

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the National Medical Commission Act, 2019**

### **Q1. What is the National Medical Commission (NMC)?**

**Ans:** The National Medical Commission is a statutory body constituted by the Central Government under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, and was notified on 8 August 2019. The Commission replaced the erstwhile Medical Council of India by virtue of Section 60(1) of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019. The National Medical Commission, as the statutory regulatory authority under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is entrusted with the responsibility of regulating medical education, medical institutions, and medical professionals in India, and of ensuring high standards of medical education, professional conduct, and medical ethics.

### **Q2. What is the objective of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019?**

**Ans:** The Act aims to provide medical education system that improves access to quality and affordable medical education, ensures availability of adequate and high quality medical professionals in all parts of the country; promote equitable and universal healthcare that encourages community health perspective and makes services of medical professionals accessible to all the citizens; promote national health goals; encourage medical professionals to adopt latest medical research in their work and to contribute to research; have objective periodic and transparent assessment of medical institutions and facilitate maintenance of a medical register for India and enforces high ethical standards in all aspects of medical services; that is flexible to adapt to changing needs and has an effective grievance redressal mechanism.

### **Q3. Where is the head office of the National Medical Commission located?**

**Ans:** The head office of the National Medical Commission is located at:

Pocket-14, Sector-8, Dwarka Phase-I,  
New Delhi – 110077,  
India

### **Q.4 What is the composition of the commission?**

**Ans:** National Medical Commission shall consist following members appointed by the Central Government:

S. No.	Designation	Category
1.	Chairperson	-

2.	Ten ex officio Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. President, UGMEB</li> <li>2. President, PGMEB</li> <li>3. President, MARB</li> <li>4. President, EMRB</li> <li>5. DGHS</li> <li>6. DG, ICMR</li> <li>7. A Director of any one AIIMS, to be nominated by Central Government.</li> <li>8. Two person from Directors of - PGIMER (Chandigarh), JIPMER (Puducherry), TMH (Mumbai), NEIGRIHMS (Shillong), AIIHPH (Kolkata)</li> <li>9. Additional Secretary to the Government of India, MoHFW</li> </ol>
3.	Twenty-two part-time Members	<p>Three Members with professional experience including management, law, medical ethics, health research, consumer or patient rights advocacy, science and technology and economics.</p> <p>Ten Members to be appointed on rotational basis from amongst the nominees of the States /UTs – VCs of Health Universities in States / UTs</p> <p>Nine members to be appointed from amongst the nominees of the States / UTs - Elected Members of the State Medical Councils (SMCs)</p>

**Q. 5. What are the functions of the Commission?**

Ans: The functions of the Commission are as under:

- a) Lay down policies for maintaining a high quality and high standards in medical education and make necessary regulations in this behalf;
- b) Lay down policies for regulating medical institutions, medical research and medical professionals and make necessary regulations in this behalf;
- c) Assess the requirements in healthcare, including human resources for health and healthcare infrastructure and develop a road map for meeting such requirements;

- d) Promote, co-ordinate and frame guidelines and lay down policies by making necessary regulations for the proper functioning of the Commission, the Autonomous Boards and the State Medical Councils;
- e) Ensure co-ordination among the Autonomous Boards;
- f) Take such measures, as may be necessary, to ensure compliance of the guidelines framed and regulations made under this Act by the State Medical Councils for their effective functioning;
- g) Exercise Appellate jurisdiction with respect to the decisions of the Autonomous Boards;
- h) Lay down policies and codes to ensure observance of professional ethics in medical profession and to promote ethical conduct during the provision of care by medical practitioners;
- i) Frame guidelines for determination of fees and all other charges in respect of fifty per cent of seats in private medical institutions and deemed to be universities which are governed under the provisions of this Act;
- j) Exercise such other powers and perform such other functions as may be prescribed.

