



Medical Act 1983

1983 CHAPTER 54

PART II

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION: PERSONS QUALIFYING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ELSEWHERE IN THE EEC

3 Registration by virtue of primary United Kingdom or primary European qualifications

Subject to the provisions of this Act any person who—

- (a) holds one or more primary United Kingdom qualifications and has passed a qualifying examination and satisfies the requirements of this Part of this Act as to experience; or
- (b) being a national of any member State of the Communities, holds one or more primary European qualifications,

is entitled to be registered under this section as a fully registered medical practitioner.

4 Qualifying examinations and primary United Kingdom qualifications

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Part of this Act, a qualifying examination for the purposes of this Part of this Act is an examination held by any of the bodies or combinations of bodies specified in subsection (2) below for the purpose of granting one or more primary United Kingdom qualifications.

(2) The bodies and combinations of bodies entitled to hold qualifying examinations are—

- (a) any of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Newcastle, Bristol, Nottingham, Southampton, Leicester, Wales, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Dundee or the Queen's University of Belfast or a combination of any two or more of the universities specified in this paragraph;
- (b) a combination of the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England;

- (c) a combination of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow;
 - (d) the Society of Apothecaries of London;
 - (e) with the approval and under the directions of the Education Committee, a combination of any two or more of the bodies specified in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) above.
- (3) In this Act "primary United Kingdom qualification" means any of the following qualifications, namely—
- (a) the degree of bachelor of medicine or bachelor of surgery granted by any university in the United Kingdom ;
 - (b) licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of London or the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh or the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh or the Royal College (formerly Royal Faculty) of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow;
 - (c) membership of the Royal College of Surgeons of England;
 - (d) licentiate in medicine and surgery of the Society of Apothecaries of London.
- (4) Any two or more of the universities and other bodies specified in subsection (3) above may, with the approval and under the directions of the Education Committee, unite or cooperate in conducting examinations held for the purpose of granting primary United Kingdom qualifications.

5 General functions of the Education Committee in relation to medical education in the United Kingdom

- (1) The Education Committee shall have the general function of promoting high standards of medical education and coordinating all stages of medical education.
- (2) For the purpose of discharging that function the Education Committee shall—
- (a) determine the extent of the knowledge and skill which is to be required for the granting of primary United Kingdom qualifications and secure that the instruction given in universities in the United Kingdom to persons studying for such qualifications is sufficient to equip them with knowledge and skill of that extent;
 - (b) determine the standard of proficiency which is to be required from candidates at qualifying examinations and secure the maintenance of that standard; and
 - (c) determine patterns of experience which may be recognised as suitable for giving to those engaging in such employment as is mentioned in section 10(2) below general clinical training for the purposes of the practice of their profession.
- (3) The determinations of the Education Committee under subsection (2) above shall be embodied in recommendations which may be directed to all or any of the universities or other bodies concerned with medical education.
- (4) In this Act—
- " the prescribed knowledge and skill" means knowledge and skill of the extent for the time being determined under subsection (2)(a) above and embodied in recommendations under subsection (3) above ;

"the prescribed standard of proficiency" means the standard of proficiency for the time being determined under subsection (2)(b) above and embodied in recommendations under subsection (3) above ;

" a prescribed pattern of experience " means any pattern of experience for the time being determined under subsection (2)(c) above and embodied in recommendations under subsection (3) above.

