



VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

*Ministry of Welfare*

**REGULATION**  
**on the education, rights and obligations of medical doctors**  
**and criteria for granting of licences to practise medicine and specialist medical licences,**  
**No. 467/2015, as amended by Regulation No. 29/2017.**

**SECTION I**

**General provisions.**

**Article 1**

*Scope.*

This Regulation applies to medical graduates who apply for a licence to practise medicine under Article 2 and medical doctors who apply for a specialist medical licence under Article 6, and those holding licences to practise medicine and specialist medical licences from the Medical Director of Health under Articles 2 and 6.

**SECTION II**

**Licence to practise medicine.**

**Article 2**

*Professional title.*

The right to use the professional title of medical doctor (læknir) and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those who have been granted a licence to practise medicine by the Medical Director of Health.

**Article 3**

*Criteria for granting of a licence to practice medicine.*

A licence under Article 2 may be granted to those who have completed six years' education (360 ECTS), culminating in candidate examination the professional medical qualification of the degree of Candidatus Medicinae (Cand. Med.) from the University of Iceland Faculty of Medicine, and clinical training as provided in Article 4.

A licence from a state within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland may also be confirmed.

A licence may also be granted to those who have completed a comparable qualification under the first paragraph from an educational institution in a state outside the EEA or Switzerland, which is recognised as such by Icelandic health authorities, and by health authorities in the state where the training took place.

Recognition of professional qualifications and competence of a medical doctor who meets the criteria of Directive 2005/36/EC, on the recognition of professional qualifications and competence, with subsequent amendments, is subject to Regulation on recognition of professional qualifications and competence of healthcare practitioners from other EEA states, No. 461/2011, or to agreements reached by Nordic governments, which have been ratified with respect to Iceland and which make provision for general rules for mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

Further criteria for the issue of a licence to practise medicine are subject to the provisions of Article 16.

Fees for the granting of a licence to practise medicine are subject to the provisions of Article 18.

#### Article 4

##### *Clinical training for licence to practise medicine.*

Clinical training shall comprise twelve months of training, organised in such a way that at least four months are in a department of internal medicine, two months in a surgical and/or emergency department, and four months at a primary healthcare centre.

The duration of the clinical training shall be based on full-time (100%) work. The period of training shall in principle be organised as a clinical training programme for twelve months at a time from 15 June each year. Absence for more than two weeks must be made up by extending the period of the clinical training. Exemptions may be granted from the requirement of full-time (100%) work, permitting part-time clinical training, which must be for a minimum of 50% of full-time hours, provided that the duration of the relevant part of the clinical training is extended in proportion. Work carried out before completion of the degree of Cand. Med. or outside the organised programme of clinical training cannot be included in clinical training.

Clinical training shall take place at a recognised healthcare facility or a recognised department of a healthcare facility, under supervision, and in accordance with the curriculum for clinical training for a medical licence, *cf.* Article 15. Clinical training is provided on the responsibility of the medical director of the relevant facility. Clinical training may be carried out abroad, provided that the training meets the criteria of the first and second paragraphs. The clinical training shall be carried out at a healthcare facility which is recognised for such clinical training by health authorities in the state where the clinical training takes place, and by Icelandic health authorities.

It shall be ensured that the medical graduate receives adequate clinical training as provided in the curriculum, *cf.* Article 15. The relevant healthcare facility bears responsibility for the clinical training being in accordance with the objectives of the curriculum, and for the medical graduate meeting its requirements. The healthcare facility and the medical graduate make an agreement on the duration and content of the clinical training.

The Minister shall appoint for a term of four years a committee with responsibility to organise clinical training programme and their number, and the process of appointing medical graduates to clinical training, in collaboration with the healthcare facilities which are recognised to provide such training. The committee shall comprise six members with medical education: two from the Landspítali University Hospital, one from Akureyri Hospital, one from a healthcare facility outside the capital area, one from Primary Health Care of the Capital Area and one from the Icelandic Association of Junior Doctors. An equal number of substitute members shall be appointed. The Minister appoints a chair from among the members of the committee. The committee will be based at the Landspítali University Hospital, which will provide an administrative assistant and working facilities. The clinical training programme shall be advertised for applications not later than 15 December each year.

The chair of the committee provides confirmation, on the basis of certification from medical directors of the facilities where clinical training has taken place, that a medical graduate has satisfactorily completed clinical training. In the case of uncertainty regarding whether the medical graduate has met the criteria of the curriculum, the committee shall, in consultation with the medical director of the relevant healthcare facility, take appropriate measures.

