical Council, you should contact the Registration Section at 00353-1-4983166 or [registration@mcirl.ie](mailto:registration@mcirl.ie). You cannot attempt to sit PRES/Level 2 until Level 1 (documentation examination) is complete and you have been declared eligible to sit it.

If you were in the **process of applying** for temporary registration, and are at present having your documentation examined by the Registration section, your application for temporary registration has been transferred into an application for **trainee specialist registration**. You are not eligible to sit the PRES/Level 2 until Level 1 (documentation examination) is complete and you have been declared eligible to sit it.

If you have recently been **declared eligible to sit the PRES**, the Medical Council has sent you your Letter of Authorisation and Admission Card by post, with instructions on how to book the Level 2 examination.

If you have been **declared eligible to sit the TRAS and were in the TRAS process**, the Medical Council has notified you (by post) as to the changes to your status with the Council. You can continue to use your Letter of Authorisation and Admission Card for the TRAS for the time being (until notified).

**4.1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

**PLEASE NOTE: This information regarding Level 2 may be subject to amendment/changes in whole or in part at any time at the discretion of the Medical Council. You should ensure that you read the most up-to-date information regarding examinations in this Handbook.**

**4.1.a. What is Level 2?**

Level 2 comprises of a computer based written examination. This currently takes place in the form of a Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) examination. Candidates are required to pass Level 2 **before** being permitted to sit Level 3.

Level 2 tests factual knowledge in the main clinical disciplines of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Psychiatry, Surgery, and Medicine/General Practice.

**4.1.b. Where can it be taken?**

A computer-based Level 2 is currently available at the following test centres in Ireland, Egypt, India, and Pakistan.

| Country  | Test Centre location |
|----------|----------------------|
| Ireland  | Dublin               |
| Egypt    | Cairo                |
| India    | Ahmedabad            |
|          | Allahabad            |
|          | Bangalore            |
|          | Calcutta             |
|          | Chennai              |
|          | Gurgaon              |
|          | Hyderabad            |
|          | Mumbai               |
|          | Trivandrum           |
| Pakistan | Islamabad            |
|          | Karachi              |
|          | Lahore               |

**Please, do not contact the test centre directly as they will NOT be able to advise procedures / dates / venues etc. Candidates MUST have been declared eligible to sit the PRES and received a Letter of Authorisation and Admission Card from the Medical Council. This will give details as to where and how to apply for the Level 2 examinations.**

**4.1.c. How does one apply for and find out about Level 2 dates?**

Only candidates who have been declared eligible to sit the PRES are eligible to apply for Level 2. They will receive a Letter of Authorisation and Admission Card from the Medical Council. This will give details as to where and how to apply for Level 2. **Please do not attempt to contact the testing company/test centre/registration centre before then.**

Level 2 is available on a regular (weekly) basis at the test centres. The Medical Council's staff are unable to give exact details of times/dates/venues of the examinations to any candidate, as only the testing company holds that information. Once a candidate has been declared eligible to sit Level 2, **and** have received their Letter of Authorisation and admission card, they should contact the testing company by telephone or go on their website for available dates.

**4.1.d. Level 2 validity**

Level 2 must be passed within **two years** from the date a candidate is declared eligible. A pass in Level 2 examination is valid for a period of **two years** from the date of passing. Candidates must sit Level 3 within one year of passing Level 2, and pass Level 3 within two years of passing Level 2.

**This information may be subject to amendment/changes in whole or in part at any time at the discretion of the Medical Council. You should ensure that you read the most up-to-date information regarding examinations in this Handbook.**

**4.2. BEFORE THE LEVEL 2**

**PLEASE NOTE: This information regarding Level 2 may be subject to amendment/changes in whole or in part at any time at the discretion of the Medical Council. You should ensure that you read the most up-to-date information regarding examinations in this Handbook.**

**4.2.a. How does one book a place in the Level 2?**

Candidates must not attempt to book Level 2 until they receive their Letter of Authorisation and Admission Card. The information required to book Level 2 will be given in your Letter of Authorisation. The Medical Council is not responsible for candidates who are refused entry to an examination because they do not have their Letter of Authorisation, and/or Admission Card and/or current valid passport.

Candidates **must** meet the following criteria **in order to book** Level 2:

- (a) They **must** have completed Level 1 (assessment and verification of documentation) with the Medical Council's Registration section and be declared eligible to sit the PRES;
- (b) They **must** be in possession of a Letter of Authorisation and an Admission Card from the Medical Council. Their eligibility and/or Admission Card must not be expired on or before the date on which they are scheduled to sit Level 2;
- (c) They **must** hold (or have authorised use of) a valid Visa/Mastercard/American Express credit card.
- (d) They **must** hold a current, valid passport; their passport number and its expiry date must be identical to those indicated in the Letter of Authorisation and admission card received from the Medical Council. This must be in date on the day they sit Level 2. A current, valid Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) Card (and Travel Document) is **only** allowed as identification for candidates of refugee status.
- (e) They **must** have a current, functional e-mail address to receive confirmation of their booking, whether they have booked by telephone or online.

Once a candidate's details are correct and they meet the criteria **in order to book their** Level 2, they may:

- contact the Regional Registration Centre of their choice by telephone (see the attached list)

**or**

- online at the testing company's website.

On the testing company's website candidates should

- ↓ go to the area For Test Takers
- ↓ select "All" under "Schedule a Test" and then scroll down to "Irish Medical Council" and click on it.
- ↓ The screen headed "Irish Medical Council Testing" appears next. In the box called "Get Started", the candidate should click on "Schedule your test". The candidate should select the country where they want to sit the exam, then click "next", and then "schedule an exam".
- ↓ On the next two screens, the candidate should pay careful attention to the information and instructions provided to them by the testing centre and ensure that they properly adhere to the instructions, regulations and policy guidelines.
- ↓ In the screen headed "Eligibility Information" the candidate should enter their Eligibility ID which is your Medical Council reference number and the first 4 Letters of their last name (which is the same as their last name in the salutation in their Letter of Authorisation).

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Once a candidate has scheduled their Level 2 examination and their examination date/time/venue is confirmed they will be issued with 16-digit confirmation number. If a candidate schedules their Level 2 examination online, the confirmation number will be sent to the candidate by email at the email address that the candidates provided when booking their examination. If a candidate schedules their Level 2 examination by telephone, they will be provided with the confirmation number at that time and will also receive an email address that they provided when booking their examination confirming their appointment. It is advisable for candidates to bring their confirmation email with the 16 digit number from the testing company with them on the day of their examination.

A candidate's Letter of Authorisation and admission card is valid for **TWO** years from the date that they are declared eligible to sit Level 2, until they either pass Level 2, their eligibility expires or they have failed Level 2 **three** times. The Letter of Authorisation and admission card are important documents and candidates must keep them safely. Duplicate Letter of Authorisation and/or admission card will only be issued to candidates in *exceptional* circumstances.

If a candidate's name, address, e-mail, or passport details (passport number and/or expiry date) change during the time the candidate is eligible to sit Level 2, it is the candidate's responsibility to contact the Medical Council in writing either by email at [pres@mcirl.ie](mailto:pres@mcirl.ie) or by post. It is advisable to give as much notice as possible, in case a New Letter of Authorisation and/or admission card is required to be sent to the candidate. If a candidate has any query about this they can telephone the Medical Council at 00353-1-4983138.

### 4.2.b. Fees

[Click here for the current fee \(excluding credit card charges\) for Level 2.](#) The fee will be extracted in US dollars. Payment is made by credit card (see (c) above) only, directly to the test provider, who conducts Level 2 on behalf of the Medical Council.

*Each time a candidate attempts Level 2, the current Level 2 fee (excluding credit card charges) will apply.*

### 4.2.c. How does one reschedule / cancel their Level 2?

A candidate may reschedule or cancel their appointment no later than 12.00 noon (GMT), five business days (i.e. 1 calendar week) prior to the date and time of their scheduled appointment. They should contact the testing company in order to do this.

If a candidate does not change or cancel their Level 2 examination within five business days, and they do not sit the Level 2 examination on the date and time of their scheduled examination appointment they will be charged for the full test fee and will need to pay the full fee in order to schedule/book a new appointment.

The Medical Council does not get involved in the booking / rescheduling / cancelling of a candidate's Level 2. It is a matter between the candidate and the testing company/relevant Regional Registration Centre.

**Please refer to details below regarding rescheduling/cancelling the Level 2 examination.**

#### *Rescheduling the Level 2 examination*

A candidate can reschedule their Level 2 examination if they wish to take the Level 2 at another time than the time/date/venue that they are already scheduled for and wish to reschedule their Level 2 examination to a new time/date/venue. They must reschedule their examination appointment directly through the testing company either online or by telephone. They will be required to provide the 16-digit Confirmation Number they obtained when initially booking their Level 2 examination.

