



Drafted and printed by the Board of Study in Forensic  
Medicine and the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine,  
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO



**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE  
OF MEDICINE OF SRI LANKA**

**Regulations and Guidelines  
for  
Postgraduate Diploma in  
Legal Medicine  
MD in Forensic Medicine**

**2008**

**08**

**In accordance with the decision of the Board of Study in Forensic Medicine and the approval of the Board of Management of the PGIM, this Prospectus, curriculum and training programme in Legal Medicine became effective from 01<sup>st</sup> January 2008.**

**REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES**  
for

Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Medicine  
MD Forensic Medicine

Postgraduate Institute of Medicine of Sri Lanka  
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

## Diploma in Legal Medicine

### (1) Introduction

The Board of Study in Forensic Medicine will conduct an examination, leading to the award of the **Post Graduate** Diploma in Legal Medicine. The Postgraduate Diploma shall not entitle the successful candidate to specialist status.

### (11) Eligibility to sit the examination

The prospective candidate should possess

- a) a Medical degree registered \* with the Sri Lanka Medical Council
  - b) satisfactory completion of internship acceptable to the Sri Lanka Medical Council.
  - c) satisfactory completion of one year of post internship in medical/clinical practice in a University/Public/Private Sector Institution in Sri Lanka acceptable to the PGIM.
  - d) The criteria prescribed in paragraphs (a) to (c) must have been satisfied by the applicants as at the date of closure of applications, provided that where a short-fall has occurred due to any reasons including Sick, Maternity or Other leave, the doctor concerned should complete such shortfall in order to become eligible to apply for the Selection examination.
  - e) and completed 24 months of in-service training in a recognized medico-legal unit.
  - f) submit a case book acceptable to the assessor appointed by the Board of Study on a date stipulated by the Board of study.
- \* foreign nationals who seek registration in respect of Selection Examination should possess a medical degree registrable with the Sri Lanka Medical Council.

- Entry to the training programmes is by Selection Examination.  
(A quota for the Private Sector is presently available for most courses)

### (111) Training

- (a) subject to provisions (11) (a) and (b) any prospective candidate may apply to the Director PGIM to sit the selection test conducted by the Board of Study.
- (b) ( i ) The director PGIM in consultation with the Board of Study will allocate those who have been successful at the selection test, a suitable place of training, subject to the availability of training places and according to the merit order.  
( ii ) Foreign nationals who possess a medical degree registrable with the Sri Lanka Medical Council , may apply to the Director PGIM seeking exemption from the selection test. The Director PGIM may grant such exemption on the recommendation of the Board of Study for such person to be enrolled for in-service training on a supernumerary basis. However, the Board of Management stipulation is entry by selection test.
- (c) The period of training commences on the date stipulated by the Director PGIM on the recommendation of the Board of Study.
- (d) Duration of the DLM training Programme - The trainee will spend 24 months in a recognized medico-legal unit for in-service training, where the trainee will be expected to gain adequate experience.

During the period of training the trainee will be released to the PGIM on secondment and the supervisor will be the head of the department or most senior specialist of such unit.

(The latter may whenever necessary, request the Director to initiate disciplinary procedures by written communication detailing the misdemeanors committed by the trainee.)

Periodical appraisal and continuous assessment of attainment and performance of the trainee shall be made during the period of training by the trainer and a report to be submitted to the Director of Postgraduate Institute of Medicine every 2 months.

If the report of the trainer reveals unsatisfactory performance by the trainee, the Board of Study in Forensic Medicine shall take appropriate action.

A certificate of satisfactory completion of training from the supervisor is a pre-requisite to sit the examination.

- (a) During the period of training, the supervisor will make the arrangements for the trainee to gain adequate experience in medico-legal aspects and **pathology** training of related specialties.

The trainee will be advised to attend lectures, tutorials, work shops etc. designed for postgraduate training in Forensic Medicine.

- (b) A series of lectures will be held during the training period. A minimum attendance of 80% is compulsory. However, supported by a medical certificate 60% may be accepted with the approval of the Board of Study.

The lectures will be arranged by the Course Coordinator in consultation with the lecturers.