#### Article 5

##### *Expert opinion.*

Before a licence is granted under Article 2 on the basis of education outside the EEA and Switzerland under the third paragraph of Article 3, the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the University of Iceland Faculty of Medicine with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria under the first paragraph of Article 3 and the criteria of Article 4 for education and clinical training.

### SECTION III

#### **Specialist medical licences.**

##### Article 6

##### *Specialist medical licences.*

The right to use the title of specialist in a medical speciality and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

##### Article 7

##### *Criteria for specialist medical licences.*

Specialist medical licences may be granted in medical specialities as provided in Article 10. This is subject to the requirement that the specialist training of the applicant is defined as being within the speciality for which he/she applies for a specialist medical licence.

In order to be entitled to receive a specialist medical licence under Article 6 a medical doctor shall fulfil the following standards:

- a. He/she shall have completed the medical education of Cand. Med. from the University of Iceland Faculty of Medicine under Article 3 and clinical training under Article 4, or have completed comparable training abroad.
- b. He/she shall hold a licence to practise medicine in Iceland under Article 2.
- c. He/she shall have completed recognised specialist training and acquired the knowledge, clinical and practical skills and methodology required for the relevant speciality under Articles 8 and 9.

An applicant for a specialist medical licence in a medical speciality and subspeciality shall first have been granted a specialist medical licence in the state where the specialist training, or the majority of the specialist training, took place, and where the specialist training was completed.

The total duration of study shall normally be a minimum of five years (60 months) for a speciality, and two years for a subspeciality, see however the seventh paragraph.

A specialist medical licence in a medical speciality under Article 10 from a state within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland may also be confirmed.

A specialist medical licence may also be granted to those who have completed comparable specialist training, *cf.* Article 8, from an educational institution in a state outside the EEA or Switzerland, which is recognised as such by Icelandic health authorities, and by health authorities in the state where the training took place.

A specialist medical licence may also be granted to those who have completed recognised specialist training, *cf.* Article 8, in a country which has comparable requirements for education as are provided in this Regulation, even if the organisation of specialist training differs, including provisions on duration.

Recognition of professional qualifications and competence of a medical doctor with specialist training who meets the criteria of Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications and skills, with subsequent amendments, is subject to Regulation on recognition of professional qualifications and competence of healthcare practitioners from other EEA states, No. 461/2011, or to agreements reached by Nordic governments which have been ratified with respect to Iceland and which make provision for general rules for reciprocal recognition of professional qualifications.

Further criteria for granting of specialist medical licences are subject to the provisions of Article 16.

##### Article 8

##### *Specialist medical training.*

Specialist medical training shall consist of theoretical and clinical training at a university or healthcare facility which is recognised by Icelandic health authorities, or at a university or healthcare facility recognised for such specialist training by in the state where the specialist training takes place.

Specialist medical training shall fulfil, with respect to content and duration of study, requirements for specialist training which are required in the state where the specialist training takes place; evaluation of specialist training from a state outside the EEA and Switzerland shall especially be guided by specialist medical training in the other Nordic countries, or comparable specialist training, such as in the USA.

Specialist training which can be pursued in Iceland shall take place at a healthcare facility or at a department of a healthcare facility which has been recognised for such specialist training by the committee under Article 15. Specialist training which takes place in Iceland, in whole or in part, shall be carried out in accordance with training methods, and be consistent with the curriculum, *cf.* Article 15, which has been formulated for the speciality.

The curriculum shall provide *inter alia* for admission to the specialist training, the content, organisation and duration of specialist training and individual parts of the training, quality requirements, supervision, and skills evaluation.

The specialist training shall take place on the responsibility of the medical director of the healthcare facility recognised by the committee under Article 15, and the medical director shall appoint a coordinator of studies who holds a specialist licence in the relevant speciality as supervisor of the specialist training. The medical doctor undergoing specialist training and the medical director shall make an agreement which provides for the rights and obligations of the healthcare facility and of the medical doctor undergoing specialist training, a schedule for the specialist training and the duration and organisation of the prospective period of specialist training. Up to one year of scientific work may be recognised instead of one year in a speciality, provided that this is consistent with the curriculum, and approved by the coordinator of studies.

Accrued summer holiday and off-duty periods as a part of shift work schedule taken during the period of specialist training are counted as part of the total period of training. Absence exceeding ten weeks will be made up by extending the specialist training. In specialist training, full-time (100%) work is to be the rule. In the case of part-time work, the minimum duration of training shall be extended, so that the total period of training is equivalent to at least 60 months full-time work.