To reschedule their Level 2 examination online, a candidate should click on the "Schedule, Reschedule, Cancel or Confirm an Exam" button on the testing company's website, where they will be lead through the steps for rescheduling their examination. Alternately, a candidate can contact the testing company by telephone at the contact details of the relevant Regional Registration Centre, whose details the candidate received with their Letter of Authorisation.

**This information may be subject to amendment/changes in whole or in part at any time at the discretion of the Medical Council. You should ensure that you read the most up-to-date information regarding examinations in this Handbook.** September 2009

### *Canceling the Level 2 examination*

A candidate can cancel their Level 2 examination if they have decided that they cannot sit/attend the Level 2 at time/date/venue that they are already scheduled for. They must cancel their examination appointment directly through the testing company either online or by telephone. They will be required to provide the 16-digit Confirmation Number they obtained when initially booking their Level 2.

To cancel their Level 2 examination online, a candidate should click on the "Schedule, Reschedule, Cancel or Confirm an Exam" button on the testing company's website, where they will be lead through the steps for cancelling their examination. Alternately, a candidate can contact the testing company by telephone at the contact details of the relevant Regional Registration Centre, whose details the candidate received with their Letter of Authorisation.

### **4.2.d. Absence on the day of a Level 2 examination**

If a candidate is absent from the Level 2 examination on the date and time of their scheduled appointment, they will forfeit the full Level 2 examination fee paid.

The candidate should allow a number of days to elapse from the date that they were scheduled to sit their Level 2 examination before they are eligible to schedule/book their next Level 2 examination.

**Candidates do NOT have to allow six weeks to lapse from the date that they were scheduled sit their Level 2 examination before they are eligible to schedule/book their next Level 2 examination.**

### 4.3. THE LEVEL 2 EXAMINATION

**PLEASE NOTE: This information regarding Level 2 may be subject to amendment/changes in whole or in part at any time at the discretion of the Medical Council. You should ensure that you read the most up-to-date information regarding examinations in this Handbook.**

#### 4.3.a. What is the format of the Level 2?

Level 2 currently consists of one computer based MCQ examination of 2½ hours (150 minutes) duration. There are 60 questions in total. Each question consists of a stem followed by 5 statements. Therefore there are 300 questions in total.

The Level 2 is negatively marked. A correct answer gains one mark (+1). An incorrect answer loses one mark (-1). An unanswered question does not gain or lose any mark (0). Currently, the pass mark for Level 2 is set at 45% or 135 correctly answered questions out of 300 questions, with negative marking applying.

The following are typical of the questions which might be included in the Level 2 paper.

#### MEDICINE

**The following relate to the symptoms of severe chronic anaemia**

- skin pallor can be absent. True / False
- swelling of the ankles can occur. True / False
- the peripheral pulses can be 'collapsing' in type. True / False
- shortness of breath on exertion is rare. True / False
- angina pectoris can be troublesome. True / False

#### SURGERY

##### Gallstones

- can cause intestinal obstruction. True / False
- are diagnosed by an oral cholecystogram when the patient is jaundiced. True / False
- are associated with gallbladder mucocoele and empyema. True / False
- are all easily shattered by lithotripsy. True / False
- are associated with typhoid carrier status. True / False

#### OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

**The following physiological changes of pregnancy normally occur with the first 6 weeks of gestation.**

- regression of the Corpus luteum. True / False
- the appearance of colostrums True / False
- a marked increase in the progesterone secretion from the placenta. True / False
- decrease in systolic and diastolic blood pressure. True / False
- increased urinary output. True / False

#### PSYCHIATRY

##### Anxiety symptoms:

- are uncommon in the general population. True / False
- are best treated by drug therapy. True / False
- occur in response to a real or imagined threat. True / False
- are common in depressive illnesses. True / False
- are similar to those of hyperthyroidism. True / False

#### GENERAL PRACTICE

**A 45 year old man presents to his GP with chest pain. The following features in the evaluation suggest that it is due to angina:**

- the pain is throbbing. True / False
- the pain is usually accompanied by vomiting. True / False
- when it occurs, it lasts for several hours. True / False
- it may occur at rest. True / False
- exertion may provoke the pain. True / False

This information may be subject to amendment/changes in whole or in part at any time at the discretion of the Medical Council. You should ensure that you read the most up-to-date information regarding examinations in this Handbook. September 2009

**PAEDIATRICS**

**Recognised clinical features of cardiac failure in infants include:**

- pulses paradoxus. True / False
- splenomegaly. True / False
- sweating. True / False
- poor weight gain. True / False
- flaring of the alae nasi True / False

**4.3.b. Answering the Questions**

There is a short tutorial before the examination starts to show candidates how to answer the questions. The sample tutorial can be viewed [here](#).

Candidates must click on the radio buttons (circles) beside the answers they think are correct (as shown on the sample below). If a candidate does not know the answer to a question, they leave both true and false radio buttons blank. When the candidate has read through all the questions and answered those they are sure of, they will be taken to the review screen. Here, they will have an opportunity to go back and review the questions they are unsure about. When a candidate has answered all the questions they want to answer, they must click the END EXAM button on the review screen.

**The following question is an example:-**

| Questions 1 - 5 of 300  | Test Taker<br>Medical Council of Ireland TRAS Examination | Time Remaining: 02:29:56       |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| <p><b>There is an increased risk of ovarian cancer associated with:</b></p>     |   |                                |
| • Nulliparity   | <input type="radio"/> A. True                             | <input type="radio"/> B. False |
| • Breast cancer   | <input type="radio"/> A. True                             | <input type="radio"/> B. False |
| • Prolonged oral contraceptive use  | <input type="radio"/> A. True                             | <input type="radio"/> B. False |
| • Social class V  | <input type="radio"/> A. True                             | <input type="radio"/> B. False |
| • Hormone replacement therapy use   | <input type="radio"/> A. True                             | <input type="radio"/> B. False |
| <input type="button" value="NEXT"/> <input type="button" value="REVIEW LATER"/> |   |                                |

#### 4.4. ON THE DAY OF THE LEVEL 2

**PLEASE NOTE: This information regarding Level 2 may be subject to amendment/changes in whole or in part at any time at the discretion of the Medical Council. You should ensure that you read the most up-to-date information regarding examinations in this Handbook.**

##### 4.4.a. What time should one arrive at the Testing Centre?

Candidates must arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled appointment to allow time for check-in procedures. If a candidate arrives late, they may not be allowed to sit the test and will forfeit their Level 2 examination fee.

##### 4.4.b. What does one need to bring to the Testing Centre?

**In order to be admitted to the Level 2 examination, candidates must bring ALL of the following:-**

1. Their **Letter of Authorisation** (which will be sent to the candidate once they have been declared eligible).
2. Their Medical Council **Admission Card** (which will be sent to the candidate once they have been declared eligible).
3. Their **current, valid passport** (containing the same details as their Letter of Authorisation and Admission Card). The Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) Card is **only** allowed as identification for candidates of refugee status who are sitting Level 2 in the Dublin test centre. **No other evidence of identity is acceptable and candidates presenting without the correct evidence of identity and in date will not be permitted to sit Level 2.**

Candidates are also advised to bring their **confirmation email** with their 16-digit confirmation number from the testing company.

Please note: The name contained in the testing company scheduling system must exactly match the name with the candidate's identification. If the candidate's name does not exactly match, or the candidate does not bring correct evidence of identity or does not bring the required documentation (as outlined above), then the candidate **will not** be permitted to sit the test and will forfeit their examination fee.

Candidates should not bring any medical equipment or writing implements with them to the Level 2 examination. The Level 2 examination is closed book: no testing materials will be provided, except for the standard "scratch paper" that candidates may use for making rough notes during the examination. Candidates will receive the standard 6 sheets in a booklet.

Candidates should pay careful attention to the information provided by the testing centre and ensure that they strictly adhere to their instructions and regulations/policy guidelines at all times.

##### 4.4.c. Information about the test centre

###### i. Travel arrangements

Candidates must make their own provisions in relation to travel arrangements. Candidates are advised to allow for any transportation delays (i.e. heavy/rush hour traffic and delays in public transport) and unfamiliarity of the surroundings when planning their journey and time of arrival at the Examination centre. Public parking spaces (limited) may be available at/nearby certain examination venues. Further information regarding transportation is found in Section 8.

###### ii. Refreshment arrangements

Refreshments are not normally allowed to be brought or consumed during the Level 2 examination, though this will depend on the examination venue.

**iii. Toilet facilities**

Although toilet breaks are permitted during the Level 2 examination, in an effort to minimise disruption candidates are requested to visit the toilets before the exam commences. Candidates visiting the toilets during the exam will be escorted by an invigilator.