- (c) The training will include 6 months of full time Pathology arranged by the supervisor.
- (d) An Applicant, who in the opinion of the Board of Study has acquired adequate training in institutions either in Sri Lanka or abroad, may apply to the Director /PGIM for exemption from the whole or part of the training course only, in order to be eligible to sit the examination. The director PGIM shall refer such matter to the Board of Study and to the Board of Management for a decision.
- (e) The trainees are expected to maintain an academic diary regarding the work they had undertaken during the course
- (f) The trainees should maintain a Log book provided by the PGIM, which must be submitted along with the application to sit the DLM examination
- (g) To promote research among the trainees they are expected to follow a training programme on 'Basics of Research' which include writing objectives, methodology, designing questionnaires, sampling techniques, data collection, analysis and interpretation, presentation and publication.

#### (IV) Case Book

A case book of 10 cases, four in clinical Forensic Medicine and six in Forensic Pathology, will have to be submitted by the prospective candidate at least 6 months before the date of the examination. Please refer guidelines for writing casebook in Forensic Medicine.

The cases should be those with which the candidate has been performed and must be supported with a certificate to such effect by the relevant supervisor.

#### (V) Examination

At the end of the training programme, a comprehensive examination will be held leading to the Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Medicine.

- (i) A minimum of one examination will be held per year.

The examination will commence during the last month of the training period.

In case more than one examination is held per year, there should be a reasonable period between two examinations.

An eligible candidate should apply for examination in the prescribed form available with the Director, PGIM after the announcement of the date of such examination.

- (ii) The examination will consists of written, practical and viva components.

- (a) Theory - shall consist of two (2) papers, each of three (3) hours duration. One paper consisting of five (5) essay type questions (4 questions in Forensic Medicine and 1 question in Pathology) and the other paper ten (10) short essay questions of which 8 questions in Forensic Medicine and 2 questions in pathology.

- (b) A postmortem examination, followed by documentation and an oral examination – Three (3) hours.

- (c) A clinical Examination, followed by filling of a Medico Legal Examination Form and writing a Medico Legal Report (documentation) and oral examination - 1 ½ hours.

- (d) Objectively Structured Practical Examination (OSPE) – 1hour.
  - (e) Viva voce – a minimum of 20 minutes.
  - (f) Spots consisting of 6 Histopathology slides and viva on Pathology – 20 minutes  
A candidate must obtain 50% **in each** component to be successful at the examination.
- (iii) The format of the examination may be changed from time to time on the recommendations of the Board of Study.

## **MD Forensic Medicine**

### 1. Introduction

The method of selection of trainees and the programme of training leading to the degree MD ( Forensic Medicine) and consequently after Board certification to specialist status in Forensic Medicine are outlined below.

### 2. Eligibility for training

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

- a) a Medical degree registered \* with the Sri Lanka Medical Council.
- b) satisfactory completion of internship acceptable to the Sri Lanka Medical Council.
- c) satisfactory completion of one year of post internship in medical/ clinical practice in a University/Public Sector Institution in Sri Lanka acceptable to the PGIM.
- d) The criteria prescribed in paragraphs (a) to (c) must have been satisfied by the applicants as at the date of closure of applications, provided that where a short-fall has occurred due to any reasons including Sick, Maternity or Other leave, the doctor concerned should complete such shortfall in order to become eligible to apply for the Selection examination.
- e) Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Medicine conducted by the PGIM  
or  
A postgraduate degree, equivalent to or higher than, the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Medicine awarded by the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine of the University of Colombo and approved by the Board of Management. The course work/experience of the applicant would also be considered along with the postgraduate degree.

- \* foreign nationals who seek to apply to register for selection examinations should possess a medical degree registrable with the Sri Lanka Medical Council. The decision of the Board of Management will be final in all such applications.  
(A quota for the Private Sector is presently available for most courses)

### 3. Training

- I. Subject to provisions (a) or provisions (b) & (c) any prospective candidates may apply to the Director PGIM to be enrolled for the MD course.

The Director PGIM in consultation with the Board of Study will allocate to the trainee approved places of training depending on the order of merit of the prospective candidate at the DLM examination, as determined by the Director PGIM subject to availability of training centres.