**Q 6. What is the composition of the Medical Advisory Council (MAC)?**

Ans: Under section 11 of the NMC Act 2019, The Central Government shall constitute an advisory body to be known as the Medical Advisory Council. The composition of the MAC shall be as follow:

S. No.	Designation	Category
1.	Chairman	
2.	Ex-officio- 12	1. President, UGMEB, 2. President, PGMEB, 3. President, MARB, 4. President EMRB, 5. DGHS 6. DG, ICMR

		<p>7. Chairman, UGC</p> <p>8. Director, National Assessment and Accreditation Council</p> <p>9. Director of any of the AIIMS</p> <p>10. MoHFW representative</p> <p>11. Two Persons from amongst the Directors of:</p> <p>i. PGIMER, Chandigarh</p> <p>ii. JIPMER, Puducherry</p> <p>iii. Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai</p> <p>iv. NEIGRIHMS, Shillong</p> <p>v. AIIH&amp;PH, Kolkata</p>
3.	79 nominated members	<p>4 persons to be nominated by the Central Government from amongst persons holding the post of Director in the Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management and the Indian Institute of Science;</p> <p>3 Persons of ability, integrity and standing, who have special knowledge and professional experience in such areas including management, law, medical ethics, health research, consumer or patient rights advocacy, Science &amp;</p>

		<p>Technology and Economics</p> <p>35 persons from Vice-Chancellors of Health Universities of State &amp; UTs, To be appointed on nomination by respective State Government / MHA, Government of India</p> <p>37 Persons from Representatives of Medical Councils of State &amp; UTs, to be appointed on nomination by respective State / UT Medical Council.</p>
--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Q.7 What are the functions of the Medical Advisory Council (MAC)?**

**Ans:** The functions of the MAC are as under:

1. The Council shall be the primary platform through which the States and the Union territories may put forth their views and concerns before the Commission and help in shaping the overall agenda, policy and action relating to medical education and training.
2. The Council shall advise the Commission on measures to determine and maintain, and to co-ordinate maintenance of, the minimum standards in all matters relating to medical education, training and research.
3. The Council shall advise the Commission on measures to enhance equitable access to medical education.

**Q8. What are the Autonomous Boards under the National Medical Commission?**

**Ans:** The following four Autonomous Boards are constituted under the Act:

1. Under-Graduate Medical Education Board
2. Post-Graduate Medical Education Board
3. Medical Assessment and Rating Board

#### 4. Ethics and Medical Registration Board

Every board to be headed by a President and to have 2 full time member and 2 part-time members.

#### **Q9. What is the role of the Under-Graduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB)?**

**Ans:** Undergraduate Medical Education Board is one of the autonomous boards of the Commission, which has been entrusted with following functions under Section 24 of the NMC Act, 2019:

- ⇒ Set and oversee standards for undergraduate medical education.
- ⇒ Develop and design competency-based, dynamic UG curriculum focused on primary healthcare, community & family medicine as per statutory regulations.
- ⇒ Frame guidelines for establishing UG medical institutions aligned with national needs and global norms; Define norms for infrastructure, faculty, and quality of UG medical education; prescribe minimum standards for UG courses & examinations, allowing local innovation by institutions.
- ⇒ Promote faculty development and training for UG teaching; Encourage research and international student/faculty exchange in UG medical education.
- ⇒ Mandate annual disclosures under its relevant regulations by the medical institutions to protect stakeholder interests.
- ⇒ Grant recognition to a medical qualification at the undergraduate level.

Various regulations are framed by the UGMEB, which can be viewed at <https://www.nmc.org.in/rules-regulations-nmc>

#### **Q.10. What is the role of the Post-Graduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB)?**

**Ans:** Post-Graduate Medical Education Board is one of the autonomous boards of the Commission, which has been entrusted with following functions under Section 25 of the NMC Act, 2019:

- ⇒ It regulates **postgraduate medical education in India**, including **broad specialty (MD/MS)** and **super-specialty (DM/MCh)** programs.
- ⇒ Ensures **uniform standards of postgraduate medical qualifications and training** across the
- ⇒ Develops, updates, and regulates **curriculum, competency-based training, and educational guidelines** for postgraduate programs.