**iv. Smoking arrangements**

**Smoking is forbidden** in enclosed places of work (e.g. office blocks, various buildings) in Ireland. Smoking is **NOT** permitted in the exam hall or adjacent areas (e.g. toilets). Candidates will **NOT** be permitted to leave the building for a smoke break during the exam. It may be possible to smoke in a designated outdoor smoking area outside the examination venue, but this facility is solely at the discretion of the examination venue provider.

**4.4.d. Adverse Circumstances which affect the Conduct of the Examination**

If any adverse circumstances affect the conduct of the examination for any candidate(s), the Test Centre Manager will take such action as they think fit. After the Level 2 examination, the Test Centre Manager will report to the Medical Council. The Medical Council will consider the effect of the circumstances and take any further action they think appropriate. If necessary, the matter will be brought further to the Examinations Board. The Examinations Board will consider the effect of the circumstances and take any further action they think appropriate.

**4.4.e. Cheating and misconduct – Level 2 examination**

It is important to note that cheating in all its forms and misconduct is deemed to be a major disciplinary offence in the Medical Council's Pre-Registration Examination System (PRES), and as such and serious penalties may be imposed. Cheating in an examination is defined as the use, possession, or attempted use, of unauthorised material, unauthorised collaboration or attempted collaboration, copying or attempted copying. Misconduct in an examination is defined as unacceptable or immoral behaviour that is not in accordance with accepted moral or professional standards.

Please note the following are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** and are deemed a **DISCIPLINARY OFFENCE**:

**Cheating**

- a) that a candidate brings one or more of the following with them to the examination centre - mobile phone(s), notes, textbooks, dictionaries, laptops, palm pilots and all other electronic devices;
- b) that a candidate's mobile phone(s) or other electronic communications devices is/are left powered on within the vicinity of the examination centre;
- c) that a candidate removes from the examination venue, any examination rough work paper/"scratch paper", whether used or unused, or other supplied material;
- d) that a candidate writes down or copies details of questions, by any means, to take out of the examination venue;
- e) that a candidate consults any materials or mobile phones or other electronic communications devices outside the examination room during periods of absence (i.e. toilet break) while the examination is in progress;
- f) that in cases of impersonation, the matter of the impersonator and the impersonated will be reported directly to the Council of Medical Council, as it is an offence under Section 41 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 "if the person makes or causes to be made any false declaration or misrepresentation for the purpose of obtaining registration".

## MEDICAL COUNCIL PRE-REGISTRATION EXAMINATION HANDBOOK

### Misconduct

- g) that a candidate aids, or attempts to aid, another candidate, or obtain, or attempt to obtain, any assistance from another candidate, or communicate in any other way with another candidate in the examination venue;
- h) that a candidate uses, attempts to use, assists another to use or attempts to assist another to use any other unfair, improper or dishonest method to gain advantage in any part of the PRES;
- i) that a candidate communicates with the test centre or Medical Council staff either before, during or after the examination regarding the possible outcome of their grades;
- j) that a candidate whose conduct or behaviour at an examination is thought to cause disturbance to other candidates or affecting the proper running of the Level 3 examination (or other examinations that may be taking place in the test centre);
- k) that a candidate is involved in the theft or concealment of any material which is the property of the Medical Council or the Test Centre venue.
- l) any other form of cheating and/or misconduct not outlined above

If a candidate does any of these things they will be reported to the Medical Council's Examination Board by the testing company (apart from f). The Medical Council reserves the right to withhold publication of the results of an examination candidate suspected of having been involved in any irregularity or misconduct in connection with a Level 2 examination, pending the completion of investigations into the alleged irregularity or misconduct.

### 4.4.f. Sanctions/enforcements

During an examination;

- if any candidate is found to be in possession of any material/electronic aids, the candidate will be issued immediately with a verbal warning from the testing companies invigilator and the material/electronic device confiscated.
- a candidate may be removed from the examination room if by their conduct they disrupt the examination.

A written report will be drafted and signed by the testing company's invigilator and countersigned by a witness to the event. This report will be forwarded to the Medical Council immediately and without delay. If the misconduct is severe enough, a meeting of the Examinations Board will be called.

The Examinations Board may, in its absolute discretion,

- decide not to take any action in relation to the alleged offending conduct;
- request explanation, comments and/or further information in writing or in person by the Candidate;
- impose penalties on the Candidate.

The penalties that the Examinations Board may recommend to impose on a candidate include, without limitation:

- no penalty;
- awarding the candidate a zero mark (or failure) for the whole Examination;
- expulsion from the examination process; for a certain period as decided by the Board;
- inform the Council of the Medical Council for further disciplinary/registration actions may be taken.

## **MEDICAL COUNCIL PRE-REGISTRATION EXAMINATION HANDBOOK**

Within a reasonable period after the Examinations Board meeting, the candidate will be given a written notice of the decision by the Examinations Board concerning the alleged offending conduct. The candidate may, within one calendar month of the issue of the notice, appeal in writing to the Examinations Board against the decision. The appeal should be supported with relevant information or evidence.

**4.5. AFTER THE LEVEL 2 Examination**

**PLEASE NOTE: This information regarding Level 2 may be subject to amendment/changes in whole or in part at any time at the discretion of the Medical Council. You should ensure that you read the most up-to-date information regarding examinations in this Handbook.**

**4.5.a. Results**

The Medical Council will notify all candidates **by letter** about their results in Level 2 as soon as possible after the Level 2 (approximately two to three weeks after the exam). The results are issued as a Pass or Fail. A detailed breakdown of results is not provided with this letter. The results of candidates who were successful in their Level 2 will be placed on the Medical Council website, using the Medical Council reference number, when the results letters are sent by post. [Click here for the most current Level 2 results.](#) No diploma or certificate will be issued to successful candidates.

**4.5.b. Breakdown of Results**

If a candidate was unsuccessful in the Level 2 and they wish to have a breakdown of their results, they must contact the Medical Council using the contact details provided on their results letter. Requests for breakdown of results **must** be made in writing (email, letter or fax). The breakdown of the result is sent to the candidate by **letter only**, giving the number of questions correct, incorrect and not answered. Under no circumstances will it be emailed to candidates.

Candidates who pass Level 2 will not be entitled to a breakdown of their marks.

**4.5.c. Appeals**

It is not possible to appeal Level 2 results.

**4.5.d. How many times can someone attempt Level 2?**

The Medical Council currently imposes a limit of **three attempts** at any Level of the examinations. Candidates attempting Level 2 have a two years period of eligibility from the date when they are declared eligible to sit PRES. If a candidate is unsuccessful in the Level 2 examination, they may attempt the examination up to and including a maximum of three times, until they either **pass** the examination, they **fail three times** or their **eligibility expires**.

If a candidate is unsuccessful in their Level 2 examination, **they must allow six weeks to lapse from their previous attempt before they are eligible to schedule/book their next** Level 2 examination. For example, if a candidate sat and failed Level 2 that was held on 1<sup>st</sup> January, they will be ineligible to book the next Level 2 until a period of six weeks has elapsed from the date of Level 2 i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 12<sup>th</sup> February. On 12<sup>th</sup> February they would be eligible to schedule their next MCQ (usually from 1pm Irish time onwards). Recognition of a candidate's eligibility will be automatic once the six weeks has elapsed, so it is not necessary to contact the Medical Council.

i.e.

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> January   | <b>Candidate sat Level 2</b>   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> January   | 1 week after sitting Level 2   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> January  | 2 weeks after sitting Level 2  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> January  | 3 weeks after sitting Level 2  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> January  | 4 weeks after sitting Level 2  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> February  | 5 weeks after sitting Level 2  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> February | <b>6 weeks after sitting Level 2<br/>Candidate is now eligible to book their Level 2 again</b> |

## MEDICAL COUNCIL PRE-REGISTRATION EXAMINATION HANDBOOK

Candidates do not need to receive a new eligibility number/admission card/Letter of Authorisation from the Medical Council once six weeks has elapsed. Their eligibility number is their Medical Council reference number which remains the same throughout the registration process with the Medical Council. Candidates do not need to get another Letter of Authorisation and admission card from the Medical Council to schedule their next Level 2 examination. They should continue to use the one that they used previously. Duplicate Letter of Authorisation and/or admission card will only be issued to candidates in *exceptional* circumstances.

### **4.5.e. Reference Number and Change of address**

The reference number allocated by the Medical Council must be quoted in all telephone calls, emails and other correspondence relating to PRES.

The postal address specified by the candidate on their application form for PRES, or subsequent change of postal address received while at Level 1, will be used for correspondence. Any subsequent change of address must be immediately notified to the Medical Council either online on the Medical Council website, in writing or by email to the Medical Council. If the address is changed by email or letter, the date of birth of the candidate must be included as a security measure. Failure to notify the Medical Council of a change in address may result in unnecessary delays in candidates obtaining their Letter of Authorisation and admission card and/or receiving their Level 2 results.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure they provide the Medical Council with the necessary reference number and contact details.

