



**GUIDELINES
FOR THE EXAMINATION FOR APPLICANTS APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION
IN THE SUPERVISED DIVISION OF THE REGISTER OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS**

1. Statutory Context

These guidelines have been drawn up pursuant to the Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Act 2011. They should be read in conjunction with the Medical Council's Rules specifying examinations and criteria for registration in the Supervised Division of the Register of Medical Practitioners.

2. Purpose of Examination for the Supervised Division (ESD Level 2)

(a) The ESD Level 2 is the second part of the application process to determine eligibility for the Supervised Division, and both parts of the Assessment – Level 1 and Level 2 – must be passed before a candidate is eligible for registration in the Supervised Division. Level 1 – document verification - must normally be completed before an applicant can attempt Level 2.

(b) ESD Level 2 is a summative assessment of learning to date to assure the Medical Council of the practitioner's competence to practice in Ireland.

(c) The ESD Level 2 will, as far as practicable, be speciality-specific to the post that the applicant has applied for.

3. Competencies

(a) The examination will test both generic skills and skills/competencies specific to the specialty in which the doctor will work (which must be a specialty recognised by Council). These generic and specialty skills can be assessed in a single examination sitting. The generic skills that will be examined will be common across all specialties.

(b) The ESD Level 2 will examine three components; candidates' Clinical Judgement, Communication Skills and Data Interpretation Skills.

(c) The ESD Level 2 may include but may not be limited to the competencies specified in the Appendix.

(d) The ESD Level 2 will incorporate the Medical Council's Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice.

(e) Where appropriate, the ESD Level 2 will examine competence in specialty-specific clinical procedures and techniques.

4. Format

The ESD Level 2 will utilise one or more examination methodologies, as approved by Council.

5. Marking

The pass mark for the ESD Level 2 will be 50%.

6. Validity

Candidates will be allowed a maximum of three attempts to pass the ESD Level 2.

7. Arrangements

(a) The timing, frequency and organisation of the ESD Level 2 will be as determined by Council.

(b) Details about the application process and information for candidates will be posted in advance of the ESD Level 2 on the Council website.

(c) In order to be admitted to a sitting of the ESD Level 2, candidates must apply for ESD Level 2 by a specified date and in a manner specified by the Medical Council and must pay the appropriate fee.

8. Results and appeals

(a) The results of the ESD Level 2 will be ratified by the PDC before being released

(b) Appeals can only be made under the terms of the Council's Examinations Appeals Procedure.

Approved by Council on 18th July 2011

APPENDIX

CLINICAL JUDGEMENT, COMMUNICATION SKILLS & DATA INTERPRETATION SKILLS

1. Clinical Judgement

The principal components to clinical judgement include:

- a) Clinical History and Examination
- b) Clinical Skills (including appropriate clinical procedures)
- c) Infection Control
- d) Managing the Acutely Ill
- e) Prescribing
- f) Continuous Learning

2. Communication skills

The ability to communicate is an essential component of clinical practice. Medical practitioners must have effective verbal and written communication skills to enable the exchange of information between patients and their families as well as with clinical and other colleagues. The ESD will must include an assessment of verbal and communication skills and may also include the following:

- a) Patient confidentiality
- b) Clinical Note Taking
- c) Informed Consent

3. Data Interpretation skills

The principal components to data interpretation include:

- i. Patient management problems
- ii. Laboratory investigations
- iii. Radiographic images