- ⇒ Determines and maintains **standards of education, training, and academic requirements** for postgraduate medical courses.
- ⇒ Responsible for **recognition and regulation of postgraduate medical qualifications** awarded by medical institutions.
- ⇒ Regulates and supervises **academic standards of institutions conducting postgraduate medical education**.
- ⇒ Encourages **research, academic development, and excellence in postgraduate medical education**.
- ⇒ Provides **recommendations to the National Medical Commission on matters related to postgraduate medical education**.

Various regulations are framed by the PGMEB, which can be viewed at <https://www.nmc.org.in/rules-regulations-nmc/>

### **Q11. What is the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)?**

**Ans:** The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) is prescribed as a single, uniform entrance examination for admission to undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) medical courses in all medical institutions across India, whether government, private, deemed universities, or institutions established under any law. The National Medical Commission Act, 2019 under Section 14 of the Act mandates NEET to ensure merit-based, transparent, and non-discriminatory admissions. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has been entrusted with the responsibility to conduct NEET for Undergraduate medical admissions (NEET-UG) whereas National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) conducts NEET PG Examinations.

### **Q12. What is the role of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB)?**

**Ans:** Medical Assessment and Rating Board is one of the autonomous boards of the Commission, which has been entrusted with following functions under Section 26 of the NMC Act, 2019:

- ⇒ Determines the **procedure for assessment and rating of medical institutions** based on compliance with prescribed standards.
- ⇒ Grants **approval for establishment of new medical colleges** in India.
- ⇒ Permits **increase in the number of undergraduate or postgraduate seats** in existing medical colleges.
- ⇒ Grants permission to **start new postgraduate (PG) courses** in medical colleges.
- ⇒ Conducts **inspection and evaluation of medical colleges** to assess infrastructure, faculty, and educational standards.
- ⇒ Ensures that institutions comply with **Minimum Standard Requirements (MSR) for UG and PG medical education**.
- ⇒ Takes **necessary actions against medical colleges** that fail to maintain the required standards.

Various regulations are framed by the MARB, which can be viewed at <https://www.nmc.org.in/rules-regulations-nmc/>

**Q 13. Is prior permission required to start a new medical college or new course and increase of seats?**

Ans: Yes, an entity intending to start a new medical college or a new course or increase the seats in medical college, is required to obtain prior permission from the Medical Assessment and Rating Board in the manner as prescribed under chapter II and III of “Establishment of New Medical Institutions, Starting of New Medical Courses, Increase of Seats for Existing Courses & Assessment and Rating Regulations, 2023”. MARB invites applications through public notices for the aforesaid purposes from time to time and interested entity may submit their applications against the invitations in the prescribed manner.

**Q14. What is the role / functions of the Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB)?**

Ans: **Ethics and Medical Registration Board** is one of the autonomous boards of the Commission, which has been entrusted with following functions under Section 27 of the NMC Act, 2019:

- ⇒ Responsible for maintaining and updating the **National Medical Register (NMR)** of all licensed medical practitioners in India.
- ⇒ Regulates the **professional conduct, etiquette, and ethical standards** of registered medical practitioners.
- ⇒ Promotes adherence to **medical ethics and professional accountability** in medical practice.
- ⇒ Maintains **continuous interaction with State Medical Councils** to regulate and monitor the conduct of medical professionals.
- ⇒ Ensures proper **registration and regulation of medical practitioners** across the country.
- ⇒ Acts as an **appellate body for disciplinary actions** taken by State Medical Councils against registered medical practitioners.

Various regulations are framed by the EMRB, which can be viewed at <https://www.nmc.org.in/rules-regulations-nmc/>

**Q15. Whether registration is mandatory for practicing medicine in India and which authority is competent in matters relating to registration or licence to practice?**

Ans: Yes, no person shall practice medicine in India unless enrolled in a State Medical Register, with such enrolment reflected in the National Medical Register maintained by the Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB).

All matters relating to registration and licence to practice medicine are dealt with by the EMRB in accordance with the provisions of the Act and regulations made there under.

