



**University College
Dublin**

**Anatomy Department
Inspection Report
2023**



**Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council**

About the Medical Council

The Medical Council is the regulatory body for doctors. It has a statutory role in protecting the public by promoting the highest professional standards amongst doctors practising in the Republic of Ireland.

The Council has a majority of non-medical members. The 25-member Council consists of 13 non-medical members and 12 medical members. The Council receives no State funding and is funded primarily by doctors' registration fees.

The Medical Council maintains the Register of Medical Practitioners - the Register of all doctors who are legally permitted to carry out medical work in Ireland. The Council also sets the standards for medical education and training in Ireland. It oversees lifelong learning and skills development throughout doctors' professional careers through its professional competence requirements. It is charged with promoting good medical practice. The Medical Council is also where the public may make a complaint against a doctor.



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Statement with regard to the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, the General Data Protection Regulation ('GDPR') and the Data Protection Acts 1988 - 2018

The Medical Council routinely makes information available to the public in relation to its functions and activities and, in line with that practice, this report will be available on the Council's website, www.medicalcouncil.ie in due course.

The Freedom of Information Act is designed to allow public access to information held by public bodies which is not routinely available through other sources and access to this document may be sought in accordance with that Act. The Medical Council complies fully with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. It should be noted that access to information under the Freedom of Information Act is subject to certain exemptions and one or more of those exemptions may apply in relation to some or all of this report.

As a Data Controller, the Medical Council is also subject to the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation ('GDPR') and the Data Protection Acts 1988 – 2018. The Medical Council complies with its obligations as a Data Controller under the relevant legislation. Any person on whom the Medical Council holds personal information has certain rights, known as 'Subject Access Rights'. Further information on both Freedom of Information and Data Protection legislation is available on our website at: <https://www.medicalcouncil.ie/FOI-Data-Protection/>

Anatomy responsibilities

Licensing Authority

The Medical Council is the licensing authority for the practise of Anatomy in the State in accordance with the Anatomy Act 1832 as outlined in Section 106 of the Medical Practitioners Act (MPA) 2007:

-The Council—

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

- (i) grant a licence to practise Anatomy in the State,
- (ii) appoint inspectors of places in the State where Anatomy is carried on, and
- (iii) be the person to whom such inspectors shall make returns, under and in accordance with the Anatomy Act 1832, and

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

The Inspector of Anatomy

Following the introduction of the 2007 Act the Council appointed Professor Ceri Davies as the Inspector of Anatomy.

The Inspector of Anatomy was appointed by Council to perform the following functions:

- Advise the Council on the granting of licences to practice Anatomy in the State
- Inspect places in the State where Anatomy is practised
- Make returns to Council under and in accordance with the Anatomy Act 1832
- Advise the Council on the information sought by or to be provided to the Minister regarding the Council's functions under the Anatomy Act 1832
- Advise the Council on the teaching of Anatomy by any bodies approved under Section 88 (2) (a) (i) (ii) and/or Section 89 (3) (a) (ii) of the Act.

Inspection Team

At each inspection visit, the Inspector of Anatomy is supported by a non-medical member of the Medical Council (with no background in Anatomy or Pathology to ensure appropriate lay representation), as well as a member of the Medical Council Executive. The Medical Council's Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination provides the framework for the inspections of Anatomy Departments.

Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination

In the absence of up-to-date legislation, the Medical Council published the [Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination](#), in 2015. This Code was designed to help safeguard public confidence in the practice of Anatomy in Ireland and support continuous improvement within the Anatomy Departments whilst awaiting updated legislation in the form of the Human Tissue Act. Specifically, the Code of Practice aims to:

- Support institutions and individuals in the State to engage in best practice that reflects current society, science, medicine, education and ethics norms.
- Enable members of the public to better understand current best practice employed by institutions and individuals in the State that undertake Anatomical Examination, to ensure that trust in these practices is maintained.
- Provide a framework for inspections conducted by the Medical Council, through the Inspector of Anatomy, pursuant to its role under Section 106 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007, as the licensing authority under the Anatomy Act 1832.

Anatomy Department Inspection Report

University College Dublin (UCD)

License holder: Professor James Jones

Inspection team:

Prof. D. C. Davies, Inspector of Anatomy for the Medical Council
Mt John Murray, Medical Council member
Ms Nicole Weldon, Quality Assurance Executive, Medical Council

Date of inspection: 27 June 2023

SECTION 1 – ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

1. LICENSING, AUTHORITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The lead individual holding the licence for Anatomical Examination at UCD (Professor James Jones) has not changed since the 2019 inspection and the required annual returns have been made to the Medical Council. Staff changes have been notified to the Medical Council in the annual returns for 2019 -2022.

2. GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY SYSTEMS

I met with Professor Jones and senior technical and administrative staff for the purposes of the inspection. There is a clear line of management within the Belfield Department and its members understand their responsibilities in relation to their role in Anatomical Examination. This line of management extends to the satellite Clinical Anatomy Centre that operates under the same governance structure as the Anatomy Department on the Belfield Campus. All staff are appropriately qualified and trained for their work. UCD has appropriate annual performance management and development appraisals. Appropriate Risk Assessments of the practices and processes related to Anatomical Examination together with Standard Operating Procedures are in place and hard copies are available in the appropriate locations. Agreed protocols and Standard Operating Procedures are in place for the transfer of donors between Belfield Campus and the satellite Clinical Anatomy Centre and the operation of the Clinical Anatomy Centre. Hard copies of these are available in the Clinical Anatomy Centre. Corrigan & Sons are responsible for the transport of donors between the Belfield Campus and the satellite Clinical Anatomy Centre. The service level agreement between the Dublin Medical Schools (including UCD) and their undertakers, Corrigan & Sons has been reviewed and revised. A draft service level agreement between the Dublin Medical Schools and the Dublin Cemeteries Trust is being reviewed by the Trust, and it is hoped that it will be finalised in the near future. A committee has been set-up to review requests to conduct anatomical research; it is recommended that this committee also reviews request to run postgraduate courses using specimens donated for Anatomical Examination.

