



Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council

**RETURNS POLICY FOR INSTITUTIONS LICENCED
BY THE MEDICAL COUNCIL TO PRACTISE
ANATOMY IN THE STATE**

OCTOBER 2014

1. CONTEXT

1.1 The Medical Council is the regulator of the medical profession in Ireland. Council's role is to protect the public by promoting and better ensuring high standards of professional conduct and professional education, training and competence among doctors. Council's key responsibilities, which are specified in the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 ("the Act"), can be summarised as follows:-

- Maintaining the register of medical practitioners
- Defining and applying high standards of medical education and training
- Promoting good medical practice and overseeing doctors' continuing professional development
- Investigating complaints against medical doctors

1.2 In addition, Section 106 of the Act assigns responsibility to Council for matters relating to the practice and oversight of anatomy functions in the State. In effect, provisions of the Anatomy Act 1832 were transferred to Council. Council has never previously been responsible for any anatomy functions. Part 13 of the Act, which includes Section 106, was commenced in March 2009. In summary, Section 106 of the Act requires Council to:-

- (i) Grant licences to practise anatomy in the State,
- (ii) Appoint inspectors of places in the State where anatomy is carried on, and
- (iii) Be the person to whom inspectors shall make returns, under and in accordance with the Anatomy Act 1832.

1.3 On 1st February 2011, Professor Ceri Davies was appointed by the Medical Council to the post of Inspector of Anatomy. One of the Inspector's functions is to make returns to Council under and in accordance with the Anatomy Act 1832.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of this document is to confirm the policy and supporting process whereby institutions which have been licenced by the Medical Council to practice anatomy in the State make returns. The institutions which have been licenced by Council for these purposes are as follows:-

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

2.2 Licensees are required to make regular returns to the Inspector of Anatomy *via* the Medical Council. These returns are intended to confirm the extent of donations which have been made to each institution in a given period, and to provide some identifying information in relation to these donations.

- 2.3 The frequency with which these returns should be made will be determined by Council, as will the format and content of returns. Council's *current* requirements in relation to format and frequency are confirmed below, and any changes in these requirements will be fully communicated to licensees.

3. FORMAT OF RETURNS

- 3.1 Anatomy returns should be made *electronically* to the Medical Council to the following email address:- educationandtraining@mcirl.ie
- 3.2 Returns should be made using the Medical Council's returns template which has been provided to licensees, and which is available upon request. Any changes to the returns template will be fully communicated to licensees.
- 3.3 The returns template requires licensees to furnish the following information to Council:-
- Name of donor
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Religion
 - Cause of death
 - Date of death
 - Removed from (place of death)
 - Date of removal
 - Removed to: name of medical school
 - Date received at medical school
 - Mother's maiden name (if a child)
- 3.4 Other than the details requested *via* the returns template, and confirmed above, licensees are not required to routinely furnish further documentation to the Medical Council as part of the annual return process.
- 3.5 Licensees should however maintain copies of *all* relevant supporting documentation relating to donations, and make this documentation available to the Medical Council if requested to do so.

4. FREQUENCY OF RETURNS

- 4.1 Licensees are required to submit returns to the Medical Council on an annual basis. Returns should be prepared with reference to the academic year, and should be furnished to Council no later than 1st November each year for the academic year just concluded.
- 4.2 There may be a future opportunity to align and consolidate anatomy returns with the annual returns process which all medical schools in the State are currently subject to. Any such change will be fully communicated to licensees, and to each medical school.

5. MONITORING

- 5.1 The process will be monitored to ensure comprehensiveness of returns. There will be annual summary reports to the ETPDC on this issue following close off of the return period. Information

on the returns will also be included in the Medical Council's Annual Report. There will be interaction with the medical schools and the Inspector of Anatomy by the Executive to ensure that there is compliance by the medical schools with the Council's requirements in this respect.

6. ESCALATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FAILURE TO MAKE RETURNS

- 6.1 There will be interaction with the medical schools and the Inspector of Anatomy by the Executive to ensure that there is compliance by the medical schools in making returns. In the event that a medical school fails to make a return, there will be escalation of the matter to the Inspector of Anatomy and to the Medical Council.

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