6 Further powers of the Education Committee

- (1) A university or other body in the United Kingdom granting any primary United Kingdom qualification or any additional qualification for the time being registrable under section 16 below shall from time to time, when so required by the Education Committee, furnish the Committee with such information as the Committee may require as to—
 - (a) the courses of study and examinations to be gone through in order to obtain the qualification;
 - (b) the ages at which such courses of study and examinations are required to be gone through;
 - (c) the age at which the qualification is granted; and
 - (d) generally the requisites for obtaining the qualification.
- (2) For the purpose of securing the maintenance of the prescribed standard of proficiency the Education Committee may appoint such number of inspectors as they may determine, and the inspectors shall attend, as the Committee may direct, all or any of the qualifying examinations held by any university or other body specified in section 4(3) above.
- (3) Any person deputed for the purpose by the Education Committee may attend and be present at any examination held in the United Kingdom which has to be gone through in order to obtain a primary United Kingdom qualification or any additional qualification for the time being registrable under section 16 below.
- (4) Inspectors appointed under subsection (2) above shall not interfere with the conduct of any examination, but it shall be their duty to report to the Education Committee their opinion as to the sufficiency of every examination which they attend, and any other matters relating to such examinations which the Committee may require them to report.
- (5) The Education Committee shall forward a copy of every report of the inspectors to the body or each of the bodies who held the examination to which the report relates and shall also forward a copy of the report, together with any observations on it made by the said body or bodies, to the Privy Council.

7 Power to appoint visitors of medical schools

- (1) The Education Committee may appoint persons to visit, subject to any directions which the Privy Council may deem it expedient to give and to compliance with any conditions specified in any such directions, places where instruction is given to medical students under the direction of any university or other body specified in section 4(3) above.
- (2) It shall be the duty of visitors appointed under subsection (1) "above to report to the Education Committee as to the sufficiency of the instruction given in the places

which they visit and as to any other matters relating to the instruction which may be specified by the Committee either generally or in any particular case ; but no visitor shall interfere with the giving of any instruction.

- (3) On the receipt of any report of a visitor under subsection (2) above the Education Committee shall send a copy of the report to the university or other body under whose direction the instruction is given, and on the receipt of the copy that body may within such period of not less than one month as the Committee may have specified at the time they sent the copy of the report, make to the Committee observations on the report or objections to it.
- (4) As soon as may be after the expiration of the period specified under subsection (3) above the Education Committee shall send a copy of the report and of any observations on it or objections to it duly made, together with the Committee's comments on the report and on any such observations or objections, to the Privy Council.

8 Power to add further qualifying examinations

- (1) If it appears to the Education Committee that the standard of proficiency required from candidates at examinations held or to be held by any university or combination of universities in the United Kingdom for the purpose of granting one or more primary United Kingdom qualifications does or will conform to the prescribed standard of proficiency, the Committee may represent to the Privy Council that it is expedient that those examinations should become qualifying examinations for the purposes of this Part of this Act.
- (2) Her Majesty may by Order in Council give effect to any representations made to the Privy Council under subsection (1) above, and any such Order may make such amendments in section 4(2) above as are necessary for giving effect to the Order.

9 Powers of Privy Council where standards not maintained

- (1) If at any time it appears to the Education Committee that the course of study and examinations to be gone through in order to obtain a primary United Kingdom qualification are not such as to equip persons going through the course and examinations with the prescribed knowledge and skill, the Committee may make representations to that effect to the Privy Council.
- (2) On any representations under subsection (1) above the Privy Council may, if they see fit, order that a qualification granted, after such time as may be specified in the order, in pursuance of the course of study and examinations to which the order relates shall not be a qualification registrable under section 16 below.
- (3) Where an order is made under subsection (2) above, no person shall be entitled to be registered under this Part of this Act by virtue of any qualification specified in the order and granted after such time as may be so specified.
- (4) If at any time it appears to the Education Committee that the standard of proficiency required from candidates at any qualifying examination does not conform to the prescribed standard of proficiency, the Committee shall make representations to that effect to the Privy Council.
- (5) Where representations are made under subsection (4) above the Privy Council, if they think fit, after considering the representations and any objections to them made by any university or other body to which they relate, may by order declare that the

examinations held by that university or body shall be deemed not to be qualifying examinations for the purposes of this Part of this Act,