Those who complete specialist training in both a speciality and a subspeciality in seven years may be permitted more flexible terms regarding duration of study in the speciality and the subspeciality respectively than are stated above, but duration of training in the speciality must never be less than three years.

Further criteria for granting of a specialist medical licence are subject to the provisions of Article 16.

Fees for granting of a specialist medical licence are subject to the provisions of Article 18.

## Article 9

### *Specialist medical licences.*

A specialist medical licence may be granted on completion of recognised formal specialist training, *cf.* Articles 7 and 8.

In order to be granted a specialist medical licence in a subspeciality within the relevant speciality, the applicant shall have been granted a specialist medical licence in the relevant speciality, and have completed formal recognised specialist training in the subspeciality. The word subspeciality refers to further specialisation in a theoretical and clinical field that falls within the relevant major speciality. In addition to two subspecialities, one additional speciality may be recognised under Article 10.

[Applicants for specialist medical licences under Article 10 may be granted limited exemptions on a case by case basis from part of a training course listed in point 5.1.3. of Annex V of Council Directive 2005/36/EC, on the recognition of professional qualifications, as subsequently amended (*cf.* Council Directive 2013/55/EU), providing they have already completed that part of their specialist training in another medical speciality and have already acquired a specialist medical licence on the basis of that specialist training. Exemptions may not apply to more than half of the minimum duration of the specialist training in question.]<sup>1)</sup>

<sup>1)</sup> Regulation No. 29/2017, Article 1.

## Article 10

### *Medical specialities.*

A medical speciality shall have a solid theoretical basis, and an equivalent shall exist in a recognised international forum.

Specialist medical licences may be granted in the following medical specialities:

### **I. Surgery (*skurðlækningar*):**

**1. General surgery (*almennar skurðlækningar*).**

*Subspecialities:*

- a. Paediatric surgery (*barnaskurðlækningar*).
- b. Breast and endocrine surgery (*brjósta- og innkirtlaskurðlækningar*).
- c. Upper gastrointestinal surgery (*efri-meltingarfæraskurðlækningar*).
- d. Cardio and thoracic surgery (*hjarta- og brjóstholsskurðlækningar*).
- e. Plastic surgery (*lýtaskurðlækningar*).
- f. Colon and rectal surgery (*ristil- og endaparmsskurðlækningar*).
- g. Urology (*þvagfæraskurðlækningar*).
- h. Vascular surgery (*æðaskurðlækningar*).

**2. Paediatric surgery (*barnaskurðlækningar*).**

**3. Hand surgery (*handarskurðlækningar*).**

**4. Neurosurgery (*heila- og taugaskurðlækningar*).**

**5. Cardiothoracic surgery (*hjarta- og brjóstholsskurðlækningar*).**

**6. Abdominal surgery (*kviðarholsskurðlækningar*).**

*Subspecialities:*

- a. Upper gastrointestinal surgery (*efri-meltingarfæraskurðlækningar*).
- b. Colon and rectal surgery (*ristil- og endaparmsskurðlækningar*).

**7. Plastic surgery (*lýtaskurðlækningar*).**

**8. Urology (*þvagfæraskurðlækningar*).**

**9. Vascular surgery (*æðaskurðlækningar*).**

**II. Ophthalmology (*augnlækningar*):**

*Subspecialities:*

- a. Oculoplastic surgery (*augnlýtalækningar*).
- b. Cataract surgery (*augnsteinsskurðlækningar*).
- c. Paediatric ophthalmology (*barnaaugnlækningar*).
- d. Glaucoma and glaucoma surgery (*glákulækningar*).
- e. Cornea and external diseases (*hornhimnulækningar*).
- f. Vitreoretinal diseases (*sjónhimnulækningar*).
- g. Neuro ophthalmology (*taugaaugnlækningar*).

**III. Orthopaedic surgery (*bæklunarskurðlækningar*):**

*Subspeciality:*

- a. Hand surgery (*handarskurðlækningar*).

**IV. Obstetrics and gynaecology (*fæðinga- og kvensjúkdómalækningar*):**

*Subspecialities:*

- a. Foeto-maternal medicine (*fósturgreining og meðgöngusjúkdómar*).
- b. Gynaecological endocrinology (*innkirtlalækningar kvenna*).
- c. Gynaecological oncology (*krabbameinslækningar kvenna*).
- d. Infertility (*vanfrjósemislækningar*).
- e. Gynaecological urology (*þvagfæraskurðlækningar kvenna*).

**V. Otorhinolaryngology (*háls-, nef- og eyrnalækningar*):**

*Subspecialities:*