

## Transformation of PMDC to PMC

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**Citation:** Iqbal SS, Jamaluddin M, Mudassir MS. Transformation of PMDC to PMC [Online]. ASH KMDC 25 (4)

In Pakistan, medical professions are controlled and regulated by a body for proper function. Initially it was Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) but now it has become Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC). The Pakistan Medical Council Ordinance 1962 established the present-day Pakistan Medical and Dental Council as a statutory body in 1962 and all provincial councils were dissolved then. Three amendments were passed after establishment of PMDC known as (Amendment) Act in 1973, 1999 and 2012<sup>1</sup>. Now the PMC was established on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 for the regulation and control of medical profession to increase the basic and higher medical education and practice in both medical and dental sections<sup>2</sup>.

There was a time not long ago that medical colleges in Pakistan were respected institutions. Pakistani medical colleges were registered by the general medical council of UK and the doctors were eligible to apply for jobs in UK hospitals. They were not only respected but also given high regards for their skills and knowledge. The education in colleges was up to the standards of the world colleges of medicine and the clinical practice was regarded to be the best.

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Date of Submission: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020  
Date of Acceptance: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Though, in the last few decades there has been a tragic decline in the quality of doctors due to which many ambiguities arise on the standards followed at medical schools and the body which governs it.

These lead to the deterioration of medical standards and the functioning or rather malfunctioning of the regulatory body. It has unfortunately not lived up to the high moral, ethical and academic standards expected of a prestigious body.

The training in medicine is contemporary with the continuous evolution of the profession and there has been a multitude of changes from basic to postgraduate medical education all over the world<sup>3</sup>, but especially in Pakistan, unfortunately this was not done.

It brings us days of chaos i.e. transformation of PMDC to PMC.

At this point of time we can highly appreciate and be grateful to times which were peaceful and stable.

The Pakistan Medical Commission is an autonomous body that regulates and establishes the official register of medical practitioners within Pakistan. Its major function is to make sure that uniformity of minimum standard for basic and higher qualifications in medicine and dentistry all over Pakistan is controlled by PMC<sup>4</sup>.

The establishment of 'PMC' is not a bad idea and one should not fear from it as new ideas and

rules which are going throughout the world should be incorporated in Pakistan Medical Commission so that the doctors should be given equal weight age when they go abroad. The level of competence should be at par to the doctors throughout the world. To achieve this NLE was introduced as a mandatory exam for all graduates to pass in order to practice. This has caused hue and cry among the practitioners as they think that giving an exam at this stage of life will be disrespect to them. However, it is not so, because this is only for the benefit of everyone which is taken negatively and to discourage quackery.

So, the NLE exam for the first time introduced in order to check the competency level of the practitioner every 2 years. This step by `PMC` is good and will keep the doctors on their toes thus, keeping themselves fit and up to date with the current medical knowledge and issues<sup>5</sup>.

PMC has also formulated the admission policy which is questioned by many students, as they are getting anxious and worried that changes at this stage may create ambiguity. However, the policy seems to be quite satisfactory but once the things will be implemented then the short comings will be revealed and then `PMC` could do amendments to improve it. We should be considerate of taking new ideas to match with the fast world of technological medicine. PMC should take this in account and work out a solution for the best outcome.

Another step taken by PMC towards the eligibility criteria for students to appear in the entry test should be 60% minimum instead of 65% as it gives equal chance to all candidates to compete for the fair and transparent admissions<sup>6</sup>. This raising of the eligibility percentage has discouraged many students and has caused many to opt for a gap year, even in such times where support would have been appreciated. It is important that student's satisfaction should also be considered while making poli-

cies and decisions regarding their whole future. A little negligence on their side will destroy their career forever leading students into depression and discouragement. Cultural differences should be put aside and with an open mind only the betterment of the students should be considered. Our future is dependent upon our youth and support to our youth will be vital.

However, other matters also seem to be user friendly. It is our duty that we should give room to the new policy makers to work freely and efficiently in order to gain best results from their policies. But it is important that PMC should find a middle ground between the experienced and new comers and create an environment which is productive and beneficial for the youth and acceptable for the experienced practitioners to work in harmony.

We all hope that the new policies made by `PMC` will be in the larger interest of our doctor's community. Hopefully it will be taken as a positive initiative towards better and more progressive medical commission.

## Reference

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