### 5.1. GENERAL INFORMATION

**PLEASE NOTE: This information regarding Level 3 may be subject to amendment/changes in whole or in part at any time at the discretion of the Medical Council. You should ensure that you read the most up-to-date information regarding examinations in this Handbook.**

#### 5.1.a. What is Level 3?

Level 3 is a clinical based assessment. This *currently* takes place in the form of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). Level 3 is the second part of the PRES examination. Candidates must pass Level 2 **before** being permitted to sit Level 3. A pass in Level 2 examination is valid for a period of **two years** from the date of passing. **Candidates must sit Level 3 within one year of passing Level 2 and must pass Level 3 within two years from the date of passing Level 2.**

The Level 3 is primarily a test of clinical skills in the main clinical disciplines of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Psychiatry, Surgery, and Medicine/General Practice. In the Level 3, candidates rotate through a number of stations, each of which tests one or more specified clinical skills.

#### 5.1.b. Where can Level 3 be taken?

Level 3 is **usually** offered in a centre in Ireland, either in Dublin or in a major provincial centre i.e. Cork or Galway. There are currently no overseas centres for Level 3.

Council reserves the right not to hold an examination if there are insufficient candidate numbers. Candidates will be moved to the next available examination date.

#### 5.1.c. How does one apply for and find out about Level 3 dates?

The Council will provide information about Level 3 dates as soon as it becomes available. The dates will be posted on the Medical Council website under PRES dates. Three months notice is usually given prior to the date of the Level 3 examination. The Level 3 is usually held two to three times per year depending on demand. [Click here for the current Level 3 dates.](#)

Only candidates who have passed Level 2 are eligible to apply for a place in Level 3. These candidates will also be informed by email and by post at the same time as date are posted on the Medical Council website. Therefore, it is important to keep the Medical Council informed of any changes in postal/email address.

## 5.2. BEFORE THE LEVEL 3

**PLEASE NOTE: This information regarding Level 3 may be subject to amendment/changes in whole or in part at any time at the discretion of the Medical Council. You should ensure that you read the most up-to-date information regarding examinations in this Handbook.**

### 5.2.a. How does one book a place in Level 3?

#### **Booking a place in the Level 3 examination**

The number of Level 3 places will be limited for each examination and a 'first come, first served' policy will usually apply. Therefore, if a candidate wishes to apply, they should complete the Level 3 application form which is sent to all eligible candidates by post and email (and is also available on the Medical Council website, as soon as the dates have been announced) and return it with the application fee to the Medical Council as soon as possible, on or before specified closing date. The specified closing date is clearly stated on the application form and on the Medical Council website. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Medical Council, at its discretion, accept applications beyond the specified closing date. If a candidate wishes to apply for the Level 3, they must personally sign the application form. Application forms signed by third parties will be rejected. If the candidate is allocated a place, an email will be sent to them confirming this. The candidate's Level 3 admission card, Level 3 admission letter and other relevant details will be posted to them separately as soon as possible after the processing of their application.

### 5.2.b. What happens if there are no available places to sit the exam?

#### **Standby places**

Occasionally, due to the demand and supply of Level 3 examination places, the Level 3 examinations may be filled before the Level 3 examination deadline. If this is the case, an announcement will be made on the Medical Council's website and all candidates who have NOT been allocated a place will be contacted by email to let them know about this situation, and also to place them on a standby list.

If candidates who are eligible to sit the Level 3 examinations wish to apply for a place on the standby list for a Level 3 examination, they will be asked to complete the STANDBY LEVEL 3 EXAMINATION application form (which will be located on the Medical Council's website under PRES dates when the standby announcement is made) and return it to the Medical Council.

Please be advised that a candidate having their name on the standby list does not guarantee that the candidate will be offered a place at the Level 3 examination. If there are withdrawals/cancellations at the Level 3, it may be possible to offer doctors on the standby list a place. The Medical Council cannot predict if or when withdrawals/cancellations may be received.

If a candidate is offered a place from standby, they will be given a limited period of time, usually 24 hours, but less as the Level 3 examination approaches, to respond. Candidates on the standby list will be initially contacted by telephone, and then by email, so candidates should ensure that all their contact details are accurate and up-to-date.

In the event that a candidate is offered a place from standby and they wish to accept this offer, they will be required to **pay the Level 3 examination fee immediately** (refer to Section 5.2.b. regarding current fees), and a candidate's place in the examination will not be guaranteed until payment is received. If a candidate is offered a place and fails to respond within the specified time, the place will be offered to another doctor from the standby list.

### 5.2.c. Examination cancellation

Council also reserves the right not to hold an examination at the listed date if there are insufficient candidate numbers. Candidates will be moved to the next available examination date.

#### 5.2.d. Fees

[Click here for the current Level 3 fee \(excluding credit card charges\)](#). The Level 3 fee should be made payable to the Medical Council in Euro either by bank draft, postal order, credit card (Visa and Mastercard only) or Lasercard.

The Medical Council is unable to advise on currency exchange rates. The current local exchange rate will be quoted by a bank when any bank draft is purchased. Any additional bank charges will be the responsibility of the applicant and must be paid in full by the candidate prior to sitting the Level 3 examination. Bank draft and postal orders should be made payable to the Medical Council. **CASH IS NOT ACCEPTED AS A MEANS OF PAYMENT.** Euro bank drafts are acceptable provided they are in Euro and are payable at an Irish bank in Ireland. Sterling drafts are acceptable and must be made out in sterling and are payable at a British bank in the UK. US dollar cheques are acceptable and must be made out in US dollars and are payable at an American bank in the US. If drafts are received which are made in Euro but payable at a foreign bank, they will be returned and the application will be rejected.

*Each time a candidate attempts Level 3, the current Level 3 fee (excluding credit card charges) will apply.*

#### 5.2.e. How does one withdraw/cancel their place?

If a candidate is allocated a place in Level 3 but they are unable to attend, they **SHOULD** formally withdraw/cancel their place from the Level 3 examination. This will allow other candidates who are in a standby list to have the opportunity to apply to sit the Level 3 examination.

Candidate's wishing to withdraw/cancel should complete the LEVEL 3 WITHDRAWAL FORM which they received with their Level 3 admission card and letter (and which is also available on the Medical Council's website under PRES dates), and return it to the Medical Council either by post or by fax at the details located on the LEVEL 3 WITHDRAWAL FORM. Emails or telephone conversations with the Medical Council is NOT a sufficient means of withdrawing and will NOT be accepted as such. The Level 3 examination fee (less service charge) will be forfeited unless the Medical Council receives prior notification on or before the specified closing date. Please note that the Medical Council cannot assist candidates with their visa applications.

Transfers to another Level 3 examination in another venue/session or the next Level 3 examination are not permitted. Candidates must formally withdraw and re-apply when they wish to take the Level 3 examination.

#### 5.2.f. Late withdrawal or absence on the day of a Level 3 examination

If a candidate withdraws after the deadline for withdrawal or they are absent on the date and time of the Level 3 examination, they will forfeit the full Level 3 examination fee paid.

### 5.3. THE LEVEL 3 EXAMINATION

#### 5.3.a. What is the format of the Level 3?

Level 3 is primarily a test of clinical skills, knowledge and attitude in the main clinical disciplines of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Psychiatry, Surgery, Medicine and General Practice. Candidates rotate through a series of skill stations, so that for any one station all candidates are assessed on the same issues by the same examiners.

A number of the stations are now mandatory to pass, so if the candidate is **NOT** successful in passing that station, they will **automatically FAIL THE WHOLE OF THE LEVEL 3 examination**. Please refer to section 5.3.b for further information.

There are three types of skills stations:

#### i) Communication skills

These stations assess the candidate's ability to obtain a history, to demonstrate interviewing and communication skills and/or to apply clinical management skills. This may include:

- Breaking bad news to a patient
- Communication with patients/relatives/children/healthcare professionals
- Ethics
- Explaining diagnosis, investigation and treatment
- Patient management plan/education exercises
- Seeking/obtaining informed consent
- Taking a history

Please note: these are given as examples and may or may not be part of the examination.

While all stations last six minutes and candidates are assessed on their interaction with simulated patients, we do not suggest that tasks such as breaking bad news would be completed within six minutes in the real clinical environment.

When a candidate enters these stations they should give their exam label to the examiner who will place it on their answer sheet.

If a candidate finishes a station before the time is over, they should not engage in small talk with their examiner/simulated patient/invigator.

#### ii) Interpretation skills

It is expected that the candidate will be able to interpret results from tests and procedures. These stations may involve the candidate interpreting:

- an electrocardiogram (ECG)
- laboratory tests.
- paediatric growth charts
- photographs, or
- X-rays

Please note: these are given as examples and may or may not be part of the examination.