**Q16. What is the National Medical Register?**

**Ans:** The National Medical Register is a public register maintained by the Ethics and Medical Registration Board. It shall contain the names, addresses, recognized qualifications, and such other particulars, as may be specified, of all licensed and registered medical practitioners enrolled in the State Medical Registers and entitled to practice medicine in India.

**Q17. What are State Medical Councils required to do?**

**Answer:** Every State must establish a State Medical Council and maintain a State Register, and handle disciplinary matters in respect of Medical Professionals as per NMC Act and regulations.

**Q18. What is the mechanism to deal with professional misconduct or ethical violation by a doctor?**

**Ans:** The matters concerning professional misconduct or ethical violation are dealt with by the State Medical Councils, the 1<sup>st</sup> appeals thereon by the Medical Professionals lie with the Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Appeal by medical professionals aggrieved over the decision of EMRB lies with National Medical Commission.

**Q19. What is the National Exit Test (NExT)?**

**Ans:** The National Exit Test has been made a common qualifying exam for the purpose of -

- Grant of license to practice medicine by both Indian Medical Graduates (IMGs) and Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs);
- Enrolment in the State or National Register;
- Admission to postgraduate courses

It is important to note that at present, the National Exit Test (NeXT) is not operational. Upon its implementation, NeXT shall function as a common qualifying and licentiate examination and will replace existing examinations, including the Screening Test and NEET-PG (or other relevant entrance/qualifying examinations), as prescribed under the applicable regulations.

**Q20. What is the appeal mechanism under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019?**

**Ans:** The appeal mechanism available under the NMC Act, 2019 in connection with the decisions of various Boards and the Commission is as under-

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Appeal Provisions under the NMC Act, 2019</b>	<b>Limitation</b>
--------------------	----------------	--------------------------------------------------	-------------------

			<b>period (In days)</b>
Appeal against the decision of the Commission.	9 (6)	A person who is aggrieved by any decision of the Commission may prefer an appeal to the Central Government.	30
Appeal against the decision of an Autonomous Board.	22 (3)	Subject to the provision of section 28, a person who is aggrieved by any decision of an Autonomous Board may prefer an appeal to the Commission.	60
Appeal in case of permission for establishment of new medical college or start any PG course or increase number of seats.	28 (5)	<b>1. First Appeal to the Commission against the decision of the MARB.</b> Under Section 28 (5), where a scheme is disapproved or where no decision is taken within six months, the person concerned may prefer an appeal to the Commission for approval.	15
	28 (6)	<b>2. Second Appeal to the Central Government against the decision of the Commission.</b> Under Section 28 (6), in case the Commission disapproves the scheme, or fails to give its decision within the specified period, the person concerned may prefer a second appeal to the Central Government.	30
Appeal relating to any professional or ethical misconduct against a RMP or profession.	30 (3)	<b>1. First Appeal to the EMRB by a medical practitioner or professional against the decision of State Medical Council.</b> Under Section 30 (3), a medical practitioner or professional who is aggrieved by any action taken by a State Medical Council may prefer an appeal to the Ethics and Medical Registration Board against such action.	
	30 (4)	<b>2. Second Appeal to the Commission by a medical practitioner or professional</b>	60

		<b>against the decision of EMRB.</b> Under Section 30 (4), a medical practitioner or professional who is aggrieved by the decision of the Ethics and Medical Registration Board may prefer an appeal to the Commission.	
Appeal relating to the recognition of medical qualifications granted by Universities or medical institutions in India.	35 (5)	<b>1. First Appeal to the Commission against the decision of the UGMEB/PGMEB.</b> Under Section 35 (5), where the UGMEB/PGMEB as the case may be, decides not to grant recognition to the medical qualification, the University or the medical institution concerned may prefer an appeal to the Commission for grant of recognition.	60
	35 (7)	<b>2. Second Appeal to the Central Government against the decision of the Commission.</b> Under Section 35 (7), where the Commission decides not to grant recognition to the medical qualification, or fails to take a decision within the specified period, the University or the medical institution concerned may prefer a second appeal to the Central Government.	30

\*\*\*\*\*