



Medical Act 1983

1983 CHAPTER 54

PART VI

PRIVILEGES OF REGISTERED PRACTITIONERS

- 47** [^{F1}Appointments not to be held except by fully registered medical practitioners who hold licences to practise.]
- (1) [^{F2}Subject to subsection (2) below, only a person who is fully registered and who holds a licence to practise may hold an appointment as physician, surgeon or other medical officer]—
- (a) in the naval, military or air service,
 - (b) in any hospital or other place for the reception of persons suffering from mental disorder, or in any other hospital, infirmary or dispensary not supported wholly by voluntary contributions,
 - (c) in any prison, or
 - (d) in any other public establishment, body or institution,
- or to any friendly or other society for providing mutual relief in sickness, infirmity or old age.
- (2) Nothing in this section shall prevent any person who is not a Commonwealth citizen from being and acting as the resident physician or medical officer of any hospital established exclusively for the relief of foreigners in sickness, so long as he—
- (a) has obtained from a foreign university a degree or diploma of doctor in medicine and has passed the regular examinations entitling him to practise medicine in his own country, and
 - (b) is engaged in no medical practice except as such a resident physician or medical officer.
- [^{F3}(3) None of the suspension events mentioned in subsection (4) below shall terminate any appointment such as is mentioned in subsection (1) above, but the person suspended shall not perform the duties of such an appointment during the suspension.
- (4) The suspension events are—

Changes to legislation: Medical Act 1983, Section 47 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (a) the suspension of registration of a person by a [^{F4}Medical Practitioners Tribunal]—
 - (i) following a finding of impairment of fitness to practise by reason of deficient professional performance or adverse physical or mental health under section 35D above, or
 - (ii) under [^{F5}paragraph 5A(3D) or 5C(4)] of Schedule 4 to this Act;
- (b) an order for immediate suspension by a [^{F4}Medical Practitioners Tribunal] under section 38(1) above; or
- (c) an interim suspension order by an [^{F6}Interim Orders Tribunal] or a [^{F4}Medical Practitioners Tribunal] under section 41A above (or such an order as extended under that section).]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 47 sidenote substituted (16.11.2009 as notified in the London Gazette dated 21.8.2009) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/3135\)](#), arts. 1(2)(3), **12(5)(b)** (with Sch. 2)
- F2** Words in s. 47(1) substituted (16.11.2009 as notified in the London Gazette dated 21.8.2009) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/3135\)](#), arts. 1(2)(3), **12(5)(a)** (with Sch. 2)
- F3** S. 47(3)(4) substituted for s. 47(3) (1.11.2004 as notified in the London Gazette dated 8.10.2004) by [The Medical Act 1983 \(Amendment\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/3135\)](#), arts. 1(2)(3), **15(2)** (with Sch. 2)
- F4** Words in s. 47(4) substituted (31.12.2015) by [The General Medical Council \(Fitness to Practise and Over-arching Objective\) and the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care \(References to Court\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/794\)](#), arts. 1(3), **4(9)**; S.I. 2015/1952, art. 2(c)
- F5** Words in s. 47(4)(a)(ii) substituted (31.12.2015) by [The General Medical Council \(Fitness to Practise and Over-arching Objective\) and the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care \(References to Court\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/794\)](#), arts. 1(3), **12(11)**; S.I. 2015/1952, art. 2(i)
- F6** Words in s. 47(4) substituted (31.12.2015) by [The General Medical Council \(Fitness to Practise and Over-arching Objective\) and the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care \(References to Court\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/794\)](#), arts. 1(3), **4(11)**; S.I. 2015/1952, art. 2(c)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 47(4)(a) words substituted by [2008 c. 14 Sch. 7 para. 17\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 47(4)(a)(ii) words substituted by [2008 c. 14 Sch. 7 para. 17\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 47(4)(b) words substituted by [2008 c. 14 Sch. 7 para. 17\(b\)](#)
- s. 47(4)(c) words substituted by [2008 c. 14 Sch. 7 para. 17\(c\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act words substituted by [2005 c. 4 Sch. 11 para. 6](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 29B(2A)-(2C) inserted by [S.I. 2008/3131 Sch. 1 para. 9\(2\)](#)
- s. 29B(2A)(a) word substituted by [S.I. 2010/234 Sch. 1 para. 2](#)
- s. 29B(3A) inserted by [S.I. 2008/3131 Sch. 1 para. 9\(3\)](#)
- s. 29E(1)(d)(e) inserted by [S.I. 2008/3131 Sch. 1 para. 12\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 29E(2)(e)(f) inserted by [S.I. 2008/3131 Sch. 1 para. 12\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 29F(1)(d)(e) inserted by [S.I. 2008/3131 Sch. 1 para. 14\(3\)](#)
- s. 35C(2)(f)(g) inserted by [S.I. 2008/1774 Sch. 1 para. 15](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). It was due to come into force on the coming into force of s. 44(1) of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (c. 47), see art. 1(4). S. 44(1) was repealed without ever being in force on 10.9.2012 by [2012 c. 9, s. 75\(6\), Sch. 10 Pt. 5; S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2](#))
- s. 35ZA inserted by [2008 c. 14 Sch. 7 para. 4](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 1A(1)(b)(iv)(v) inserted by [S.I. 2024/374 Sch. 5 para. 1\(2\)\(b\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 3B para. 5(d)(e) inserted by [S.I. 2008/3131 Sch. 1 para. 19\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 3B para. 6(1)(d)(e) inserted by [S.I. 2008/3131 Sch. 1 para. 19\(3\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3B para. 6(2)(d)(e) inserted by [S.I. 2008/3131 Sch. 1 para. 19\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3B para. 7(1)(d)(e) inserted by [S.I. 2008/3131 Sch. 1 para. 19\(4\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3B para. 7(2)(c) and word inserted by [S.I. 2008/3131 Sch. 1 para. 19\(4\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)