- II. The trainee shall be attached for a period of one year to a Department of Forensic Medicine of a University and one year to an office of a Judicial Medical Officer, which have been approved by the Board of Study, under two different trainers. The head of the unit shall be the trainer and supervisor. However, if the head of the unit has not satisfied the PGIM criteria to be a trainer, then the most senior trainer of that unit will function as the supervisor and will be responsible for the training.

The trainee would be required to take part in the routine work and other activities of the institution and follow the instruction of the trainer.

- III. Periodical appraisal and continuous assessment of attainment and performance of the trainee shall be made during the period of training by the trainer and a report to be submitted to the Director of Postgraduate Institute of Medicine every 2 months.

If the report of the trainer reveals unsatisfactory performance by the trainee, the Board of Study in Forensic Medicine shall take appropriate action.

- IV. The trainee shall attend special lectures, seminars, problem based discussions, tutorial classes etc in Forensic Medicine, Toxicology, Law & legal procedures arranged by the PGIM during the period of 2 years. A minimum attendance of 80% is necessary. However, supported by a medical certificate 60% may be accepted with approval of the Board of Management.

- V. During the period of 2 years, there would be training in the following fields arranged by the Board of study.

- a. Forensic dentistry – 2 weeks
- b. Neurosurgery – 2 weeks
- c. Radiology – 2 weeks
- d. Psychiatry – 1 week
- e. STD clinic – 1 week
- f. MRI – 1 week
- g. Govt. Analyst – 1 week
- h. Police technical division – 1 week
- i. Obs & Gyn – 2 weeks
- j. Trauma Surgery – 2 weeks

- VI. The trainees will be required to conduct their research in collaboration with their trainers or a Supervisor during the 1st 2nd or 3rd year of MD training. The Supervisor for the research project could be a specialist approved by the Board of Study. The research projects would have to be approved by a panel nominated by the Board before conducting them. Data could be of their own work, of the Institute to which they are attached, or from any other source.

- VII. Case Book

The trainees will be required to submit a case book of 10 cases comprising of 4 cases in clinical Forensic Medicine and 6 in Forensic Pathology. The clinical cases should include a case on civil compensation and the Pathological cases should include a case of examination of skeletal remains.

The case book must be prepared by the prospective candidates according to guidelines given by the Board of Study and submitted 6 months before the examination.

The cases should be those with which the candidate has been personally performed during the period of MD training, must be complete, cover a wider area and must be supported by a certificate to such effect by the trainer. The acceptance of the case book by the Board of Study is a pre-requisite to sit the examination.

- VIII. During the training period, the trainee will be under the direct supervision of the trainer. The trainer is entitled to take appropriate corrective action and where necessary to initiate disciplinary procedures by bringing it to the notice of the Director PGIM who shall in collaboration with the Board of Study, have the power to terminate such training or to impose any other suitable punishment with approval of the Board of Management.
  - IX. The period of training commences on a date stipulated by the Director PGIM on the recommendations of the Board of Study.
  - X. At the end of the training period, the trainee shall obtain a certificate of satisfactory completion of the training from each of the trainers which is a pre-requisite to sit the examination.
  - XI. The trainee shall maintain a Log book provided by the PGIM, which must be submitted along with the application to sit the MD examination.
  - XII. The trainees are expected to maintain an academic diary regarding the work they had undertaken during the course
4. Examination
- 1 At the end of the training programme, a comprehensive examination will be held leading to the award of the degree of MD Forensic Medicine to the successful candidates.
    - a) Only one examination will be held for a year. The examination may commence during the last month of the second year of the training period.

An eligible candidate should apply for the examination in the prescribed form available with the Director PGIM after the announcement of the date of such examination.

- b) The examination will consist of following components.
  - I. Written – consist of 2 papers, each of 3 hours duration, one paper consisting of 4 essay type questions and the 10 structured essay type questions.
  - II. a Postmortem examination, followed by documentation and oral examination there on-duration 3 hours.
  - III. A clinical examination followed by filling a Medico Legal Examination Form and writing a Medico Legal Report (documentation) an oral examination thereon – duration 1 ½ hours.
  - IV. Objectively Structured Practical Examination (OSPE) – 1 hour
  - V. Examination and report on 10 Histopathology slides – 1 hour.
  - VI. Orals – duration a minimum of 20 minutesCandidates shall obtain a minimum of 50% in each component to pass the examination.