- (6) A qualification granted on the passing of an examination to which an order under subsection (5) above relates, and granted while the order is in force, shall not entitle the holder of the qualification to be registered under this Part of this Act.
- (7) An order under this section—
- (a) if made under subsection (2) above, may be revoked by Her Majesty with the advice of the Privy Council if it is made to appear to Her Majesty, upon further representations from the Education Committee or otherwise, that the university or other body to which the order relates has made effectual provision, to the satisfaction of the Committee, for the improvement of the course of study or examinations to which the order relates or the mode of conducting those examinations ;
 - (b) if made under subsection (5) above, may be revoked by Her Majesty with the advice of the Privy Council if upon further representation from the Education Committee or from any university or other body to which the order relates it seems to Her Majesty expedient so to do;

but the revocation of an order made under subsection (2) above shall not entitle any person to be registered by virtue of a qualification granted before the revocation.

10 Experience required for full registration by virtue of primary United Kingdom qualifications

- (1) The following are the requirements as to experience mentioned in section 3(a) above.
- (2) A person must, after passing a qualifying examination, have been engaged for the prescribed period in employment in a resident medical capacity in one or more approved hospitals or approved institutions and have obtained a certificate under this section.
- (3) A person who has been employed as mentioned in subsection (2) above may apply to his examining body for a certificate under this section, and if that body are satisfied—
- (a) that during the time he has been so employed he has been engaged in at least two branches of medicine prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph for the minimum period prescribed for each branch;
 - (b) that the combination of posts which he has held while so employed was such as to provide him with the experience required by a prescribed pattern of experience recognised by that body as applicable to persons for whom they are the examining body; and
 - (c) that his service while so employed has been satisfactory,
- they shall grant him a certificate in the prescribed form that they are so satisfied.
- (4) Where, on an application in that behalf, a person satisfies the General Council that by reason of lasting physical disability he will be or has been prevented from embarking on, or completing, any period of experience of the practice of a branch of medicine prescribed for the purposes of this section the Council may if they think fit direct that the applicant may for the purposes of this section count in lieu thereof experience of the practice of some other prescribed branch of medicine (whether or not one in the practice of which he has already had experience for those purposes) acquired in the same manner and for the same period, or, as the case may be, for so much of that period as will have remained uncompleted.

- (5) Where the General Council give a direction under subsection (4) above as respects any person they shall give notice of the direction to his examining body.

11 Provisions supplementary to s. 10, etc.

- (1) Subsections (2) to (4) below shall have effect for the construction of section 10 above and the following provisions of this Part of this Act.
- (2) References to a person's examining body shall be construed as follows—
- (a) where he claims registration by virtue of a qualification granted on passing an examination held by two or more bodies jointly, such references shall be construed as references to those bodies acting jointly;
 - (b) subject as aforesaid, such references shall be construed as references to the body granting the qualification by virtue of which he claims registration or, where he is entitled to claim registration by virtue of two or more qualifications, such references shall be construed as references to the body granting such of those qualifications as he may choose.
- (3) References to employment in a resident medical capacity shall be construed as references to employment in the practice of any branch of medicine prescribed for the purposes of section 10 above where the person employed is resident in the hospital or institution where he is employed or conveniently near to it and is by the terms of his employment required to be so resident.
- (4) In the provisions mentioned in subsection (1) above—
- " approved ", in relation to a hospital or institution, means approved for the time being for the purposes of this section by any university or other body specified in section 4(3) above as providing experience required by one or more prescribed patterns of experience; and
- " prescribed " (except in the expression " prescribed pattern of experience ") means prescribed by regulations of the Education Committee.
- (5) Regulations of the Education Committee under subsection (2) of section 10 above shall not have effect until approved by order of the Privy Council.
- (6) The Privy Council may approve regulations of the Education Committee made under subsection (2) of section 10 above either as submitted to them or with such modifications as appear to them requisite; but where the Privy Council propose to approve any regulations under that subsection subject to modifications they shall notify to the Education Committee the modifications they propose to make and consider any observations of the Committee on the proposed modifications.