The candidate will either have to answer questions relating to it on an answer sheet and/or discuss their interpretation with an examiner.

When a candidate enters these stations they should either stick their exam label on their answer sheet and hand their completed answer sheet to the invigilator in charge of the station, or give their exam label to the examiner who will place it on their answer sheet.

If a candidate finishes a station before the time is over, they should not engage in small talk with their examiner/simulated patient/invigator.

### iii) Practical skills

These stations are practical and include skills such as performing a physical examination, demonstrating a practical procedure, or examination of someone's mental state. These practical skills may include:

- Assessment of a patient's mental state
- Injection Techniques
- Inserting a cannula
- Pharmacology and Prescribing Medication
- Physical examination of an adult or child on simulated patient or anatomical model.
- Suturing/dressing change
- To demonstrate the ability to respond to emergency situations Emergency Cardiovascular Care (i.e. cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), BLS, ACLS, AED – this list is not exhaustive)

Please note: these are given as examples and may or may not be part of the examination.

When a candidate enters these stations they should give their exam label to the examiner who will place it on their answer sheet.

If a candidate finishes a station before the time is over, they should not engage in small talk with their examiner/simulated patient/invigilator.

### 5.3.b. Pass Mark

Each station is marked out of 20 marks. As there are 15 active stations, the total mark awarded is 300 marks. The current Level 3 pass mark is 150 marks out of 300 marks (i.e. 50%).

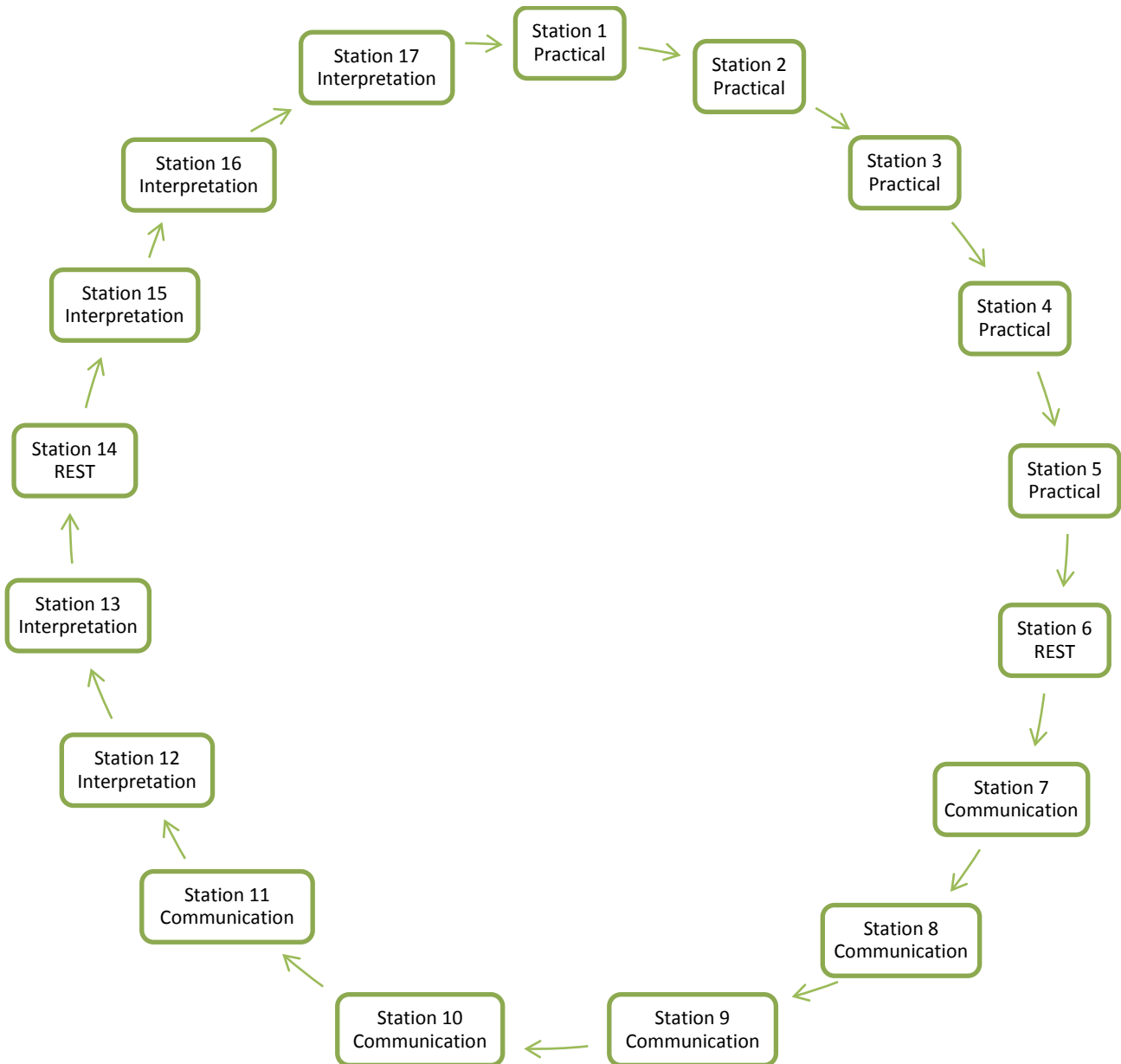
#### However, candidates should note the following:

- There are a number of stations that that are **mandatory**. If the candidate is **NOT** successful in passing that station, they will **automatically FAIL THE WHOLE OF THE LEVEL 3 examination**.
- If a candidate has been deemed to have made a **clinical error that compromises the patient** (e.g. not properly clearing the airway at the start of a resuscitation procedure) or that **endangers** themselves, their patient or their surroundings (e.g. not disposing of hazardous material e.g. sharps in the correct manner), it will result in the candidate **FAILING THAT SKILL STATION**.
- If an examiner has concerns regarding a candidate's professional and/or ethical behaviour at a station, it will be recorded as a critical incident and the examiner will write their concern on the candidate's answer sheet. This will lead to a review of the candidate's performance overall by the Examination Board on an individual basis where warranted.
- This exam is NOT negatively marked.
- There is **NO compensation BETWEEN interpretation skills, practical skills and communication skills**.
- There **IS compensation only WITHIN the range of the interpretation skills, practical skills and communication skills**.
- **To pass the Level 3 examination, candidates must pass each of the three types of skills stations (i.e. Communication, Interpretation and Practical) as well as obtaining an overall pass.**

5.3.c. Time

The Level 3 examination has a minimum of *seventeen stations* in total. This includes 15 “active” stations and a minimum of two “rest” stations. The number of rest stations may be increased at the discretion of the Medical Council. It is possible that there may be up to twenty stations in total, which would include five rest stations. Each station will be **six** minutes in duration. A bell will ring at the start of the exam. A bell will ring at five minutes to indicate one minute remaining. When the second bell rings at six minutes, the candidate must promptly progress on to the next station.

Candidates must continue around the circuit from station to station in consecutive order. A candidate at the last station i.e. (station 17, 18, 19 or 20) proceeds on the station 1, and continues around the circuit in consecutive fashion, until they have completed all the stations.



**5.3.d. Common mistakes that candidates for Level 3 examination make**

- Not reading the stations instructions carefully or misinterpreting the instructions. Candidates should not assume that they know what the station is about. Candidates should read the instructions carefully and respond in the correct manner. If candidates are asked to take a patient's history, they will not gain any marks from discussing a management plan or explaining a diagnosis with a patient.
- Not listening to or understanding a patient's response and therefore missing important information from the patient.
- Asking too many questions, talking too much or talking at the patient. Candidates are expected to speak to the patient in language that the patient will understand and the manner that they would expect. The way a candidate communicates with the patient tells both the patient and the examiner a lot about the candidate's approach with the patient.
- Giving generic information or set phrases. If candidates are asked to provide a patient with information or advice relevant to their specific problem, they should not give general statements regarding that problem. Candidates also learn and use set phrases designed to show understanding but use them in the wrong context.
- Missing scores on physical examination. Candidates should say what they are doing when examining a patient as this will aid the examiner in marking the candidate. If candidate does not discuss what they are doing when examining the patient, the examiner is left wondering whether the candidate knows what they are doing or whether they are doing what they intended.
- In practical stations, candidates sometimes do not take into account the standard precautions which would endanger themselves, their patient or their surroundings (i.e. not disposing of hazardous material e.g. sharps). This is a serious matter and will result in the candidate FAILING THAT SKILL STATION.
- Leaving or attempting to leave the station at the first warning bell at five minutes. Each station is six minutes in duration. A warning bell rings at five minutes to indicate one minute remaining. Only when the second bell rings at six minutes, does the candidate move on to the next station. If the candidate is finished early at the station they should sit down/stand by the side and wait for the six minute bell to ring.