## 2. Post MD Training

1. After obtaining the degree of MD Forensic Medicine, the trainee will be required to undergo further period of 2 year's training and completion of the research project
  - 1.1 Two attachments, each of six months duration at two centres in Sri Lanka under a consultant attached to the Ministry of Health or a University centre approved by the Board, depending on the availability of vacancies.
  - 1.2 One year of training in a center abroad recognized by the Board of Study in Forensic Medicine

- 1.3 Trainees will be required to present their research findings before Board certification.. A one day conference will be held for this purpose every year. Trainees will be allocated a grade by a panel to determine whether the research is of a satisfactory standard. A certificate will be presented to trainees who successfully complete their project.
2. The trainee will have to submit certificates to such effects from the heads of such training units abroad and in Sri Lanka for consideration of Board certification.
5. Suggested Reading Material
- GENERAL
- Simpson's Forensic Medicine (12th edition), Shepherd, R. (Hodder Arnold) 2003 ISBN 0 340 810599
- Clinical Forensic Medicine (2nd edition), Ed McLay, W.D.S., (Greenwich) 1996 ISBN 1 900151 200
- A Physician's Guide to Clinical Forensic Medicine, Stark, M.M. Ed (Humana) 2000 ISBN 0 89603 742 8
- Legal Aspects of Medical Practice (5th edition), Knight, B., (Livingstone) 1992 ISBN 0 443 04568 2
- COURTS
- A Doctor's Guide to Courts, Simpson (Butterworths)  
Penal Code of Sri Lanka
- MENTAL HEALTH
- Mental Health Act of Sri Lanka
- DRUGS AND DRIVING
- Symptoms and Signs of Substance Misuse, Stark, M., (Greenwich) 1996 ISBN 1 900151 103
- CHILD ABUSE
- ABC of Child Abuse (2nd edition), Meadow, (BMJ) 1991 ISBN 0 7279 0258 X

- POLICE CUSTODY
- Law and Medical Ethics, (5th edition), Mason and Smith, (Butterworths) 1999 ISBN 0 406 89636 4
- FORENSIC PATHOLOGY
- Forensic Pathology (2nd edition), Knight, B., (Arnold) 1996 ISBN 0 340 58897 7
- Forensic Pathology (Practical Aspects of Criminal & Forensic Investigation), DiMaio, V.J.M., DiMaio, D.J., (CRC Press) 2001 ISBN 0 8493 0072 X
- The Pathology of Trauma (3rd edition), Mason, J.K. & Perdue, B.N. (Arnold) 2000 ISBN 0340 691190
- Forensic Medicine Illustrated Reference, Mason, (Chapman & Hall) 1993 ISBN 0412 433001
- A Colour Atlas of Diagnosis after Recent Injury, (Wolfe) 1990
- Forensic Pathology Colour Guide, Williams, (Livingstone) 1997 ISBN 0 443 05388 X
- Essentials of Autopsy Practice: Recent Advances, Topics and Developments, Rutty, G.N., Ed (Springer-Verlag UK) 2003 ISBN 1 8523 35416
- The Estimation of the Time Since Death in the Early Post Mortem Period (2nd edition), Henssge, C., Krompecher, T., Madea, B., Nokes, L., (Hodder Arnold) 2002 ISBN 0 3407 19605
- Gunshot Wounds: Practical Aspects of Firearms, Ballistics, and Forensic Techniques (Practical Aspects of Criminal & Forensic Investigation) (2nd edition), DiMaio, V.J.M., (CRC Press) 1999 ISBN 0 8493 81630
- Robbins & Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease (7th edition), Kumar, Abbas and Fausto., (Elsevier Inc.) 2007 ISBN 0721601871
- Taylor's Principles and Practice of Medical Jurisprudence (13th edition), Mant, Keith.,(Livingstone)1984 ISBN 0 443 01481 7