12 Special provisions as to employment in health centres

- (1) For the purposes of sections 10 and 11 above, " institution " includes a health centre if, and only if, it is a centre provided under sections 2 and 3 of the National Health Service Act 1977, section 36 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978, or Article 5 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972.
- (2) Employment in such a centre shall not be treated as employment for the purposes of sections 10 and 11 above unless it is either—
- (a) employment by a fully registered medical practitioner in the provision of general medical services under Part II of the National Health Service Act

1977, Part II of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 or Part VI of the said Order of 1972 ; or

- (b) employment in the provision of the services of specialists or other services provided for out-patients in a health centre provided as mentioned in subsection (1) above.
- (3) The Education Committee may by regulations provide that the period of employment in a health centre which may be reckoned towards the completion of any of the periods mentioned in section 10(3)(a) above shall not exceed such period as may be specified in the regulations.

13 Power to appoint visitors of approved hospitals

- (1) The Education Committee may, if they think fit, appoint persons to visit any approved hospital or approved institution.
- (2) It shall be the duty of visitors appointed under subsection (1) above to report to the Education Committee on the extent to which the general clinical training given by employment in a resident medical capacity in the hospital or institution is such as to provide the experience required by one or more prescribed patterns of experience.
- (3) If the Education Committee are of the opinion that—
- (a) an approved hospital or an approved institution does not provide experience required by any prescribed pattern of experience; or
 - (b) a pattern of experience recognised as applicable to persons by their examining body is not a prescribed pattern of experience; or
 - (c) a combination of posts which is accepted by their examining body as providing persons who have held the posts comprised in the combination with the experience required by a prescribed pattern of experience does not in fact provide that experience,

then the Committee shall notify their opinion to the university or body concerned and that university or body shall have regard to that opinion in discharging their functions under sections 10 and 11 above.

14 Alternative requirements as to experience in certain cases

- (1) On an application made to them by a person to whom this section applies, the General Council may direct that, as an alternative to the requirements as to experience specified in section 10 above, it shall be sufficient for the applicant to satisfy the General Council that he has acquired experience of the practice of medicine, whether in the course of employment in the United Kingdom or in the course of employment outside the United Kingdom, which is not less extensive than that required for a certificate under the said section 10.
- (2) This section applies to any person who claims registration under section 3 above and—
- (a) claims such registration by virtue of a qualification granted before 1st January 1953 ; or
 - (b) is the holder of a primary United Kingdom qualification and also of a qualification granted outside the United Kingdom which is recognised by the General Council for the purposes of this section as furnishing a sufficient guarantee of the possession of knowledge and skill corresponding with the prescribed knowledge and skill.

15 Provisional registration

- (1) This section shall have effect for enabling persons wishing to obtain certificates under section 10 above to be employed as mentioned in subsection (2) of that section.
- (2) A person who, apart from any requirement as to experience, would by virtue of any qualification or qualifications held by him be entitled to be registered under section 3 above shall be entitled to be registered provisionally under this section.
- (3) A person provisionally registered under this section shall be deemed to be registered under section 3 above as a fully registered medical practitioner so far as is necessary to enable him to be engaged in employment in a resident medical capacity in one or more approved hospitals or approved institutions but not further.

16 Registration of qualifications

- (1) A person registered under section 3 above or section 15 above shall be entitled to have registered the primary United Kingdom qualification or qualifications or primary European qualification or qualifications which he holds when he is so registered and also—
 - (a) any other primary United Kingdom qualification or qualification specified in Schedule 2 to this Act which he obtains after registration;
 - (b) subject to subsection (3) below, any additional qualification which the Education (Committee determine ought to be registrable by virtue of this paragraph which he holds when he is registered or obtains thereafter;
 - (c) any recognised overseas qualification or other qualification which is for the time being registrable by virtue of section 26(1)(b) below which he holds when he is registered or obtains thereafter.
- (2) In this Act " additional qualification " means any qualification granted in a member State of the Communities other than a primary United Kingdom qualification or a qualification specified in Schedule 2 to this Act
- (3) If the Education Committee determine that any such Qualification as is mentioned in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) above ought not to be registrable by virtue of that paragraph if granted before or after a particular date, a person holding that qualification shall not be entitled to have it registered if it was granted to him before or, as the case may be, after that date.