**It is in your interest to avoid these mistakes.**

#### 5.4. ON THE DAY OF LEVEL 3

**PLEASE NOTE: This information regarding Level 3 may be subject to amendment/changes in whole or in part at any time at the discretion of the Medical Council. You should ensure that you read the most up-to-date information regarding examinations in this Handbook.**

##### 5.4.a. What time should one arrive at the Testing Venue?

Candidates are normally required to present themselves at the testing venue for registration one hour prior to the starting time of the Level 3 examination (unless otherwise stated). The Level 3 examination itself normally lasts for approximately two hours. Candidates may be asked to remain at the testing venue for a short period of time (usually 30 to 60 minutes) after the Level 3 examination concludes in order to ensure security of the examinations process. This is because candidates are not permitted to meet/have any form of contact with, the group of candidates that took the examination in an earlier group. In total the candidate may be at the testing venue for approximately four hours. Exact details will be given to candidates in their admission letter. The Level 3 examinations are expected to run to time, however it is suggested that candidates allow time for unforeseen delays when booking tickets for a return journey.

Candidates are asked to present themselves at the venue at the time stated on their admission letter. Candidates will then be brought to a holding room for registration. At registration, candidates will be given their starting place number for Level 3 and also exam labels (which has their name, Level 3 number and Medical Council reference number on it). Candidates must attach one of their exam labels onto the answer sheet in the written stations, and give it to the examiner in the practical stations. Candidates will also be given brief instructions on how to complete the examination beforehand.

##### 5.4.b. What should one bring to the Testing Centre?

In order to gain admission to the Level 3 candidates must bring:

- their admission card (which will be sent to the candidate once they have been allocated a place)
- their admission letter (which will be sent to the candidate once they have been allocated a place)
- their Passport, which is the same evidence of identity as shown on the admission card. Only candidates who have refugee status can use their Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) Card, as a form of identity for this examination.

No other evidence of identity is acceptable and ***candidates presenting without these three documents will not be permitted to sit Level 3.***

Candidates can, if they wish, bring medical equipment (e.g. stethoscope). However, all equipment necessary for the relevant stations will be provided for use, should equipment be required.

Mobile phones, notes, textbooks, dictionaries, laptops, palm pilots and all other electronic devices are STRICTLY PROHIBITED from the examination centre. Mobile phones or other electronic communications devices should NOT be left powered on within the vicinity of the examination centre and should be left SWITCHED OFF in the holding room for registration.

##### 5.4.c. What should one wear to the Level 3 examination?

Candidates should wear clothes which are appropriate for the clinical/hospital environment and for the treatment of patients.

**5.4.d. Information about the test centre**

**i. Travel arrangements**

Candidates must make their own provisions in relation to travel arrangements. Candidates are advised to allow for any transportation delays (i.e. heavy/rush hour traffic and delays in public transport) and unfamiliarity of the surroundings when planning their journey and time of arrival at the Examination centre. Public parking spaces (limited) may be available at/nearby certain examination venues. Further information regarding transportation is found in Section 8.

**ii. Refreshment arrangements**

Drinking water will be provided during the Level 3 examination wherever possible, though this will depend on the examination venue. It will usually be located at the "rest" stations. At certain examination venues/times, candidates may be asked to arrive early/remain at the testing venue for a period of time before/after the Level 3 examination starts/concludes in order to ensure security of the examinations process. If this is the case, light refreshments such as tea/coffee/biscuits/sandwiches may be provided, though this will depend on the examination venue.

**iii. Toilet facilities**

In an effort to minimise disruption candidates are requested to visit the toilets before the Level 3 examination commences. As candidates are under examination conditions from when they are in the registration holding room until after the end of the Level 3 examination, they will be escorted to the toilet by an invigilator. Toilet breaks may be permitted during the Level 3 examination at the discretion of the invigilator and only when candidates are at a "rest station".

**iv. Smoking arrangements**

**Smoking is forbidden** in enclosed places of work (e.g. office blocks, various buildings) in Ireland. Smoking is **NOT** permitted in the exam hall or adjacent areas (e.g. toilets). Candidates will **NOT** be permitted to leave the building for a smoke break during the exam. It may be possible to smoke in a designated outdoor smoking area outside the examination venue, but this facility is solely at the discretion of the examination venue provider.

#### 5.4.e. Complaints

##### *i) Before the examination*

Temporary personal circumstances (such as illness or pressing domestic circumstances) which occur close to, or during the examination which might affect a candidate's performance cannot be taken into account.

##### *ii) Problems encountered on the day of the examination*

If a candidate feels that he or she has been disadvantaged during the examination (e.g. through equipment failure, human error, or otherwise), the candidate must make a complaint to the Examination Coordinator or Medical Council representative **during or immediately after** the examination, and **before** leaving the premises. All such complaints should be recorded in writing on the "Complaint/Remedy form" (available at the Level 3 venue) and signed by the Examination Coordinator and the candidate.

Complaints of this nature made at a later date are difficult to investigate or validate and therefore will not be entertained.

There are, however, certain complaints that will not be entertained and may not be further investigated. These include:

- **Not being able to find the test centre location/delay in arriving at the test centre location.**

Candidates are given with their admission letter clear instructions as to the location of the test venue and the time that they have to be at the test centre for examination registration purposes. If they are unsure as to the location of the test centre, they should make sure that they allow ample time to arrive at the test centre at the correct time, bearing in mind heavy/rush hour traffic and delays in public transport.

A candidate who arrives late for the Level 3 examination may only be allowed sit the Level 3 examination at the discretion of the Examination Coordinator. Due to the nature of the clinical examination, the examination once started cannot stop until the completion of the whole examination.

- **Not reading the instructions of the stations fully and carefully**

Instructions for each station are clearly stated. Candidates should read the instructions carefully and ensure that they understand what they are being asked to do. If it is a history station and the candidate performs a physical examination they will not be given marks. If an answer sheet has two pages/sides, instructions will be given to the candidate to "turn over the page/turn to the next page/P.T.O".

- **"Running out of time"**

The clinical stations are designed to be completed in six minutes. Candidates should be conscious of the time constraint of a clinical skills station. Candidates need to maintain a courteous manner while ensuring that they complete the essential features of the task in the available time.

#### **Adverse Circumstances which affect the Conduct of the Examination**

If any adverse circumstances affect the conduct of the examination for any candidate(s), the Examination Coordinator with agreement of the Medical Council representative, will take such action as they think fit. After the Level 3 examination, the Examination Coordinator and/or the Medical Council Representative will report to the Examinations Board. The Examinations Board will consider the effect of the circumstances and take any further action they think appropriate.

In such cases of immediate notification of a complaint, and at the discretion of the Examination Coordinator and Medical Council Representative, the candidate **may** be permitted to immediately re-attempt a maximum of **two** Level 3 stations once the examination centre has been vacated.

**5.4.f. Cheating and misconduct – Level 3 examination**

It is important to note that cheating in all its forms and misconduct is deemed to be a major disciplinary offence in the Medical Council's Pre-Registration Examination System (PRES), and as such serious penalties may be imposed. Cheating in an examination is defined as the use, possession, or attempted use, of unauthorised material, unauthorised collaboration or attempted collaboration, copying or attempted copying. Misconduct in an examination is defined as unacceptable or immoral behaviour that is not in accordance with accepted moral or professional standards.

Please note the following are STRICTLY PROHIBITED and are deemed a DISCIPLINARY OFFENCE:

**Cheating**

- a) that a candidate brings one or more of the following with them to the examination centre - mobile phone(s), notes, textbooks, dictionaries, laptops, palm pilots and all other electronic devices;
- b) that a candidate's mobile phone(s) or other electronic communications devices is left powered on within the vicinity of the examination centre;
- c) that a candidate removes from the examination venue, any examination rough work paper/"scratch paper", whether used or unused, or other supplied material;
- d) that a candidate writes down or copies details of questions, by any means, to take out of the examination venue;
- e) that a candidate consults any materials or mobile phones or other electronic communications devices outside the examination room during periods of absence (i.e. toilet break) while the examination is in progress;
- f) that in cases of impersonation, the matter of the impersonator and the impersonated will be reported directly to the Council of Medical Council, as it is an offence under Section 41 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 "if the person makes or causes to be made any false declaration or misrepresentation for the purpose of obtaining registration".