There is a Pathology / Anatomy Museum attached to the library on the Belfield campus. The external doors to the Museum are alarmed and monitored by CCTV. Each specimen in the Museum is catalogued, given a QR code and tagged so that an alarm sounds if an attempt is made to remove it from the Museum. The museum has been closed to students since the beginning of the Covid pandemic.

SECTION 2 – RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

1. CONSENT

UCD uses the model consent form published as an appendix to the Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination. This consent form meets all of the recommendations within the Code of Practice. The information booklet for potential donors and their families gives appropriate information for the consent to be fully informed.

2. PREMISES, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The Belfield premises, facilities and equipment were inspected from the entrance point of a donor's remains, through the embalming and storage facility, to the dissecting room. The security of the undertaker's entrance is good and monitored by CCTV. All CCTV is monitored by College Security and recordings are kept for 30 days. There is swipe card access to the dedicated body lift. The embalming and preparation facilities are in good operative condition. The storage of cadavers and retained parts is appropriate and secure; cadaveric material is transferred directly from the embalming / storage facility to the Dissecting Room via 'through' storage fridges. Air quality in the embalming / preparation and Dissecting Rooms appeared good and 15 air changes per hour were reported. The Dissecting Room doors are alarmed and monitored by CCTV, as is the entrance to the body lift. The entrance of students into the Dissecting Room is controlled and recorded by scanning their ID card bar codes. The signage in and around the dissecting room is appropriate. The plastination suite is now in use, largely to preserve historical specimens. The necessary volatile chemicals are stored in a 'flammables' room in the basement of the building.

The premises, facilities and equipment at the satellite Clinical Anatomy Centre Mater at the Misericordiae University Hospital, were inspected from the entrance point of the donor to the teaching facility. The undertaker's entry can be closed to prevent unauthorized access during donor delivery. A temporary entrance into the building is in use while the mortuary is being refurbished, which is restricted by swipe card access. The trolley lift to the floor of the Clinical Anatomy Centre can now be placed under key control to prevent inadvertent entry. The corridors from the lift to the Clinical Anatomy Centre cannot be 'locked down' and an agreed 'out of hours' delivery protocol is in place. Entrance to the Surgical Skills Centre is by restricted swipe card access and the entrance and exits are monitored by CCTV and relayed to the main hospital security control centre. Within the Surgical Skills Centre, entry into the Clinical Anatomy Centre is also restricted by swipe card. The facilities and equipment within the Clinical Anatomy Centre are appropriate for purpose for short-term storage of embalmed anatomical specimens, Anatomical Examination and basic surgical skills training. The provision of equipment for skills training has increased markedly since the last inspection. In addition to the training of UCD clinical students, the provision of postgraduate training courses has also increased since the last inspection. Fifteen such postgraduate courses were run in the Clinical Anatomy Centre in 2022. The signage at the entry points to the Clinical Anatomy Centre and procedure rooms is good and appropriately emphasizes restricted access and the prohibition of mobile phones and cameras. A daily record of Clinical Anatomy Centre users is kept.

3. RECORD KEEPING / TRACEABILITY

Donation records are stored on a stand-alone computer in a secure room and backed-up on an external hard drive. Paper copies of the donation records are stored in a secure fire-proof cabinet. A record is kept of all donor transfers to and returns from the satellite Clinical Anatomy Centre. Paper copies of donation records accompany embalmed donors transferred from the Belfield campus to the satellite Clinical Anatomy Centre. There is an inventory of retained parts that is hyper-linked to the cadaver and donation records. Cadavers and where practicable prosected parts

are 'chipped' for electronic identification. An audit of traceability was successfully conducting by randomly selecting some cadavers and retained parts and tracing them back to their consent forms and other records. Plastinated anatomical specimens are recorded in a photographic catalogue. It is recommended that a regular internal audit system for all human material held for Anatomical Examination is developed and implemented.

4. SENSITIVE DISPOSAL

The donation information booklet provides full information about the options available for disposal of the donors' remains. Donor's remains are cremated or buried at Glasnevin Cemetery or returned to their relatives. Donors transferred to the satellite Clinical Anatomy Centre are returned to the Belfield campus prior to disposal.

5. LOAN / TRANSFER OF CADAVERIC MATERIAL

UCD does not currently loan or transfer any cadaveric material to other institutions.

Conclusion

Following the inspection of the University College Dublin (UCD) Anatomy Department on 27 June 2023, I recommend that:

1. University College Dublin (UCD) should continue to be licensed for the practice of Anatomical Examination. This recommendation is made on the grounds that the visiting Medical Council team found that the site is adhering to the standards set out in the Medical Council's Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination.

Continuation of the licence for University College Dublin (UCD) is subject to ongoing approval by the Medical Council.



D. C Davies
Inspector of Anatomy

15 July 2023



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