17 Primary qualifications obtained in other member States of the Communities

- (1) A primary European qualification for the purposes of this Part of this Act is—
 - (a) any European qualification listed in Schedule 2 to this Act which is acquired in a member State of the Communities on or after the date on which it implemented the second Medical Directive and is not evidence of training commenced by the holder before that date;
 - (b) subject to compliance with subsection (2) below, any qualification obtained in a member State of the Communities before the date on which it implemented the second Medical Directive or on or after that date where training of which that qualification is evidence commenced before that date.
- (2) For compliance with this subsection in the case of any qualifications, either—

- (a) they must be such that the Registrar is satisfied with respect to them (by means of a certificate of the medical authorities of the member State of the Communities in which they were acquired or otherwise) that they accord with the standards laid down by the second Medical Directive; or
 - (b) evidence of them must be accompanied by a certificate of the medical authorities of any member State of the Communities that the holder has lawfully been engaged in actual medical practice for at least 3 consecutive years during the 5 years preceding the date of the certificate.
- (3) In subsection (2) above, references to the medical authorities of a member State of the Communities are references to the authorities and bodies designated in accordance with the first Medical Directive or the second Medical Directive.
- (4) In this Act—
- "the first Medical Directive" means Council Directive No. [75/362/EEC](#) concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in medicine, and
- "the second Medical Directive" means Council Directive No. [75/363/EEC](#) concerning the co-ordination of provisions in respect of activities of doctors;
- and for the purposes of subsection (1) above a member State is to be regarded as having implemented the second Medical Directive on the date notified to the Commission of the European Communities as that on which it did so.

18 Visiting EEC practitioners

- (1) If he complies with the requirements of this section it shall be lawful for a person who is a national of any member State of the Communities and lawfully established in medical practice in a member State of the Communities other than the United Kingdom on visiting the United Kingdom to render medical services there temporarily without first being registered under the foregoing provisions of this Part or under Part III of this Act.
- (2) Such a person intending so to render services shall provide the Registrar with—
- (a) a declaration in writing giving particulars of the services to be rendered and the period or periods in which he expects to render them ; and
 - (b) a certificate or certificates issued by the competent authority or body and bearing a date not less recent than 12 months prior to the date on which it is provided, which shows—
 - (i) that he is lawfully practising medicine in a member State other than the United Kingdom, and
 - (ii) that he holds medical qualifications which member States are required by the first Medical Directive to recognise;
- and for the purposes of this subsection "the competent authority or body" means the authority or body designated by the member State concerned as competent for the purposes of Article 16(3) of that Directive.
- (3) In an urgent case the declaration to be provided under paragraph (a) of subsection (2) above may be provided after the services have been rendered, but where it is so provided it shall be provided as soon as possible thereafter and in any event not more than 15 days after the date on which the practitioner first rendered such services.

- (4) Where a person complies with the requirements of subsection (2) above, the Registrar shall register him under this section in the register of medical practitioners as a visiting EEC practitioner for such period or periods as, having regard to the particulars given in the declaration referred to in subsection (2)(a) above, he considers appropriate.
- (5) Registration of a person as a visiting EEC practitioner shall cease if—
- (a) he becomes established in medical practice in the United Kingdom; or
 - (b) he renders, save in a case of urgency, medical services in the United Kingdom otherwise than in accordance with a declaration made by him under subsection (2)(a) above.