**Misconduct**

- g) that a candidate aids, or attempts to aid, another candidate, or obtain, or attempt to obtain, any assistance from another candidate, or communicate in any other way with another candidate in the examination venue
- h) that a candidate uses, attempts to use, assists another to use or attempts to assist another to use any other unfair, improper or dishonest method to gain advantage in any part of the PRES.
- i) that a candidate obtains information about Level 3 skill stations from any source including other candidates;
- j) that a candidate communicates with the examiners, simulated patients, invigilators, Medical Council staff or other administrative staff either during or after the examination regarding the possible outcome of their grades.
- k) that a candidate whose conduct or behaviour at an examination is thought to cause disturbance to other candidates or affecting the proper running of the Examination;
- l) that a candidate is involved in the theft or concealment of any material which is the property of the Medical Council or the Medical School/Test Centre venue.
- m) any other form of cheating and/or misconduct not outlined above

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If a candidate does any of these things they will be reported to the Medical Council's Examination Board by the testing company or examination coordinator (apart from f). The Medical Council reserves the right to withhold publication of the results of an examination candidate suspected of having been involved in any irregularity or misconduct in connection with a Level 2 or Level 3 examination, pending the completion of investigations into the alleged irregularity or misconduct.

### 5.4.g. Sanctions/enforcements

During an examination;

- if any candidate is found to be in possession of any material/electronic aids, the candidate will be issued immediately with a verbal warning from the invigilator/examiner and have the material/electronic device that the candidate brings into the examination room confiscated.
- a candidate may be removed from the examination room if by their conduct they disrupt the examination.

A written report will be drafted and signed by the invigilator/examiner and countersigned by a witness to the event. This report will be forwarded to the Examination Coordinator and Medical Council representative immediately and without delay. They will jointly decide if the misconduct is severe enough to call a meeting of the Examinations Board after the examination.

The Examinations Board may, in its absolute discretion,

- decide not to take any action in relation to the alleged offending conduct;
- request explanation, comments and/or further information in writing or in person by the Candidate;
- impose penalties on the Candidate.

The penalties that the Examinations Board may recommend to impose on a candidate include, without limitation:

- no penalty;
- awarding the candidate a zero mark (or failure) for the station or the whole Level 3 examination;
- expulsion from the examination process; for a certain period as decided by the Board;
- inform the Council of the Medical Council for further disciplinary/registration action may be taken.

Within a reasonable period after the Examinations Board meeting, the candidate will be given a written notice of the decision by the Examinations Board concerning the alleged offending conduct. The candidate may, within one calendar month of the issue of the notice, appeal in writing to the Examinations Board against the decision. The appeal should be supported with relevant information or evidence.

#### 5.4. AFTER THE LEVEL 3

**PLEASE NOTE: This information regarding Level 3 may be subject to amendment/changes in whole or in part at any time at the discretion of the Medical Council. You should ensure that you read the most up-to-date information regarding examinations in this Handbook.**

##### 5.4.a. Results

The Medical Council will notify all candidates **by letter** about their results in Level 3 as soon as possible after the examination (approximately four to six weeks after the exam). An announcement will be made on the Medical Council's website as to when the results will be issued. They will **NOT** be issued before the date specified. Please refrain from telephoning the Medical Council regarding your result, as this will delay the process further. Candidates should **WAIT** until they have received their results by post **BEFORE** contacting the Medical Council in relation to their results. The results are issued as a Pass or Fail. No diploma or certificate will be issued to successful candidates. Results will not be given over the telephone. The results of candidates who were successful in their Level 3 examination will be placed on the Medical Council website, using the Medical Council reference number, at the same time as the results letters are sent by post. [Click here for the most current Level 3 results.](#) All enquiries about the Level 3 results must be made in writing to the Education and Training Section.

##### Trainee Specialist Registration

Provided a candidate's application for Trainee Specialist Registration is complete and satisfactory, those who are successful in the examination will also receive their Trainee Specialist Registration acceptance letter at the same time as their results. He or she must apply for initial Trainee Specialist Registration **within a period of three years from that date.** They may apply for employment in a post in a hospital, general practice or other health service setting approved by the Medical Council.

Trainee Specialist Registration will be granted once the doctor complies with the Medical Council's application procedure. Please refer to the [Registration Rules](#), the [Rules Specifying Pre-Registration Exams and Exemptions](#) and the [Guide to the Application Procedure and Registration Rules for Registration in the Trainee Specialist, Specialist or General Divisions of the Register of Medical Practitioners](#) for further details.

##### General Registration

Provided a candidate's application for General Registration is complete and satisfactory, those who are successful in passing the Level 3 examination will be admitted for a Level 4 evaluation. Level 4 is an evaluation of the candidate's postgraduate education, training, qualifications and experience to establish the candidate's appropriateness or otherwise for general registration. This level applies to all applicants and, in some cases, the applicant's documentation may be referred to a training body or other person or persons authorised by the Medical Council for assessment, on a case by case basis.

Please refer to the [Registration Rules](#), the [Rules Specifying Pre-Registration Exams and Exemptions](#) and the [Guide to the Application Procedure and Registration Rules for Registration in the Trainee Specialist, Specialist or General Divisions of the Register of Medical Practitioners](#) for further details.

#### 5.4.b. Breakdown of Results

All Level 3 results are verified at least **three times** before being sent to the candidates. Borderline results (i.e. within close range of the passing score) undergo increased scrutiny. Results are issued approximately four to six weeks after the last Level 3 exam.

Unsuccessful candidates may request a **breakdown** of the results they obtained at each Level 3 station and an overall score. This request should be written on the "Breakdown of results request form" which is enclosed with the results letter and must be received by the Medical Council **within one calendar month** of the date of issue of the results. They will be issued with a letter giving the individual marks for each station and their overall score. Under no circumstances will it be emailed to candidates.

**Candidates cannot appeal their results until after they have received and reviewed the breakdown of their results.**

#### 5.4.c. Appeals

If a candidate remains dissatisfied after they have received and reviewed the breakdown of their results, they may **appeal** their results. Requests for an **appeal** of results must be written on the "Level 3 appeal form", giving the candidate's personal details and reason(s) for appeal. This form must be received by the Medical Council **within one calendar month** of the date of issue of the results. A **service fee** must accompany all requests for an appeal. [Click here to view the current service fee \(excluding credit card charges\)](#). On receipt of a request for an appeal, the Examination Coordinator will personally recheck the examination scripts, in the presence of an officer of the Medical Council, within **two weeks of the closing date** for receipt of requests (i.e. within six weeks after the date of issue of the Level 3 results). The Examination Coordinator will inform the Medical Council, in writing, of the results of the appeal. The Medical Council will then provide a written response to the appellant, within **two calendar months** of the date of issue of the Level 3 results.

All correspondence regarding an appeal, including the Examination Coordinator's response, will then be considered by the Medical Council's Professional Development Committee at its next scheduled meeting. **The Committee's decision in the matter will be final.**

#### 5.4.d. How many times can one attempt Level 3?

The Medical Council currently imposes a limit of **three attempts** at any Level of the examinations. Candidates attempting Level 3 have a two years period of eligibility from the date when they passed Level 2, but must have attempted/sat Level 3 within one year of passing Level 2. If a candidate is unsuccessful in the Level 3 examination, they may attempt the examination up to and including a maximum of three times, until they either **pass** the examination, they **fail three times** or their **eligibility expires**.

#### 5.4.e. Reference Number and Change of Address

The reference number allocated by the Medical Council must be quoted in all telephone calls, Emails and other correspondence relating to PRES.

The postal address specified by the candidate on the application form for PRES/ Level 3 examination, will be used for correspondence. Any subsequent change of address must be immediately notified online on the Medical Council website, in writing or by email to the Medical Council. If the address is changed by email or letter, the date of birth of the candidate must be included as a security measure. Failure to notify the Medical Council of a change in address may result in unnecessary delays in candidates receiving their results.

### 6. How does one reapply to sit the PRES exam?

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If a candidate does not pass Level 2/Level 3 within two years from the date that they were declared eligible to sit the PRES, or they fail Level 2/Level 3 three times, their eligibility will automatically expire.

Should a candidate wish to re-apply for eligibility to sit future PRES examinations, they must complete the [Generic Application Form](#) and quote their Medical Council reference number on it (on page 5). They must also state the steps they have taken or are taking in order to improve their prospects of passing the PRES.

The candidate should return the Generic Application form with all the documents as per the checklist, including:

- document examination fee for First-time applicant ([Click here to view the current service fee \(excluding credit card charges\)](#)). The fees depend on what Division you wish to apply for.
- an original Certificate of Current Professional Status/Good Standing, dated within the last 3 months, which is to be sent directly to the Medical Council from all overseas registration authorities with whom you are or have been registered within the past five years.
- an Original Academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Certificate with required minimum scores (7.0 in each band and overall band score of 7.5) dated within the last 21 months.
- Notarised/attested copy of passport (showing passport number, expiry dates and personal details)
- Four (4) colour passport-size photographs signed on the back by the Applicant.

**7. Is there exemption from the PRES?**

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Not all doctors are required to sit and pass the PRES and certain exemptions are available on grounds that are specified by the Medical Council. Whether or not a candidate has to sit the PRES depends on a number of factors, including where they graduated from i.e. European Union/non-European Union Qualification, whether or not they have completed specialist training (and would therefore have direct entry to specialist registration) or whether they have established European Union rights in another country.

Please refer to the [Registration Rules](#), the [Rules Specifying Pre-Registration Exams and Exemptions](#) and the [Guide to the Application Procedure and Registration Rules for Registration in the Trainee Specialist, Specialist or General Divisions of the Register of Medical Practitioners](#) for further details.

## 8. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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### 8.1. Reference Number

The reference number allocated by the Medical Council must be quoted in all telephone calls, emails and other correspondence relating to PRES.

### 8.2. Change of Address

The postal address specified by the candidate on the application form for PRES will be used for correspondence. Any subsequent change of address must be immediately notified online on the Medical Council website, in writing or by email to the Medical Council. If the address is changed by email or letter, the date of birth and mother's birth surname of the candidate must be included as a security measure. Failure to notify the Medical Council of a change in address may result in unnecessary delays in candidates receiving their results.

### 8.3. Can the Medical Council help with Visa Applications?

The Medical Council and the Level 2 test provider are unable to assist candidates with visa applications. **THE MEDICAL COUNCIL HAS NO ROLE TO PLAY IN THE GRANTING OR REFUSING OF VISAS.**

The Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service has further details in relation to visa applications on their website [www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie). Information on public service information is found on this website [www.citizensinformation.ie/categories](http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories). Information regarding employment permit applications is available on the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment website [www.entemp.ie/labour/workpermits/doctorsandnurses.htm](http://www.entemp.ie/labour/workpermits/doctorsandnurses.htm).

### 8.4. Can the Medical Council recommend a hotel?

The Medical Council cannot recommend accommodation to PRES candidates, however, candidates may like to consult An Bord Fáilte's website at [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie).

### 8.5. Where can one obtain information about living and working in Ireland?

Although the Medical Council cannot provide this information directly to PRES candidates, there are many informative websites about Ireland's culture, tax system, housing, citizenship, health service, etc., such as, [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) or <http://working.monster.ie/> or [www.immigrantcouncil.ie](http://www.immigrantcouncil.ie). Useful information for Dublin only is [www.dublin.ie](http://www.dublin.ie).

### 8.6. Where can one obtain information about transportation in Ireland?

Information regarding transportation in Ireland can be found at this link <http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories/travel-and-recreation>

### 8.7. Does the Medical Council provide any Past Papers?

The Medical Council does NOT provide any past papers in relation to the PRES. Information in relation to the subjects covered in the PRES exam is provided in 8.8. "Does the Medical Council recommend any Textbooks?".

### 8.8. Does the Medical Council recommend any preparation courses?

The Medical Council does NOT provide and does NOT endorse any preparation courses in relation to the PRES.

### 8.9. Does the Medical Council recommend any Textbooks?

The Medical Council does not require candidates to purchase or use any specific textbooks for the PRES examinations. Candidates may find it useful to review the major textbooks in the main clinical disciplines of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Psychiatry, Surgery, Medicine and General Practice. Journals can also be used as a way to keeping up-to-date. The examinations are designed to be a test of a candidate's clinical skills, knowledge and attitude.

The Medical Council does not authorise or endorse any books/papers specifically about passing the PRES.

#### **General Practice**

Stephenson A: *A textbook of General Practice* (Hodder Arnold Publication 2004)

#### **Psychiatry**

Puri, Laking, and Treasdon: *Textbook of Psychiatry* (Churchill Livingstone 2002)

Gelder, Harrison, and Cowen: *Shorter Oxford Textbook of Psychiatry* (Oxford University Press 2006)

Katona and Robertson: *Psychiatry at a Glance* (Wiley Blackwell 2008)

#### **Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

Collins, Arulkumaran, Hayes, Jackson and Impey *Oxford Handbook of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* (Oxford University Press 2008)

#### **Paediatrics**

Lissauer and Clayden: *Illustrated Textbook of Paediatrics* (Mosby 2007)

Kliegman, Marcante, Jenson, and Behrman: *Nelson Essentials of Paediatrics* (Saunders 2005)

Levene and Rudolf: *Paediatrics and Child Health* (Wiley Blackwell 2006)

Bernstein and Shelov: *Paediatrics for Medical Students*

Gill and O'Brien: *Paediatric Clinical Examination Made Easy* (Churchill Livingstone 2006)

Stephenson, Wallace, and Thomson: *Clinical Paediatrics for Postgraduate Examinations* (Churchill Livingstone 2003)

#### **General Internal Medicine**

Kumar and Clarke: *Clinical Medicine* (Saunders 2009)

Longmore, Wilkinson, Turmezei and Cheung: *Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine* (Oxford University Press 2007)

Boon, Colledge, Walker and Hunter: *Davidson's Principles and Practice of Medicine* (Churchill Livingstone 2006)

#### **Surgery**

Townsend, Beauchamp, Evers, and Mattox: *Textbook of Surgery: The Biological Basis of Modern Surgical Practice* (Saunders 2007)

**8.10. What is the syllabus for the PRES?**

**(a) MEDICINE**

Candidates are required to have a comprehensive general knowledge of the key elements of accurate history taking; the interpretation of symptoms; the analysis of cardinal physical signs; proficient bed side examination and the competent interpretative skills necessary for clinical diagnosis. Additionally they should have adequate background knowledge of genetics, immunology, pharmacology, nutrition, social and environmental factors, occupational influences and the impact of environmental hazards due to physical and chemical agents.

Candidates will be expected to have a broad knowledge of the therapeutic principles of drug action, prime drug indications, side effects of pharmaceutical agents and reasonable knowledge of the drugs used for common acute and chronic medical conditions.

**(b) SURGERY**

Candidates will be expected to be familiar with the basic physiology and biochemical processes in health and disease and to apply the underlying concepts, in association with anatomical and pathological principles, for the identification, investigation and treatment of surgical illnesses.

Candidates are expected to have sufficient knowledge of surgical problems in the gastrointestinal tract, vascular system, endocrine system, genitourinary system, neurological and locomotor systems, chest, head and neck, skin, connective tissue and limbs. The ability to discuss pre and postoperative care of the patient will be assessed and particular emphasis will be placed on surgical infection, wound healing, nutrition, food and electrolyte balance, haematological investigation and the planning of further investigations and management.

**(c) OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY**

Candidates will be expected to have adequate knowledge of the physiology of normal pregnancy, labour, delivery and the puerperium, together with an insight into common disease states of the pregnant woman and the newborn infant and their investigation and treatment. Candidates will be expected to have adequate knowledge of disturbance of reproductive function, including menstrual disorders, infertility, contraception and family planning, and genital infections. In addition, an understanding of the presentation, investigation and management of gynaecological malignant diseases will be required.

**(d) PAEDIATRICS**

This syllabus will include congenital malformations, normal growth and development of children, assessment of handicap, nutrition, common infectious diseases, accidents and poisoning, non-accidental injury, function and diseases of the heart, lung, gastrointestinal tract, genitourinary tract, blood, central nervous system and skin.

**(e) GENERAL PRACTICE**

Candidates are expected to understand the key characteristics of primary care and to be familiar with the broad structures of general practice in Ireland. The recognition and management of common problems in general practice, including acute self-limiting illnesses, chronic diseases and key emergencies forms the basis of this section. It is also expected that candidates are familiar with the concepts of prevention, whole-person care, the roles of families and carers in the community and the importance of problem definition in physical, psychological and social terms.

**(g) PSYCHIATRY**

Candidates will be expected to have a broad knowledge of the theoretical and practical aspects of psychiatry including the clinical approach to the patient. The ability to elicit a comprehensive history and adequately assess the patient's mental state will be necessary.

Assessment may include personality development, organic psychiatric syndromes, schizophrenia, the affective disorders, the clinical neuroses, personality disorders, alcoholism and drug abuse, eating disorders, mental handicap, common childhood psychiatric disorders, psychosomatic disorders, forensic psychiatry, psychosexual problems and community psychiatry.

An adequate knowledge of current treatment and management approaches to psychiatric illness, including physical, psychopharmacological and psychological treatments will be required.

**9. Contacting the Medical Council about the PRES Examination**

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The Education and Training Section administers the PRES. If you have any queries regarding the PRES examination itself, please contact the Education & Training Section either by:

telephone at: 00353-1-4983138;

or

fax at: 00353-1-4983155;

or

by email to: [pres@mcirl.ie](mailto:pres@mcirl.ie)

The Medical Council's address is:

Medical Council  
Kingram House  
Kingram Place  
Dublin 2  
Ireland

The main telephone number is: 00353-1-4983100

The main fax number is: 00353-1-4983102

The website address is: [www.medicalcouncil.ie](http://www.medicalcouncil.ie)

***This information may be subject to amendment/changes in whole or in part at any time at the discretion of the Medical Council.***

***Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis***