
Manual

For DNB Trainees



2022

DNB Broad Specialty

- ◆ Entrance Examination
- ◆ Admission to Post MBBS and Post Diploma DNB Programme
- ◆ Registration with NBEMS for DNB Programme
- ◆ Thesis Protocol & Thesis Writing
- ◆ Leave, Fee, Stipend and Unfair Means Guidelines
- ◆ Formative & Internal Assessment
- ◆ DNB Final Theory & Practical Examination
- ◆ Communication Protocols & Grievance Redressal Mechanisms for DNB Trainees

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1. Introduction

The Government of India established the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) in 1975 with the objective of improving the quality of the Medical Education by establishing high and uniform standards of postgraduate examinations in modern medicine on an all India basis and utilizing existing infrastructure for capacity building.

NBEMS administers Post Graduate, Doctoral and Post Doctoral level Programmes in various disciplines of modern medicine. Post Graduate courses are offered to Post MBBS and Post Diploma candidates leading to the award of Diplomate of National Board (DNB) qualifications. Doctoral courses are offered to MD/MS/DNB qualified post graduates conferring them with Doctorate of National Board (DrNB) qualifications. NBEMS administers skill enhancing fellowship courses at Doctoral and Post-Doctoral levels awarding Fellow of National Board (FNB) qualifications.

NBEMS conducts various entrance examinations, exit examinations and screening tests. The Examinations conducted by NBEMS provide a common standard and mechanism of evaluation of minimum level of attainment of the knowledge and competencies of medical specialties. Moreover, intra country and international comparisons are facilitated with the availability of common evaluation mechanism.

The notification issued by the Govt. of India time to time in the Gazette of India for qualifications awarded by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences are available under **Annexure** to this handbook.

NBEMS qualifications have been recognized as per provisions of the section 37 of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019. The equivalence of NBEMS qualifications with the corresponding MD/MS or DM/MCh qualifications awarded under the ambit of NMC has also been defined in the above mentioned NMC Act. Details of the same are also available under **Annexure** to this handbook.

2. Information for DNB Trainees

- 2.1. DNB course is a post graduate level Broad Specialty programme which can be joined after qualifying NEET-PG examination or DNB-PDCET examination.
- 2.2. The duration of the DNB course is 3 years for candidates who have completed their MBBS qualification and joining the course through NEET-PG. The course is named as Post MBBS DNB Course.
- 2.3. The duration of DNB course is 2 years for candidates who have already completed a recognized PG Diploma programme in the same specialty and joining the DNB courses through DNB-PDCET. The course is named as Post Diploma DNB Course. NBEMS administers such Post Diploma DNB Courses in 14 broad specialty disciplines as listed in Chapter - 3.
- 2.4. The merit-based counseling for admissions to 3 years Post MBBS DNB Programme after conduct of NEET-PG is administered by the Medical Counseling Committee (MCC) of DGHS, MoHFW, Govt of India along with the counseling for admissions to various MD/MS/PG Diploma courses.
- 2.5. The counseling for admissions to 2 years Post Diploma DNB Programme is administered by NBEMS after conduct of DNB-PDCET.
- 2.6. After opting for a DNB seat for the 3 year or 2 year DNB courses, the trainee is registered with NBEMS for DNB training in respective course. Whereas Post MBBS DNB Course trainees entering through NEET-PG are registered for the 3 year programme, Post Diploma DNB trainees entering through DNB-PDCET are registered for the 2 year programme. Customarily, they are being called Primary DNB and Secondary DNB trainees respectively.
- 2.7. The eligibility of the trainee for DNB programme is determined on the basis of prescribed criteria in the information bulletin for respective entrance examination. On successfully meeting the

criteria and submission of required application with prescribed documents to NBEMS, the trainee gets registered with NBEMS. A letter to this effect in form of a “Letter of Provisional Registration” is communicated to the trainee and his/her training institution.

- 2.8. The training of the DNB trainees is governed by a set of NBEMS leave rules. All DNB trainees are advised to be thoroughly acquainted with the prescribed rule for availing leave during their DNB course because excess leave availed by them over and above the prescribed leave shall lead to extension of their training. This extension might even affect the eligibility of the trainee for DNB Final Examination in case his/her extended training goes beyond the prescribed cut-off date for completion of training. Excess leave beyond a prescribed limit may even lead to cancellation of the registration of trainees for the course.
- 2.9. During the DNB training, the trainees are posted to different areas of the specialty concerned as per the guidelines prescribed in the curriculum for that specialty.
- 2.10. All DNB trainees are required to write and submit the synopsis/protocol of their proposed theses work well within the timelines prescribed by NBEMS. The said thesis protocols are evaluated by the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) of the training institutes. The trainees start working on their theses after their theses protocols are approved by the IEC of their training institutions.
- 2.11. NBEMS does not evaluate and convey any approval for the theses protocols. However, it is mandatory for the trainee and his/her training institute to convey the approval of the IEC and SRC for the thesis protocol of the trainee to NBEMS as per prescribed proforma well within the timelines specified. A delay in preparing the protocol and/or its approval by the Institutional Ethics Committee and/or in conveying the said approval to NBEMS may have an adverse impact on trainee’s eligibility for DNB Final Examinations.
- 2.12. All DNB trainees are provided with the training by the respective training institute as per prescribed curriculum. The training

institution shall conduct the academic teaching and training including the bed side teaching, if applicable, as per prescribed guidelines of NBEMS. The trainees are required to maintain an e-log of cases observed/attended, Journal Clubs/Seminars attended/presented etc as per the format specified in their e-Doctor Log book. A regular review of the said e-logbook by the mentor/guide of the trainee is a mandatory requisite.

- 2.13. All DNB trainees are paid a minimum stipend as per guidelines prescribed by NBEMS. The trainees are paid stipend for the entire duration of training including their eligible leave as per NBEMS leave guidelines. However, they shall not be paid stipend for a period more than the duration of the training programme i.e. 36 months (for a 3 year programme) or 24 months (for the 2 year Programme), if in case their training gets extended due to excess leave availed by them.
- 2.14. After successful completion of the thesis research work and writing, the DNB trainees are required to submit their theses to NBEMS for assessment well within the timelines prescribed. Any delay in submission of thesis to NBEMS for assessment shall impact the eligibility of the DNB trainees for DNB Final Examinations.
- 2.15. Theses of DNB trainees are assessed by subject experts of NBEMS and the outcome is communicated. In case the thesis of a DNB trainee is not accepted in the form presented, he/she is asked to modify the same within the timelines prescribed. A trainee is required to do the necessary modifications and to resubmit the modified thesis through his/her thesis guide to NBEMS for re-assessment. The modified thesis might get accepted or may be advised re-modifications depending upon the corrections incorporated by the trainees and/or its acceptance by the thesis assessor.
- 2.16. Once the thesis of a trainee gets accepted by NBEMS, same is communicated to the trainee in form of an acceptance letter called as Thesis Acceptance Letter (TAC).

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- 2.17. The trainees are subjected to both Formative and Summative Assessment during their DNB training.
 - 2.18. The Formative Assessment in the form of a Centralized Formative Assessment Test (FAT), is conducted by NBEMS during the 2nd Year (for 3-year course) or 1st year (for 2 year course) of DNB training. FAT comprises of a theory examination followed by work place based assessment. During rest of the years of training, the training institute conducts Internal Assessments on lines almost similar to the FAT.
 - 2.19. Whereas the assessment outcome of FAT/Internal Assessments guides a trainee towards the progress made in the DNB training and the course corrections required, if any, the marks/grades of FAT/Internal Assessment are not added to the Summative Assessment.
 - 2.20. It is mandatory for all DNB trainees to attend the minimum number of FAT/Internal Assessments during their DNB training.
 - 2.21. All DNB trainees are required to attend the final examination leading to the award of DNB qualification. National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences conduct DNB Final Examination usually in June and December every year.
 - 2.22. DNB Final is a two-stage examination comprising of theory and practical examination. A DNB trainee registered with NBEMS on obtaining requisite period of training as prescribed by NBEMS & fulfilling other eligibility criteria as stated in the Information Bulletin for DNB Final Examination may appear for the DNB final examination. The trainees are required to complete their DNB training by a prescribed cut-off date to be eligible for a particular session of DNB Final Examination. If they are not able to complete their training by the prescribed cut-off date, they can apply for the next session of examination on fulfillment of eligibility criteria.
 - 2.23. A DNB trainee who has qualified the theory examination is permitted to appear in the practical examination. Those who fail to qualify the

theory examination are required to reappear in the theory examination.

- 2.24. DNB trainees who have qualified both DNB Final Theory & Practical Examinations, and whose theses have been accepted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, shall be conferred with DNB qualification in the specialty concerned on enrolment for the NBEMS convocation.
- 2.25. Please be apprised that the instructions in this handbook are meant for giving an overview of the NBEMS training programme and are liable to change based on decisions taken by the MoHFW/NMC/MCC/NBEMS from time to time. The trainees are advised to refer to the respective guidelines/bulletin for each training/examination process made available at NBEMS website time to time.
- 2.26. NBEMS reserves its absolute rights to alter the schedule, pattern, policy and guidelines of any of its training processes/examination at any time during the continuation or after the completion of DNB training. The trainee shall have no right whatsoever for claiming/deriving any right from past or present schedule, policy and guidelines of National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences.
- 2.27. The existing schedule, pattern, policy and guidelines are for ready reference only but in no way, they are or are ought to be treated as representative or acknowledgment of fact that NBEMS is bound to follow the same in future. NBEMS reserves its absolute right to alter, amend, modify or apply any or some of the instructions/ guidelines contained in this handbook
- 2.28. In case of any ambiguity in interpretation of any of the instructions/terms/rules/criteria regarding the determination of eligibility/conduct of examinations/ registration of candidates/information contained herein, the interpretation of the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences shall be final and binding in nature.

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- 2.29. DNB trainees should communicate with National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences as per prescribed communication protocols only for their general queries. For any grievances with the NBEMS accredited institute and/or with NBEMS, the trainee can utilize the Grievance Redressal Mechanisms established for the same as detailed in this handbook.
- 2.30. All the correspondence through post should be addressed to the Executive Director, National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, Medical Enclave, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029. Candidates are requested to super scribe the envelope with the subject matter of the correspondence for expeditious processing.
- 2.31. **The jurisdiction for court cases/disputes shall be at New Delhi only.**

3. DNB Broad Specialty Courses

3.1. NBEMS administers DNB Broad Specialty Courses in following disciplines of modern medicine:

S.No	Post MBBS 3 Year Courses
1	Anaesthesiology*
2	Anatomy
3	Biochemistry
4	Community Medicine
5	Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy*
6	Emergency Medicine
7	Family Medicine
8	Forensic Medicine
9	General Medicine
10	General Surgery
11	Hospital Administration
12	Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion
13	Maternal and Child Health
14	Microbiology
15	Nuclear Medicine*
16	Obstetrics and Gynaecology*
17	Ophthalmology*
18	Orthopaedics*
19	Otorhinolaryngology (ENT)*
20	Paediatrics*
21	Palliative Medicine
22	Pathology*
23	Pharmacology
24	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*
25	Physiology
26	Psychiatry*
27	Radiation Oncology* (Previously Radio Therapy)
28	Radio Diagnosis*
29	Respiratory Medicine*

Note: Post Diploma DNB course of 2 year duration is available only in those specialties which are marked asterick () above.*

4. Entrance Examination for DNB Programme

A. Post MBBS DNB Courses through NEET-PG:

- 4.1. Admissions to 3-year Post MBBS DNB Courses are done through NEET-PG.
- 4.2. NEET-PG is an eligibility-cum-ranking examination prescribed as the single entrance examination for admission to various MD/MS and PG Diploma Courses as per Section 61(2) of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 read with 10 (D) of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.
- 4.3. NEET-PG is conducted annually by NBEMS. Candidates in possession of MBBS degree or Provisional MBBS Pass Certificate recognized as per the provisions of the NMC Act, 2019 and the repealed Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and possessing permanent or provisional registration certificate of MBBS qualification issued by the NMC/ the erstwhile Medical Council of India or State Medical Council and have completed one year of internship or are likely to complete the internship on or before the prescribed cut-off date can appear in the NEET-PG examination of respective session.
- 4.4. Details regarding eligibility criteria, scheme of examination, test centre details, examination fee etc are published in the information bulletin for NEET-PG.

B. Post Diploma DNB Courses through DNB-PDCET:

- 4.5. The list of broad specialties in which NBEMS offers a 2-year Post Diploma DNB Course also is mentioned in Chapter - 3. Entrance to these programme is done through DNB-PDCET.
- 4.6. DNB-PDCET is the ranking examination for admission to various Post Diploma DNB courses of 2 years' duration. Candidates who have passed the final examination leading to the award of Post Graduate Diploma from Indian Universities which are duly

recognized as per provisions of the NMC Act 2019 and the repealed Indian Medical Council Act 1956, Govt of India can appear in DNB-PDCET in the same Broad specialty. The result of final examination for the said Post Graduate Diploma qualification should have been declared on or before the prescribed cut-off date for a particular session of DNB PDCET.

- 4.7. Details regarding eligibility criteria, scheme of examination, test centre details, examination fee etc are published in the information bulletin for DNB-PDCET.

5. Admissions to Post MBBS DNB Programme

A. Eligibility for Participation in Counseling:

- 5.1. Candidate must be in possession of Degree Certificate/Provisional Pass Certificate of MBBS qualification duly recognized as per the provisions of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 and the Indian Medical Council Act 1956 and possess Permanent Registration of their MBBS qualification with a State Medical Council/National Medical Commission/Medical Council of India.
- 5.2. Candidate must have completed one year of compulsory rotatory internship on or before the prescribed cutoff date for respective admission session.
- 5.3. Candidate must have qualified NEET PG for the respective admission session.
- 5.4. Candidates already pursuing or have joined a PG Course (DNB/MD/MS/Diploma) are not eligible for admission to any other DNB seat for the entire duration prescribed for the course already joined by them earlier. This shall be irrespective of their resignation or discontinuation from the said course due to any reason.

B. Nature of Post MBBS DNB Seats:

- 5.5. There are primarily three kind of DNB seats in Post MBBS 3 Years DNB Course:
 - All India Open Post MBBS DNB Seats
 - Post MBBS DNB seats reserved for in-service candidates of particular state/organization
 - Sponsored Post MBBS DNB seats
- 5.6. **All India Open Post MBBS DNB Seats:** Pursuant to the judgement of the Supreme Court of India dated 26th May 2020 in the matter of

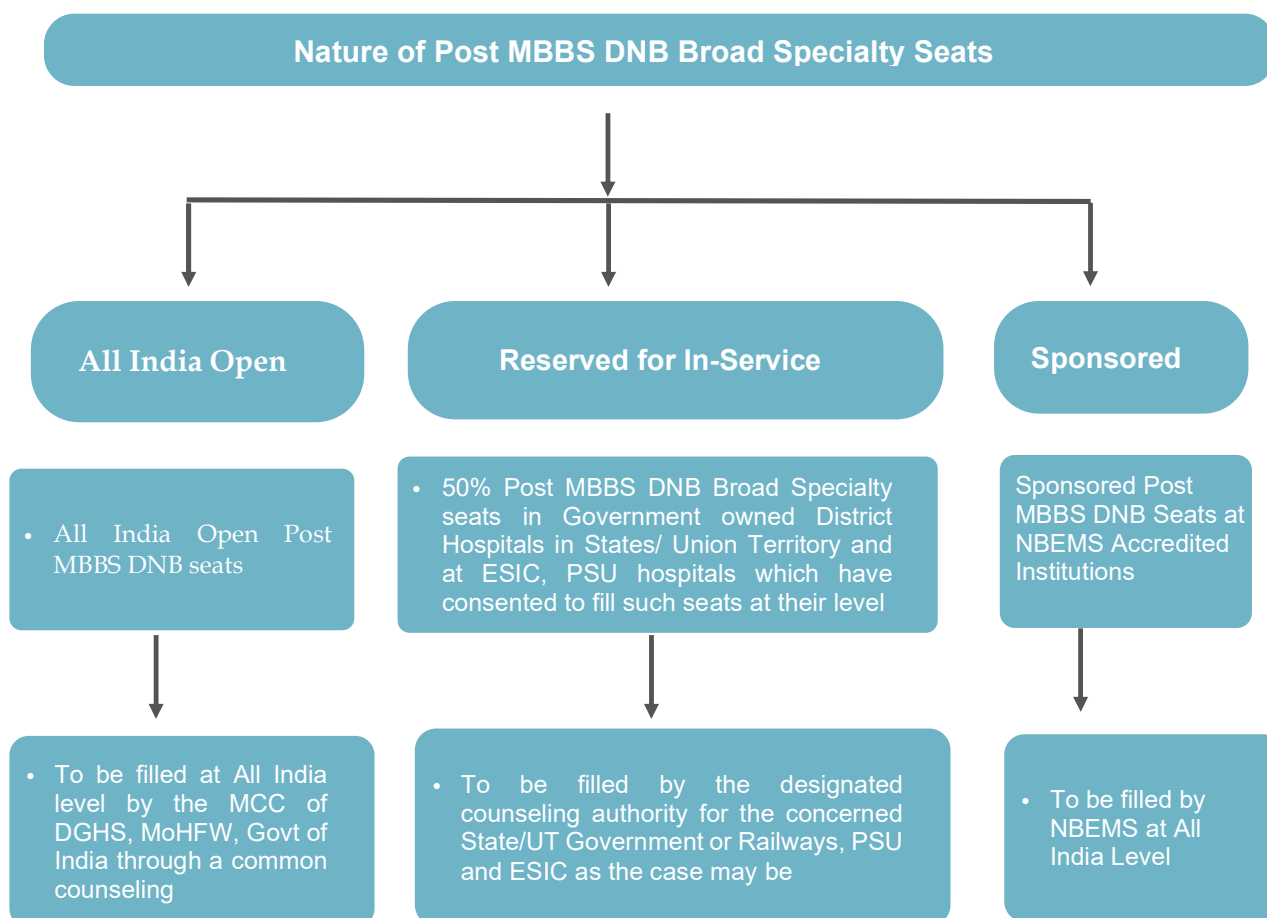
Alapati Jyotsna & Others vs Union of India & Others admissions to All India Open Post MBBS DNB seats under NBEMS are done through a common counseling along with All India 50% Quota MD/MS/Diploma Seats under the ambit of NMC.

- 5.7. This common counseling is conducted by the Medical Counseling Committee (MCC) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The same has been implemented from the admission session of 2021 onwards.
- 5.8. A detailed handbook of counseling is published by MCC at the time of counseling which can be accessed at the website of MCC at the time of counseling, detailing the procedure and rules for counseling, applicable counseling fee, refundable security deposit, etc.
- 5.9. **Post MBBS DNB Seats reserved for In-service candidates of State/Organization:** 50% DNB seats in Broad Specialty disciplines at NBEMS accredited State/UT Govt owned District Hospitals, Railway Hospitals, PSU hospitals and ESIC hospitals etc are reserved for their in-service candidates, subject to the consent of participating hospitals.
- 5.10. The counseling for such reserved seats shall be conducted by designated counseling authority of respective States for State seats, by Railway Board for seats in Railway hospitals, by respective Organizations for seats in PSUs/ESIC etc.
- 5.11. **Sponsored Post MBBS DNB Seats:** Sponsored seats are All India Open seats for in-service candidates who are employed at Govt Institutions and such seats offered in the counseling subject to availability of such seats and consent of participating institutions.
- 5.12. The counseling for Sponsored Post MBBS DNB seats at NBEMS accredited institutions shall be conducted by the NBEMS.

Table - 1: Shows Nature of Post MBBS DNB seats and Counseling Authorities

S.No	Types of seats	Counseling Authority
1	All India Open Post MBBS DNB seats	Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India
2	Upto 50% Post MBBS DNB seats in Broad Specialty disciplines reserved for in-service candidates at NBEMS accredited State /UT Govt owned District Hospitals, Railway Hospitals, PSU hospitals and ESIC hospitals etc	State Government or authority designated by the State Government
3	Sponsored Post MBBS DNB seats for in-service candidates	NBEMS

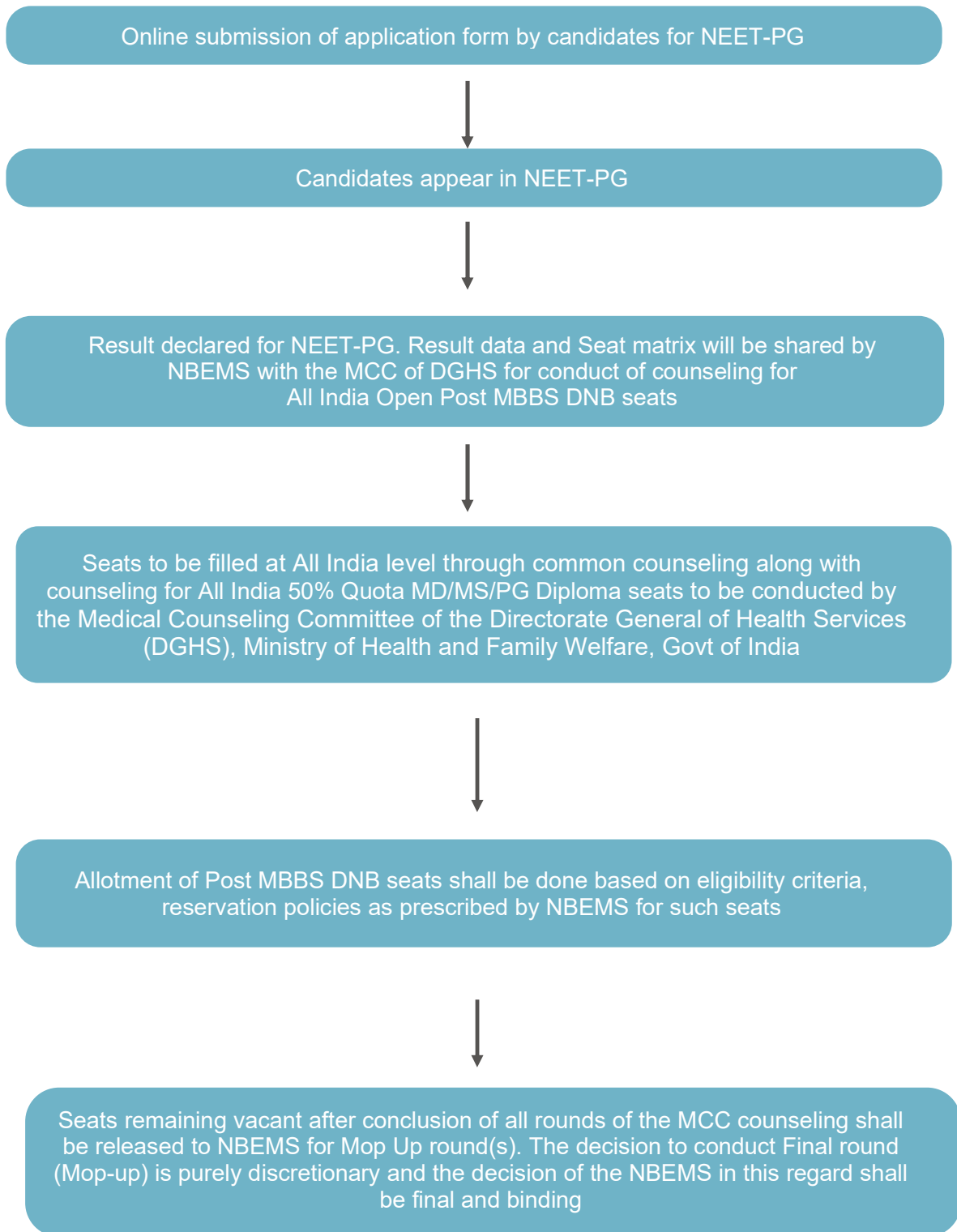
Flow Chart: Depicting Nature of DNB Seats and Designated Counseling Authorities



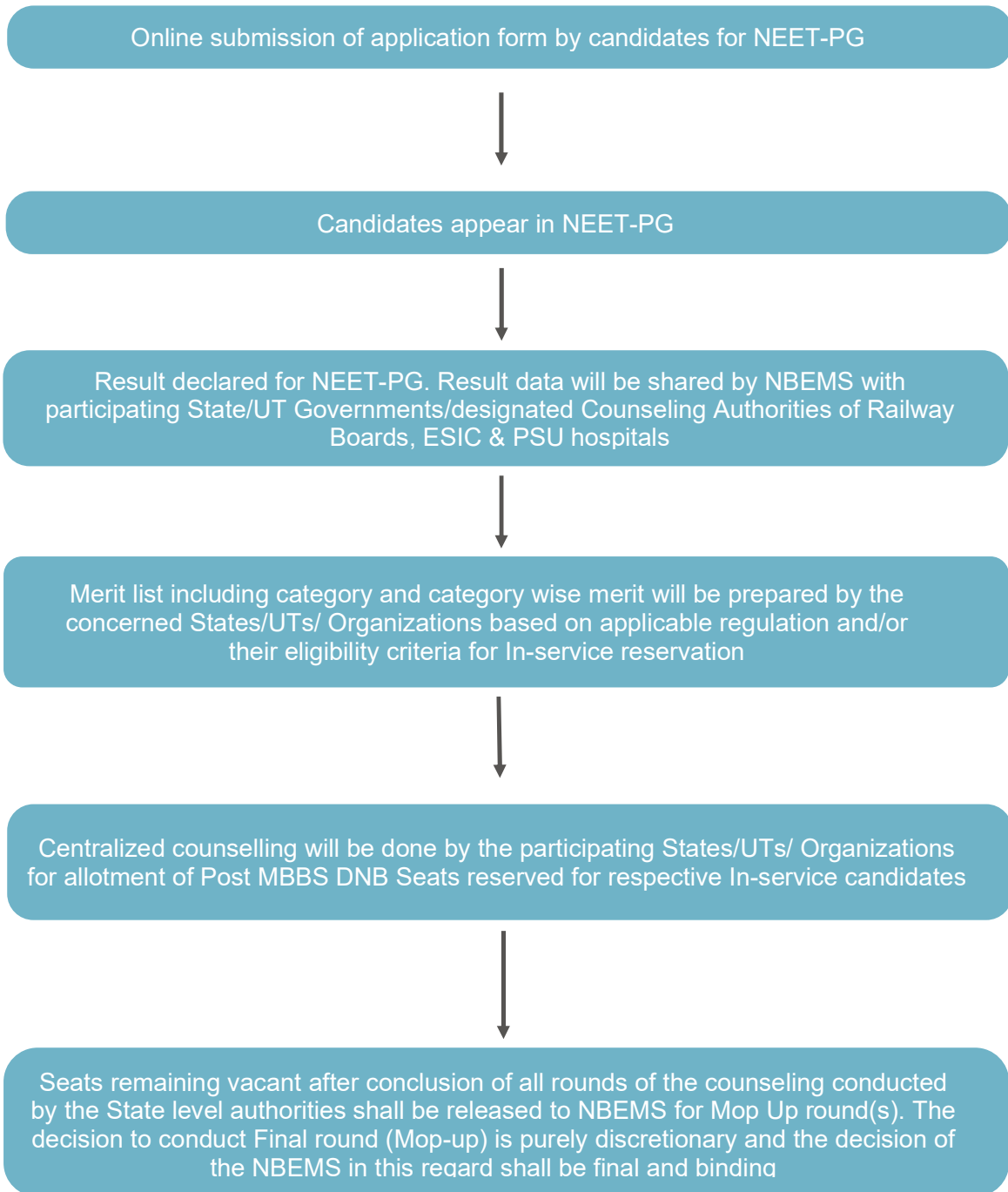
C. Reservation in Post MBBS DNB Seats:

- 5.13. NBEMS does not own or control any of its accredited hospitals. NBEMS neither employs the candidate nor makes any payment/stipend to the candidate. Reservation status of Post MBBS DNB seats at a particular Institution/ medical college is provided by the respective institution only based on the roster maintained by the concerned institution. NBEMS does not own, possess or fund any seat. Reserved seats will be allotted to the concerned category candidates only. Candidates of reserved category can OPT for either reserved seats earmarked for them or unreserved seats in order of their merit.
- 5.14. **All India Open Post MBBS DNB Seats:** All Post MBBS DNB seats at NBEMS accredited hospitals other than those reserved for in-service candidates shall be open for admission at all India level. Constitutional reservation shall be applicable in Government hospitals as per roster prepared and provided by respective hospitals.
- 5.15. **In-service Reservation:** 50% Post MBBS DNB seats in Broad Specialty disciplines at NBEMS accredited State /UT Govt owned District Hospitals, Railway Hospitals, PSU hospitals and ESIC hospitals shall be allocated to in-service candidates of respective States/PSUs/Organizations, subject to the consent of respective organization for the same.

Flow Chart: Depicting Allotment of All India Open Post MBBS DNB Seats at NBEMS Accredited Institutions through common counseling conducted by MCC of DGHS, Govt of India



Flow Chart: Depicting Allotment of Post MBBS DNB Seats reserved for In-service Candidates in NBEMS Accredited Institutions



D. Final Round [Mop-up]:

- 5.16. Post MBBS DNB seats of NBEMS remaining vacant after conclusion of all rounds of counseling conducted by the MCC of DGHS and State level authorities may be released to NBEMS for Mop Up rounds. The Mop rounds may be conducted by the NBEMS. NBEMS seats remaining vacant after the completion of Mop Up round(s) of counseling shall not be carried forward to the next admission session
- 5.17. The Final round (Mop-up) of counseling will be held only if sufficient number of seats are available. The availability of these seats should be well before the last date for admission for the respective admission session. However, candidates must note that the Final round (Mop-up) may not be conducted at all. The decision to conduct Final round (Mop-up) is purely discretionary and the decision of the NBEMS in this regard shall be final and binding.
- 5.18. All the candidates who have not been allotted with any seat in the counseling conducted by the MCC and the counseling conducted by State Level authorities, will alone be eligible for Final round (Mop-up) of counseling.
- 5.19. The schedule for Mop Up round is notified on NBEMS website as and when it is announced.
- 5.20. The candidate who has qualified the NEET-PG and registered for the counseling conducted by the MCC of DGHS or the Designated State Level Counseling Authority but has not been allotted any seat in the counseling are eligible to participate in the Mop Up round to be conducted by NBEMS. No fresh registration for Mop Up round are considered.

E. Counseling for Sponsored Post MBBS DNB Seats:

- 5.21. NBEMS has introduced the Sponsored seats at its accredited institutions. Please refer notice dated 31.12.2019 available at NBEMS website <https://natboard.edu.in> for details of eligibility criteria prescribed to apply for sponsored seats.

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- 5.22. These sponsored seats are All India Open seats for in-service candidates employed at Govt Institutions and offered in Post MBBS 3 Years DNB Course, subject to availability of such seats and consent of participating institutions.
- 5.23. Counseling for such sponsored seats shall be conducted by the NBEMS. The schedule for counseling for sponsored DNB seats is notified on NBEMS website as and when it is announced
- 5.24. Candidates desirous of applying for admission to these sponsored seats are advised to refer to the NBEMS notice dated 31.12.2019 and 11.11.2021 or any subsequent notices in this regard and seek requisite "No Objection Certificates" (NOC) from their employers well in advance.
- 5.25. Matrix of seats available under Sponsored Category are made available at NBEMS website <https://natboard.edu.in>
- 5.26. Hospitals accredited with NBEMS for DNB shall be eligible for grant of sponsored seat as per eligibility criteria prescribed by NBEMS. The Seat matrix of seats offered under Sponsored category are published on NBEMS website before the commencement of counseling for respective admission session.
- 5.27. **Eligibility Criteria for Candidates:** The sponsored seat shall be allocated only to a sponsored candidate through merit-based centralized counseling. A sponsored candidate is a candidate who is working in a Government (state /central /autonomous /PSUs, etc.) organization on a regular basis. The eligibility criteria for a sponsored candidate is as under:
- 5.27.1. The candidate must have qualified the NEET-PG Examination of respective session.
- 5.27.2. Candidates must be in possession of MBBS degree/Provisional Pass Certificate recognized as per the provisions of the NMC Act, 2019 and the Indian Medical Council Act 1956 and possess permanent / provisional registration certificate of MBBS

qualification issued by the Medical Council of India/ State Medical Council/National Medical Commission.

5.27.3. The candidate should be employed on regular basis with the sponsoring Government organization (State/Central/Autonomous/PSUs, etc.)

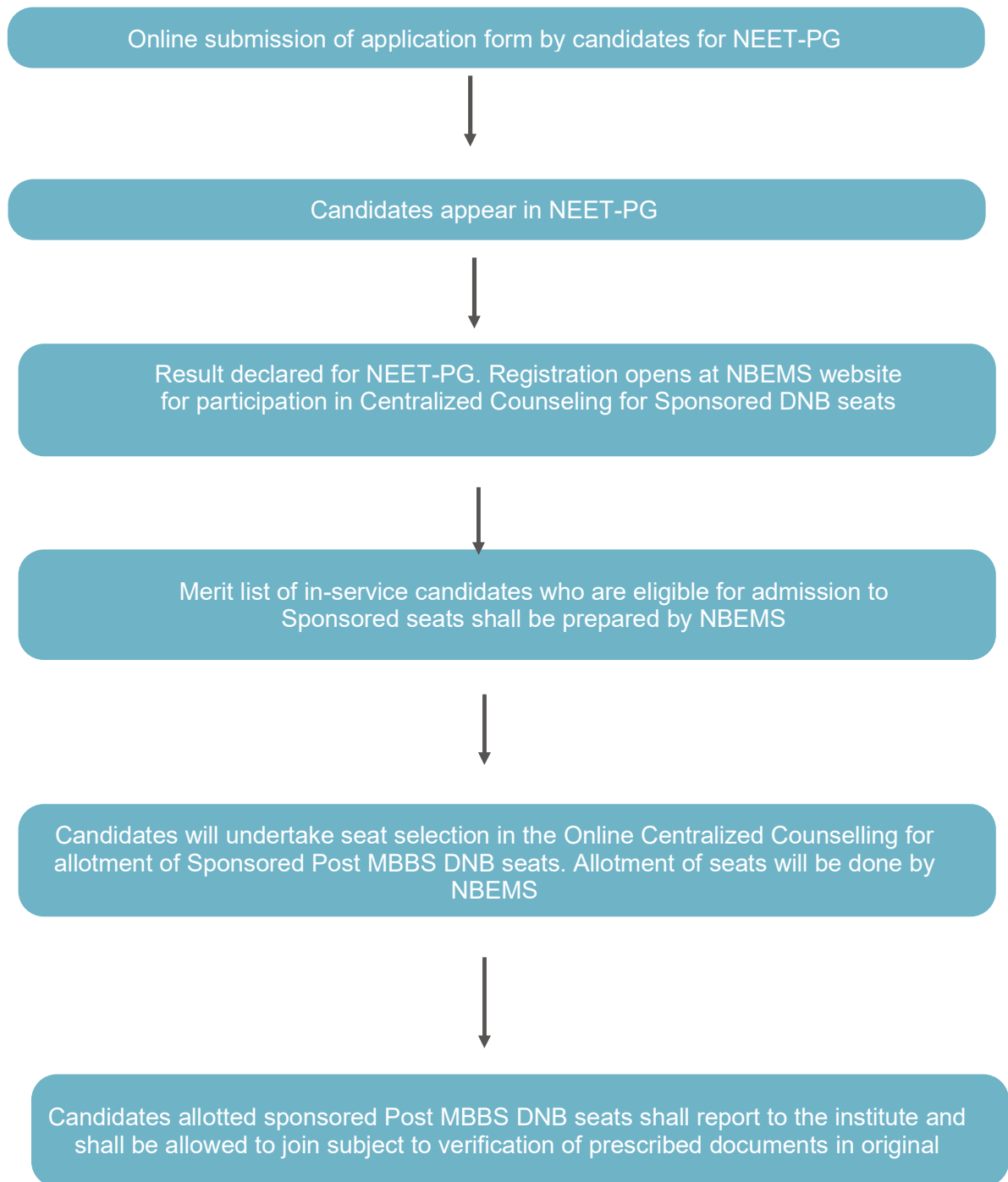
5.28. **No Objection Certificate** issued by the sponsoring Government employer of the candidate with a commitment of granting study leave for the period of DNB training and payment of salary with applicable allowances as per rules of the sponsoring organization for the entire duration of DNB training in case of selection for the DNB training on a sponsored seat. A “NOC” to this effect shall be required to be submitted as per the prescribed format by NBEMS at the time of counseling. The format for seeking NOC can be accessed at NBEMS website and is also available in this handbook

5.29. A detailed handbook of counseling is published by NBEMS at the time of counseling which can be accessed at the website of NBEMS at the time of counseling, detailing the procedure and rules for counseling, applicable counseling fee, refundable security deposit, etc.

F. Tuition fee for First Year:

5.30. Rs. 147,500 shall be required to be deposited to NBEMS by all candidates who are allotted with DNB seats in order to confirm their joining. After completion of all rounds of counseling, the sum of Rs. 1,47,500/- (125000 tuition Fee for 1st year + 18% GST) shall be transferred to respective NBEMS accredited hospital where the candidate has finally joined his/her DNB training. This fee shall be in addition to any registration fee/security deposit prescribed by the designated counseling authority for participation in the counseling

Flow Chart: **Depicting Allotment of Sponsored Post MBBS DNB Seats**



Format for seeking NOC for Sponsored Post MBBS DNB Seats

(To be issued on Official Letter Head duly signed and stamped)

For admission to Sponsored DNB (Post MBBS) Seats

Ref. No.

Dated:

To,

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences,
Medical Enclave, Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Ring Road),
Ansari Nagar,
New Delhi-110029

Subject: Candidate/s who are eligible for participating to the Sponsored DNB (Post MBBS) Seats-
Regarding.

Sir,

It is hereby certified that the following **IN – SERVICE** candidates who have appeared in NEET-PG ____ session and qualified the exam are eligible for participating in the Sponsored DNB (Post MBBS) counseling conducted by NBEMS.

S.N	Name of the Candidate	NEET-PG Roll No.	Obtained Score	Merit Position
1.				
2.				

1. It is hereby confirmed that he/she is/are working on a regular basis in the department of..... (Full Office address) under Ministry of..... in the State of....., which is a Government (State /Central /Autonomous /PSUs, etc.) organization.
2. The undersigned is fully aware that:
 - (i) NBEMS is conducting centralised merit based Counseling on All India Basis.
 - (ii) Candidate/s can opt for the Sponsored DNB seat either in the NBEMS accredited Government hospital or in NBEMS accredited **Private** hospitals.
 - (iii) Candidates can opt for the Sponsored DNB seat in their State wherein he/she is serving or in the other States/UTs of India.
3. **The undersigned undertakes that study leave shall be granted to the candidate as required under Rule 50 of Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972 or any other applicable Rule and also shall relieve the candidate in case of his / her selection to the sponsored DNB (Post MBBS) Seats, for joining the DNB training.**
4. The candidate shall continue to get the salary and necessary allowances as per rules, from the parent department (Sponsoring Government organization) for the entire period of DNB training.

Signature of the Cadre Controlling Authority/Secretary(Health)/
Secretary (Medical Education) of the Central Government/State/Union Territory

Name (In Capital Letter)

Date:.

Official Seal (With Name and
Designation)

6. Admissions to Post Diploma DNB Programme

A. Eligibility for Participation in Counseling:

- 6.1. Candidate must be in possession of Degree Certificate/Provisional Pass Certificate of PG Diploma qualification duly recognized as per the provisions of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 and the Indian Medical Council Act 1956 and possess Permanent Registration with a State Medical Council/National Medical Commission/Medical Council of India.
- 6.2. The result of final examination for the said Post Graduate Diploma qualification should have been declared on or before the prescribed cut-off date for a particular session of DNB PDCET
- 6.3. Candidate must have qualified DNB-PDCET for the respective admission session.
- 6.4. Candidates already pursuing or have joined a PG Course (DNB/MD/MS/Diploma) are not eligible for admission to any other DNB seat for the entire duration prescribed for the course already joined by them earlier. This shall be irrespective of their resignation or discontinuation from the said course due to any reason.

G. Nature of Post Diploma DNB Seats:

- 6.5. There are primarily three kind of DNB seats in Post Diploma 2 Years DNB Course:
 - All India Open Post Diploma DNB Seats
 - Post Diploma DNB seats reserved for in-service candidates of particular state/organization
 - Sponsored Post Diploma DNB seats
- 6.6. **All India Open Post Diploma DNB Seats:** The centralized merit based counseling is conducted by NBEMS. A detailed handbook of

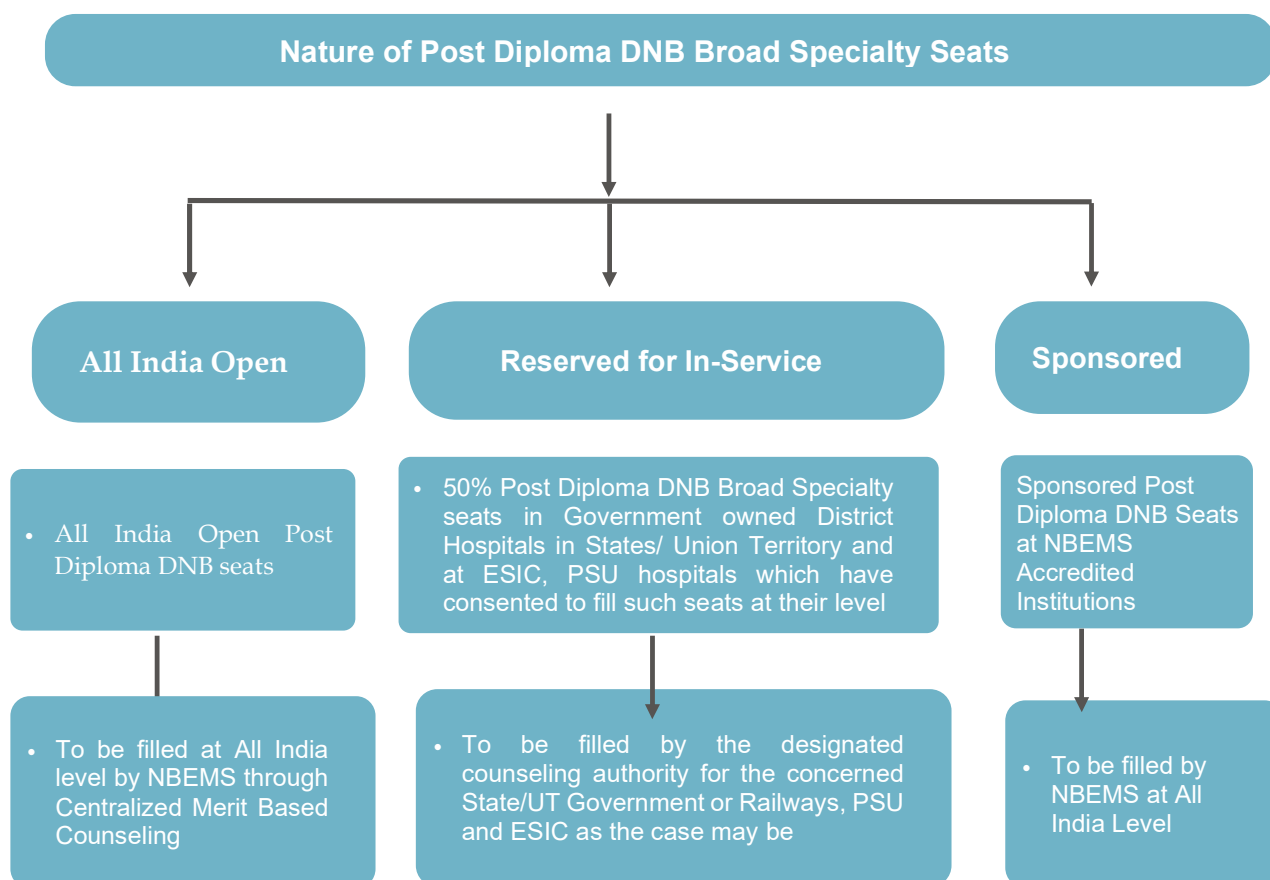
counseling is published by NBEMS at the time of counseling which can be accessed at the website of NBEMS at the time of counseling, detailing the procedure and rules for counseling, applicable counseling fee, refundable security deposit, etc.

- 6.7. **Post Diploma DNB Seats reserved for In-service candidates of State/Organization:** 50% Post Diploma DNB seats in Broad Specialty disciplines at NBEMS accredited State/UT Govt owned District Hospitals, Railway Hospitals, PSU hospitals and ESIC hospitals etc are reserved for their in-service candidates, subject to the consent of participating hospitals.
- 6.8. The counseling for such reserved seats shall be conducted by designated counseling authority of respective States for State seats, by Railway Board for seats in Railway hospitals, by respective Organizations for seats in PSUs/ESIC etc.
- 6.9. **Sponsored Post Diploma DNB Seats:** Such sponsored seats are All India Open seats for in-service candidates who are employed at Govt Institutions and such seats offered in the counseling subject to availability of such seats and consent of participating institutions.
- 6.10. The counseling for Sponsored Post Diploma DNB seats at NBEMS accredited institutions shall be conducted by the NBEMS.

Table - 1: Shows Nature of Post Diploma DNB seats and designated Counseling Authorities

S.No	Types of seats	Counseling Authority
1	All India Open Post Diploma DNB seats	NBEMS
2	Upto 50% Post Diploma DNB seats in Broad Specialty disciplines reserved for in-service candidates at NBEMS accredited State /UT Govt owned District Hospitals, Railway Hospitals, PSU hospitals and ESIC hospitals etc	State Government or authority designated by the State Government
3	Sponsored All India Open Post Diploma DNB seats for in-service candidates	NBEMS

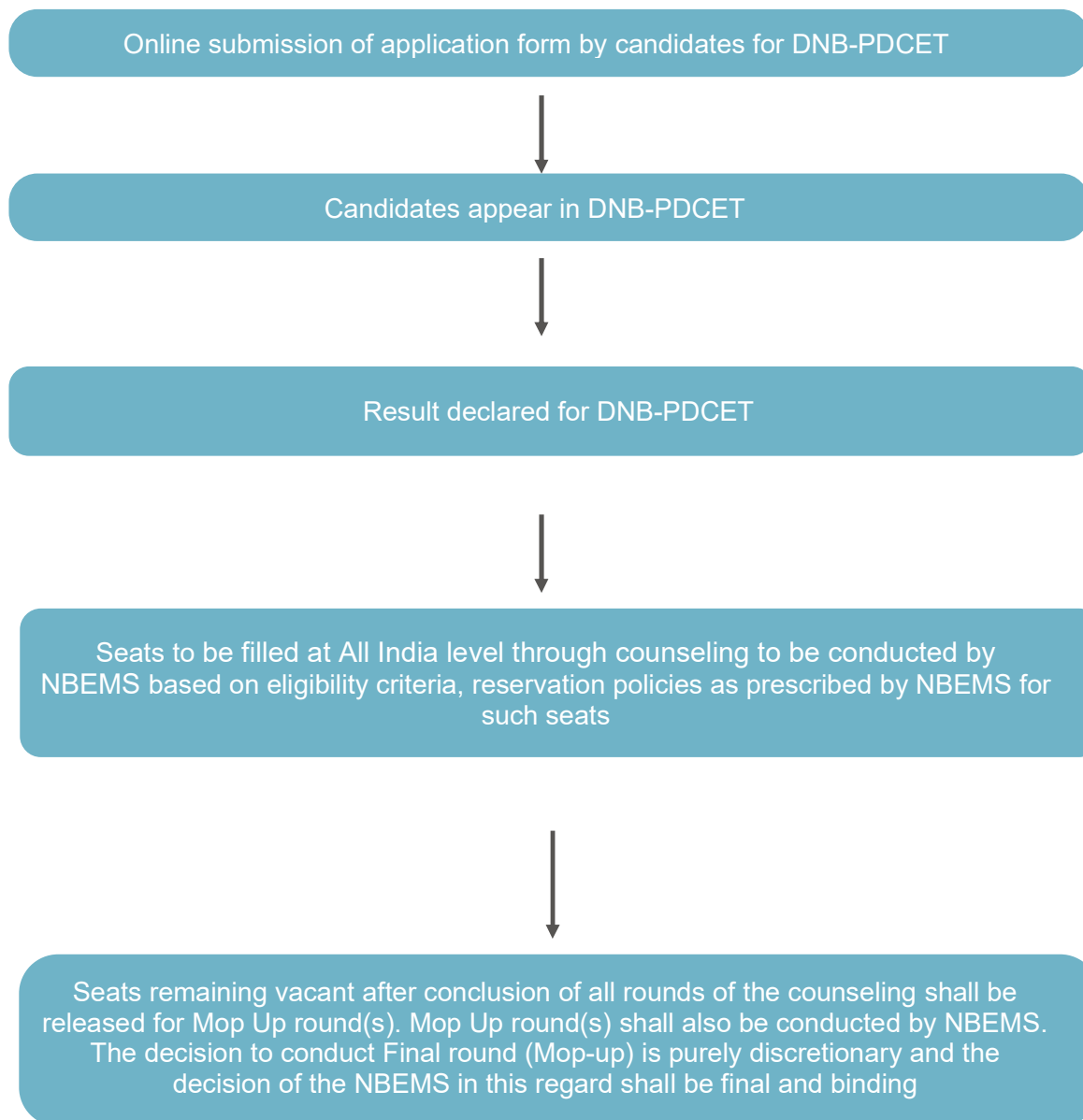
Flow Chart: Depicting Nature of Post Diploma DNB Seats and Designated Counseling Authorities



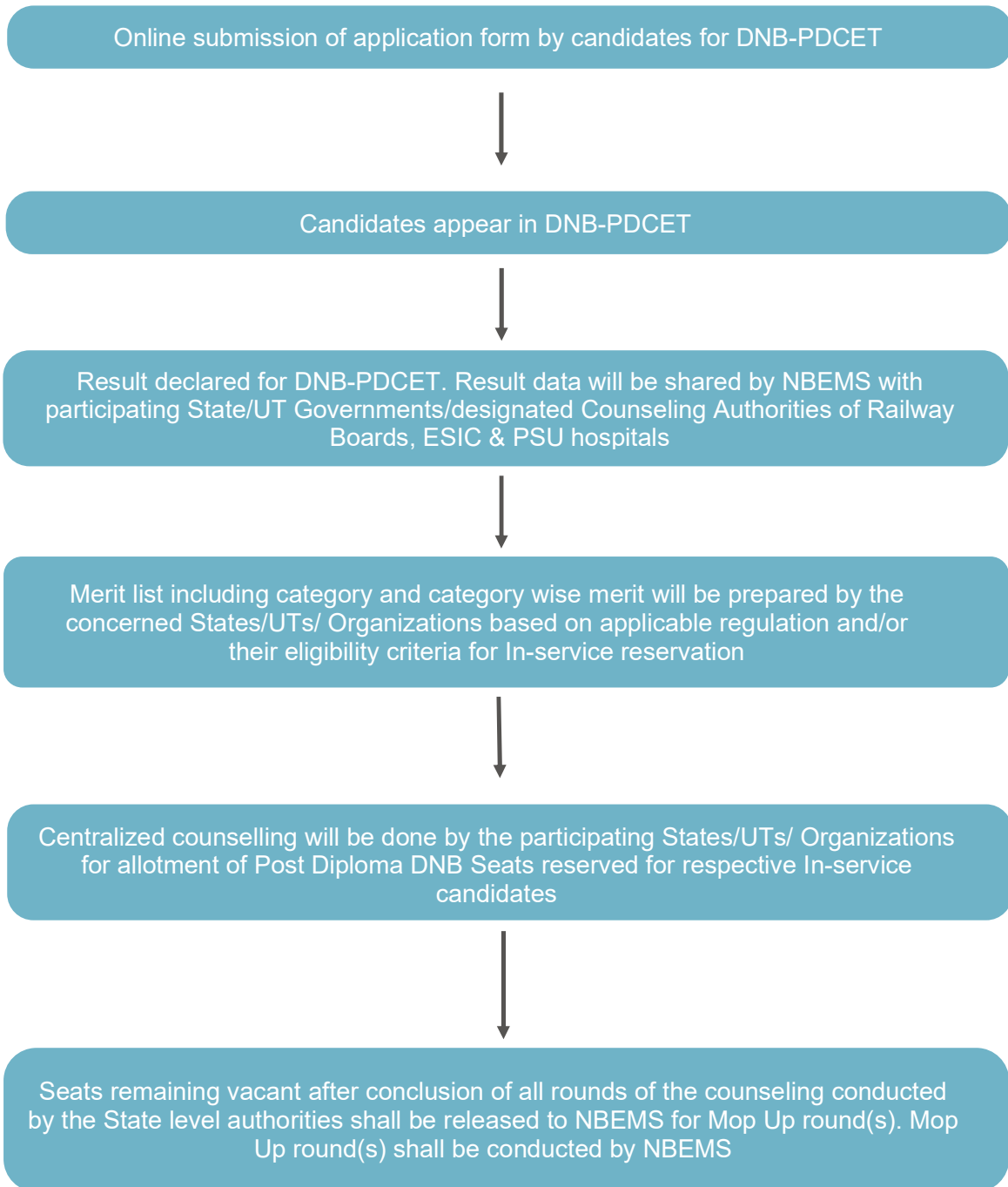
H. Reservation in Post Diploma DNB Seats:

- 6.11. NBEMS does not own or control any of its accredited hospitals. NBEMS neither employs the candidate nor makes any payment/stipend to the candidate. Reservation status of Post Diploma DNB seats at a particular Institution/ medical college is provided by the respective institution only based on the roster maintained by the concerned institution. NBEMS does not own, possess or fund any seat. Reserved seats will be allotted to the concerned category candidates only. Candidates of reserved category can OPT for either reserved seats earmarked for them or unreserved seats in order of their merit.
- 6.12. **All India Open Post Diploma DNB Seats:** All Post Diploma DNB seats at NBEMS accredited hospitals other than those reserved for in-service candidates shall be open for admission at all India level. Constitutional reservation shall be applicable in Government hospitals as per roster prepared and provided by respective hospitals.
- 6.13. **In-service Reservation:** 50% Post Diploma DNB seats in Broad Specialty disciplines at NBEMS accredited State /UT Govt owned District Hospitals, Railway Hospitals, PSU hospitals and ESIC hospitals shall be allocated to in-service candidates of respective States/PSUs/Organizations, subject to the consent of respective organization for the same.

Flow Chart: Depicting Allotment of All India Open Post Diploma DNB Seats through counseling conducted by NBEMS



Flow Chart: Depicting Allotment of Post Diploma DNB Seats reserved for In-service Candidates in NBEMS Accredited Institutions



B. Final Round [Mop-up]:

- 6.14. Post diploma DNB seats remaining vacant after conclusion of all rounds of counseling conducted by NBEMS and State level authorities may be considered by NBEMS for Mop Up rounds. The Mop rounds may be conducted by the NBEMS. NBEMS seats remaining vacant after the completion of Mop Up round(s) of counseling shall not be carried forward to the next admission session
- 6.15. The Final round (Mop-up) of counseling will be held only if sufficient number of seats are available. The availability of these seats should be well before the last date for admission for the respective admission session. However, candidates must note that the Final round (Mop-up) may not be conducted at all. The decision to conduct Final round (Mop-up) is purely discretionary and the decision of the NBEMS in this regard shall be final and binding.
- 6.16. The candidate who has qualified the DNB-PDCET and registered for the counseling conducted by NBEMS but has not been allotted any seat in the counseling are eligible to participate in the Mop Up round to be conducted by NBEMS. No fresh registration for Mop Up round are considered.
- 6.17. The schedule for Mop Up round is notified on NBEMS website as and when it is announced.

C. Sponsored Post Diploma DNB Seats:

- 6.18. NBEMS has introduced the Sponsored seats at its accredited institutions. Please refer notice dated 31.12.2019 available at NBEMS website <https://natboard.edu.in> for details of eligibility criteria prescribed to apply for sponsored seats.
- 6.19. These sponsored seats are All India Open seats for in-service candidates employed at Govt Institutions and offered in Post Diploma 2 Years DNB Course, subject to availability of such seats and consent of participating institutions.

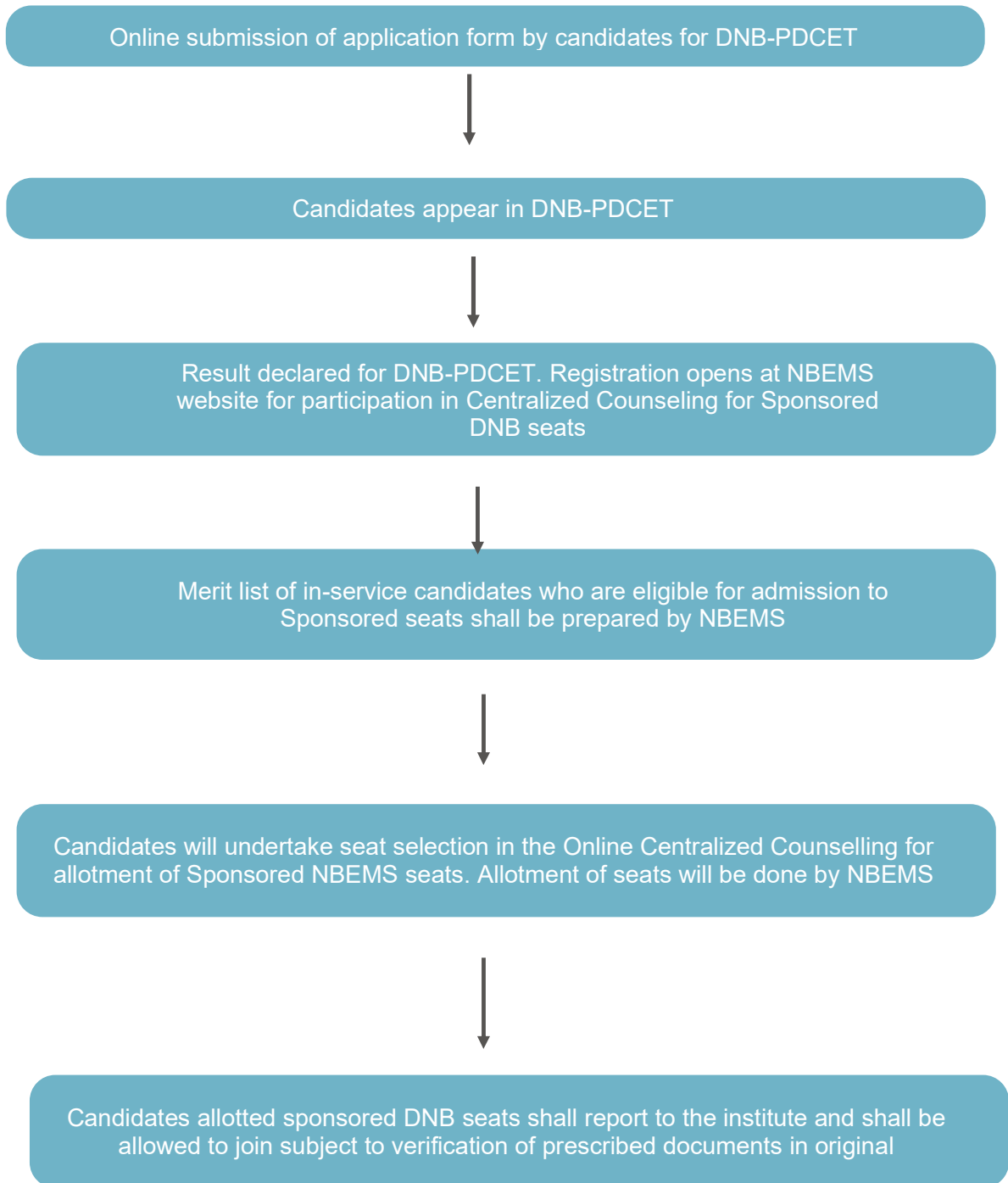
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- 6.20. Counseling for such sponsored seats shall be conducted by the NBEMS. Details of counseling for sponsored Post Diploma DNB seats are published on National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences website.
- 6.21. Candidates desirous of applying for admission to these sponsored seats are advised to refer to the NBEMS notice dated 31.12.2019 and 11.11.2021 or any subsequent notices in this regard and seek requisite "No Objection Certificates" (NOC) from their employers well in advance.
- 6.22. Matrix of seats available under Sponsored Category are made available at NBEMS website <https://natboard.edu.in>
- 6.23. Hospitals accredited with NBEMS for Post Diploma DNB seats shall be eligible for grant of sponsored seat as per eligibility criteria prescribed by NBEMS. The Seat matrix of seats offered under Sponsored category are published on NBEMS website before the counseling for respective admission session.
- 6.24. **Eligibility Criteria for Candidates:** The sponsored seat shall be allocated only to a sponsored candidate through merit-based centralized counseling. A sponsored candidate is a candidate who is working in a Government (state /central /autonomous /PSUs, etc.) organization on a regular basis. The eligibility criteria for a sponsored candidate is as under:
- 6.24.1. The candidate must have qualified the DNB-PDCET Examination of respective session.
- 6.24.2. Candidates who have passed the final examination leading to the award of Post Graduate Diploma from Indian Universities which are duly recognized as per provisions of Indian Medical Council Act 1956, Govt. of India. The result of final examination for the said Post Graduate Diploma qualification should have been declared on or before the prescribed cut-off date for a particular session of DNB PDCET.

-
- 6.24.3. The candidate should be employed on regular basis with the sponsoring Government organization (State/Central/Autonomous/PSUs, etc.)
- 6.25. **No Objection Certificate** issued by the sponsoring Government employer of the candidate with a commitment of granting study leave for the period of DNB training and payment of salary with applicable allowances as per rules of the sponsoring organization for the entire duration of DNB training in case of selection for the DNB training on a sponsored seat. A “NOC” to this effect shall be required to be submitted as per the prescribed format by NBEMS at the time of counseling. The format for seeking NOC can be accessed at NBEMS website and is also available in this handbook
- 6.26. A detailed handbook of counseling is published by NBEMS at the time of counseling which can be accessed at the website of NBEMS at the time of counseling, detailing the procedure and rules for counseling, applicable counseling fee, refundable security deposit, etc.

D. Tuition fee for First Year:

- 6.27. Rs. 147,500 shall be required to be deposited to NBEMS by all candidates who are allotted with Post Diploma DNB seats in order to confirm their joining. After completion of all rounds of counseling, the sum of Rs. 1,47,500/- (125000 tuition Fee for 1st year + 18% GST) shall be transferred to respective NBEMS accredited hospital where the candidate has finally joined his/her DNB training. This fee shall be in addition to any registration fee/security deposit prescribed by the designated counseling authority for participation in the counseling

Flow Chart: **Depicting Allotment of Sponsored Post Diploma DNB Seats**



Format for seeking NOC for Sponsored Post Diploma DNB Seats

(To be issued on Official Letter Head duly signed and stamped)

For admission to Sponsored DNB (Post Diploma) Seats

Ref. No.

Dated:

To,

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences,
Medical Enclave, Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Ring Road),
Ansari Nagar,
New Delhi-110029

Subject: Candidate/s who are eligible for participating to the Sponsored DNB (Post Diploma) Seats-
Regarding.

Sir,

It is hereby certified that the following **IN – SERVICE** candidates who have appeared in DNB-PDCET _____ session and qualified the exam are eligible for participating in the Sponsored DNB (Post MBBS/ Post Diploma) counseling conducted by NBEMS.

S.N	Name of the Candidate	DNB-PDCET Roll No.	Obtained Score	Merit Position
1.				
2.				

- It is hereby confirmed that he/she is/are working on a regular basis in the department of..... (Full Office address) under Ministry of..... in the State of....., which is a Government (State /Central /Autonomous /PSUs, etc.) organization.
- The undersigned is fully aware that:
 - NBEMS is conducting centralised merit based Counseling on All India Basis.
 - Candidate/s can opt for the Sponsored DNB seat either in the NBEMS accredited Government hospital or in NBEMS accredited **Private** hospitals.
 - Candidates can opt for the Sponsored DNB seat in their State wherein he/she is serving or in the other States/UTs of India.
- The undersigned undertakes that study leave shall be granted to the candidate as required under Rule 50 of Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972 or any other applicable Rule and also shall relieve the candidate in case of his / her selection to the sponsored DNB (Post Diploma) Seats, for joining the DNB training.**
- The candidate shall continue to get the salary and necessary allowances as per rules, from the parent department (Sponsoring Government organization) for the entire period of DNB training.

Signature of the Cadre Controlling Authority/Secretary(Health)/
Secretary (Medical Education) of the Central Government/State/Union Territory

Name (In Capital Letter)

Official Seal (With Name and
Designation)

Date:.

7. Registration for DNB Programme

A. Joining DNB Course (Post MBBS and Post Diploma):

- 7.1. Candidate allotted with a seat will be allowed to join the NBEMS accredited Medical College/Institution/Hospital allocated through merit-based counseling with a prescribed time from the date of issuance of the allotment letter.
- 7.2. The candidates shall be allowed to join the allotted institute only after the verification of the originals and fulfilment of the eligibility criteria prescribed.
- 7.3. Candidate has to begin his/her DNB training within the prescribed time. NBEMS accredited institute is required to upload the joining report of the candidate at NBEMS online portal in the prescribed format which is placed as an annexure to this Chapter and named as Annexure - A.
- 7.4. The allotment made shall be firm and final. Change of Institute/college from one place to another is not permitted under any circumstances. Requests for the same shall not be entertained by the NBEMS after the allotment process is completed.
- 7.5. In an event of closure of training institute or withdrawal of accreditation by NBEMS, the ongoing DNB trainees of that institute shall be relocated to the vacant seats available in other NBEMS accredited institutes, to complete their remaining period of DNB training, as per approved policy for relocation.
- 7.6. The last date for admissions for a particular session is notified by NBEMS for respective sessions.
- 7.7. Joining of a candidate to an NBEMS accredited institute through centralized merit-based counseling is subject to medical fitness of the candidate as assessed/examined by the medical board of the NBEMS accredited hospital/institution.

7.8. **List of Prescribed Documents (in original)** required to be produced in original at the time of joining at NBEMS accredited institute:

7.8.1. **Post MBBS 3 Years DNB Course:**

- a) MBBS Degree
- b) Permanent Registration certificate issued by NMC/MCI/State Medical Council for registration of MBBS qualification.
- c) Internship Completion Certificate (internship completion date must be on or before prescribed cut-off date for respective admission session).
- d) SC/ST/PWD/OBC/EWS certificate issued by competent authority, in case the candidate has availed any reservation/benefit under applicable rules. Caste certificate must be issued by competent authority. The sub-caste should tally with the central Govt. list.
- e) Special category certificate issued by the competent authority, if applicable.
- f) Valid Identity proof i.e. PAN card, Indian Passport, Voter ID card, Driving License or Aadhaar Card (with photograph).
- g) **Relieving Letter** issued by the sponsoring Government employer of the candidate with confirmation of study leave being granted for the period of DNB training and confirmation of payment of salary with applicable allowances as per rules of the sponsoring organization for the entire duration of DNB training, in case the candidate has joined against the Sponsored DNB seat.

7.8.2. **Post Diploma 2 Years DNB Course:**

- a) MBBS Degree

-
- b) Post Graduate Diploma Medical Qualification Pass certificate/Provisional Pass Certificate
 - c) Permanent Registration certificate issued by NMC/MCI/State Medical Council for registration of MBBS qualification.
 - d) Proof of having passed the Post graduate diploma final examination on or before prescribed cut-off date for respective admission session.
 - e) SC/ST/PWD/OBC/EWS certificate issued by competent authority, in case the candidate has availed any reservation/benefit under applicable rules. Caste certificate must be issued by competent authority. The sub-caste should tally with the central Govt. list.
 - f) Special category certificate issued by the competent authority, if applicable.
 - g) Valid Identity proof i.e. PAN card, Indian Passport, Voter ID card, Driving License or Aadhaar Card (with photograph).
 - h) **Relieving Letter** issued by the sponsoring Government employer of the candidate with confirmation of study leave being granted for the period of DNB training and confirmation of payment of salary with applicable allowances as per rules of the sponsoring organization for the entire duration of DNB training, in case the candidate has joined against the Sponsored DNB seat.

NOTE:

- *Provisional pass certificate of MBBS/PG Diploma Qualification in place of degree certificate of MBBS/PG Diploma qualification can be produced in case the final degree certificate has not been issued by the university concerned. A certificate to this effect shall be required to be submitted duly signed by the Principal of the Medical College/Registrar of the University concerned.*

-
- *All the certificates must be in HINDI or ENGLISH. In case if any of the certificate(s) is/are in regional language, its Hindi/English version translated copy duly authenticated by a translator authorized in this regard by the state/Central Government will require to be produced in original at the time of counseling, alongwith the original certificate that has been translated.*
 - *Candidates must note that the original certificate will be verified at the time of the joining of the Institute, by the Institute. If a candidate does not produce the originals for verification at the time of joining the institute, he/she shall lose his/her admission to the seat allotted to him/her in the counseling.*
 - *In case a candidate has a bond with the State Government and his/her original documents are deposited with the State Govt/Medical College concerned for the period of bond, he/she shall be required to produce a letter to this effect indicating the list of original documents deposited and a “No Objection Certificate” from the State Government allowing the candidate to pursue DNB course during the period of said bond.*

ANNEXURE'-A 'FORMAT FOR DNB (Post MBBS/Post Diploma)

Format of Joining Report to be furnished by all DNB Candidates who have been allotted DNB seats at NBEMS accredited Medical Colleges/Institutions/Hospitals for DNB training, through DNB (Post MBBS/Post Diploma) – Centralized online counseling

NOTE: Ensure that Joining Report MUST be issued on an OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD under signature and stamp of DEAN/ PRINCIPAL/MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT/ HEAD OF THE INSTITUTION/DIRECTOR ONLY, as per the prescribed format.

Office Dispatch Number:

Date of Issue:

The Executive Director
National Board of Examinations
(Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Ansari Nagar, Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Ring Road)
New Delhi-110029

Candidate's
Photograph

Sub: Furnishing of Joining Report for DNB (Post MBBS/Post Diploma) Broad Specialty course

Sir,

It is certified that Dr. _____
Son/Daughter/Wife of _____ who has appeared in NEET-PG/DNB-PDCET _____ conducted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences vide Roll No. _____ has reported for joining DNB course at our NBEMS accredited Medical College/Institution/Hospital on _____ (Date of Joining DNB training). He/she has scored _____ rank in NEET-PG/ DNB-PDCET as per the seat allotment letter received from NBEMS.

His/her original documents have been verified for their genuineness & authenticity. It is also certified that this candidate is eligible for admission to DNB (Post MBBS/Post Diploma) as per NBE guidelines published in the Information Bulletin cum Handbook for DNB (Post MBBS/ Post Diploma) _____ Admission Session.

He/she may be registered for DNB Broad Specialty course in the specialty of _____ w.e.f _____ (Date of Joining DNB Training).

He/she will be doing his/her thesis under guidance of Dr. _____ (Name & designation of thesis guide) as per prescribed NBEMS guidelines for thesis submission.

It is also certified that the candidate will be made to work during the entire DNB (Post MBBS/Post Diploma) training as a resident doctor strictly in accordance with leave guidelines of NBEMS.

Yours sincerely,

Acknowledgement of the
candidate under his/her
Signature

Signature of Head of the Institution _____

Name & Designation _____

Official Stamp of the Issuing Authority with
Name, Designation and Institute

B. Registration for DNB Course (Post MBBS and Post Diploma):

- 7.9. Trainees joining DNB seats through Centralized merit based counseling are required to get registered with NBEMS for DNB training.
- 7.10. Trainees are required to submit the application form for registration as DNB trainees with NBEMS online at <https://cns.natboard.edu.in> within 01 month of joining DNB training.
- 7.11. NBEMS trainee who have joined NBEMS training and the Joining report has already been submitted by the Hospital/Institute to NBEMS, can submit their online registration form through this web portal.
- 7.12. Allowing a candidate to join DNB training does not confer any rights on him/her to obtain registration with NBEMS for DNB training. Registration with NBEMS for DNB training shall be subject to fulfilment of eligibility criteria prescribed for the entrance examination qualified and submission of required documents to NBEMS for seeking registration within the prescribed time period.
- 7.13. A registration fee of Rs 5,000/- (for 3 Years course) / Rs 3,000/- (for 2 Years course) is to be deposited through online payment gateway while filling up online application form for registration with NBEMS. Fee deposited through challan/Pay-in-slip is *not acceptable*.
- 7.14. Document to be submitted along with the online application form through this web portal are as follows:
- Registration Fee as per NBEMS norms to be paid online.
 - Scanned Passport Size photograph.
 - Scanned Signature
 - Scanned copies of all the documents which have been shown in original to the training institute at the time of joining DNB Course
- 7.15. After successful submission of online application, the NBEMS trainee has to take print-out of the filled application form. The trainee needs to sign the application form and to take signatures of

the Head of the Institute at specified place. The application form duly signed (by candidate and HOI) is to be upload on the same portal.

7.16.The application for registration is processed by NBEMS in terms of the prescribed eligibility criteria for the admission session concerned. On successful registration of the trainee, the Letter of Provisional Registration with NBEMS for DNB training can be downloaded from NBEMS website.

7.17.The Registration number carries information about trainees's course, specialty chosen, institute chosen, year and session of registration and a unique number. This registration number is required to be quoted while submitting thesis for assessment to NBEMS or applying for DNB Final Examinations etc.

8. Leave Rules for DNB Trainees

- 8.1. The following revised leave rules shall apply to the candidates, who have joined in or after 2018. Those who joined before 2018, the old leave rule shall be applicable.
- 8.2. DNB Trainees are entitled to avail leave during the course of DNB training as per the Leave Rules prescribed by NBEMS.
- 8.3. A DNB Trainee can avail a maximum of 30 days of leave in a year excluding regular duty off/Gazetted holidays as per hospital/institute calendar/policy. This leave shall be processed at the institutional level.
- 8.4. Any kind of study leave is not permissible to DNB Trainees.
- 8.5. Under normal circumstances leave of one year should not be carried forward to the next year. However, in exceptional cases such as prolonged illness, the leave across the DNB training program may be clubbed together with prior approval of NBEMS.
- 8.6. Unauthorized absence from DNB training for more than 7 days may lead to cancellation of registration and discontinuation of the DNB training and rejoining shall not be permitted.
- 8.7. Any Leave availed by the candidate other than the eligible leave (30 days per year) shall lead to extension of DNB training. The training institute has to forward such requests to NBEMS along with the leave records of the candidate since his/her joining and supporting documents (if any) through the Head of the Institute with their recommendation/comments. NBEMS shall consider such requests on merit provided the seat is not carried over and compromise with training of existing trainees in the Department.
- 8.8. Any extension of DNB training beyond the scheduled completion date of training is permissible only under extra-ordinary circumstances with prior approval of NBEMS. Such extension is neither automatic nor shall be granted as a matter of routine.

8.9. DNB trainees are required to complete their training by a prescribed cutoff date (as per information bulletin of Exit exam) for being eligible to DNB Final examination.

8.10. The eligibility for DNB Final Examination shall be determined strictly in accordance with the criteria prescribed in the respective information bulletin.

9. Fee Guidelines for DNB Trainees

9.1. The Annual course fee prescribed by NBEMS for its courses and payable by the trainee is as follows:

Head	Charges (in INR) per year
Tuition fees	75,000/-
Library fees	15,000/-
Annual Appraisal fees	15,000/-
Accommodation Charges	20,000/-

GST @ 18%

9.1.1. Tuition fees: The tuition fees shall cover the cost incurred for accreditation, institutional DNB office, infrastructure and HR, training, teaching & research expenses, guest lecture, thesis support, administrative support expenses.

9.1.2. Library fee: Library fees shall cover the provisions made by the hospital for subscription of journals and purchase of textbooks for DNB & FNB trainees.

9.1.3. Annual appraisal fees: The appraisal fees shall cover the arrangements made for the purpose of appraisal of trainees and examiner remuneration.

9.1.4. Accommodation charges: Electricity and other consumables can be charged on actual basis by the hospital depending upon institutional policy. The accommodation charges cannot be levied if the accredited hospital is not providing accommodation to DNB & FNB trainees.

9.2. The **Annual Course fee** shall be collected by NBEMS on annual basis for entire training period of a trainee. The training charges, fee

guidelines and the disbursement of course fee to the concerned accredited hospital/institute shall be as per public notice dated: 15-01-2021 and the notices published subsequently in this regard, if any.

- 9.3. The accredited hospital cannot charge any other fees like capitation fees, security deposit, security bond, and caution bond in the form of cash, fixed deposit, bank guarantee, and agreement by any instrument whatsoever. However, State Government owned District Hospitals can implement a service bond with prior approval of NBEMS.

10. Stipend Guidelines for DNB Trainees

10.1. Paying stipend to the NBEMS trainees is compulsory.

10.2. According to the NBEMS stipend policy, the hospital shall have to pay the NBEMS trainees a basic stipend as follows or basic stipend according to State Government policy (whichever is higher):

Post MBBS DNB (Broad Specialty) Courses:

Year of DNB Training	Stipend (in INR) per month
First Year	35,000/-
Second Year	37,000/-
Third Year	39,000/-

Post Diploma DNB (Broad Specialty) Courses:

Year of DNB Training	Stipend (in INR) per month
First Year	37,000/-
Second Year	39,000/-

DrNB (Super Specialty) Courses:

Year of DrNB Training	Stipend (in INR) per month
First Year	41,000/-
Second Year	43,000/-
Third Year	45,000/-

FNB Courses :

Year of FNB Training	Stipend (in INR) per month
First Year	41,000/-
Second Year	43,000/-

10.3. The phrase “basic stipend according to state Government policy” in para above should be interpreted for different states as tabulated below:

Categories of States	The phrase “basic stipend according to state Government policy” in NBEMS stipend guidelines should be interpreted as under:	
	For Broad Specialty trainees	For Super Specialty & FNB trainees
States where the stipend to MD/MS and DM/MCh trainees of State Government Medical Colleges is paid as a consolidated sum (without any break-up of basic pay and allowances)	The consolidated sum paid to MD/MS trainees of State Government Medical Colleges	The consolidated sum paid to DM/MCh trainees of State Government Medical Colleges
States where the stipend paid to MD/MS and DM/MCh trainees of State Government Medical Colleges is structured as a “Basic pay plus various allowances” and paid as per recommendations of 7 th CPC	Pay level 10 of 7 th CPC* {Cell 1, 2 and 3 of pay level 10 in pay matrix of 7 th CPC correspond to first, second and third year of training respectively}	Pay level 11 of 7 th CPC* {Cell 1, 2 and 3 of pay level 11 in pay matrix of 7 th CPC correspond to first, second and third year of training respectively}

**This does not include any kind of allowances as may be paid to MD/MS candidates in respective states. It is at liberty to the accredited hospitals to pay any allowances over and above the minimum sum prescribed by NBEMS.*

10.4. 4th, 5th & 6th year trainees of a Direct 6 year NBEMS courses shall be paid stipend equal to 1st, 2nd & 3rd year trainees of a Super specialty course respectively provided that they clear the DrNB Part-I Examination.

10.5. Parity to the *basic stipend* paid by respective State Government should be maintained and rates of stipend may kindly be periodically revised.

10.6. NBEMS accredited hospitals are at liberty to pay NBEMS trainees a monthly stipend more than the minimum stipend prescribed by NBEMS.

10.7. It is also desirable that the hospital provides accommodation to their trainees in addition to their stipend. However, the hospital shall not reduce the stipend of the trainees in lieu of providing accommodations.

11. Thesis Protocol Writing and Submission

A. Guidelines for Thesis Protocol

- 11.1. The protocol for a research proposal (including thesis) is a study plan, designed to describe the background, research question, aim and objectives, and detailed methodology of the study. In other words, the protocol is the 'operating manual 'to refer to while conducting a particular study.
- 11.2. The candidate should refer to the NBEMS guidelines for preparation and submission of Thesis Protocol before the writing phase commences. The minimum writing requirements are that the language should be clear, concise, precise and consistent without excessive adjectives or adverbs and long sentences. There should not be any redundancy in the presentation.
- 11.3. The development or preparation of the Thesis Protocol by the candidate will help her/him in understanding the ongoing activities in the proposed area of research. Further it helps in creating practical exposure to research and hence it bridges the connectivity between clinical practice and biomedical research. Such research exposure will be helpful in improving problem solving capacity, getting updated with ongoing research and implementing these findings in clinical practice.
- 11.4. **Research Ethics:** Ethical conduct during the conduct and publication of research is an essential requirement for all candidates and guides, with the primary responsibility of ensuring such conduct being on the thesis guide. Issues like Plagiarism, not maintaining the confidentiality of data, or any other distortion of the research process will be viewed seriously. The readers may refer to standard documents for the purpose.

B. Protocol Requirements:

- 11.5. The thesis protocol should be restricted to the following word limits:

- Title : 120 characters (with spacing)
- Synopsis [structured]: 250-300
- Introduction : 300-500
- Review of literature: 800-1000
- Aim and Objectives: Up to 200
- Material and Methods: 1200-1600
- 10-25 References [ICMJE style]

11.6. It is mandatory to have ethics committee and scientific research committee approval before initiation of the research work.

11.7. The concerned NBEMS accredited hospital shall be required to evaluate the thesis protocol at its own level through Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) and approve the thesis protocol for carrying out the research work. The constitution of IEC has to be in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by NBEMS.

11.8. The timelines related to thesis protocol and thesis submission are as under:

Sr. No.	Activity	Timelines for 3 years DNB trainees	Timelines for Post Diploma DNB trainees
a)	Submission of Thesis-Protocol	180 days from date of joining	90 days from date of joining
b)	Commencement of Research Study	181 st day from date of joining	91 st day from date of joining
c)	Research Study to be completed by	24 months from date of joining	15 months from date of joining
d)	Last date for submission of Thesis for assessment	26 months from date of joining	
e)	Last date for submission of Thesis with Late fees of Rs. 10,000/-	27 months from date of joining	16 months from date of joining

Sr. No	Failure to comply Thesis Timelines	Proposed Penalty Provisions
a)	Failure to submit Thesis-Protocol by stipulated timelines	Not Eligible to appear in DNB Final Theory Examination in which trainee would be appearing for the first time. Cannot submit thesis without Thesis Protocol submission Acknowledgement Number
b)	Failure to submit Thesis by stipulated timelines	Not Eligible to appear in immediate DNB Final Theory Examination Cannot fill the Application form for Theory examination without Thesis submission Acknowledgement Number
c)	Do not qualify theory examination and thesis not yet accepted	Not Eligible to appear in next theory examination till such time thesis is accepted
d)	Qualify theory examination and appear in practical but thesis not yet accepted	Not Eligible to appear in next practical examination till such time thesis is accepted

C. Constitution of Institutional Ethics Committee:

11.9. The accredited hospital should have an Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) which is multidisciplinary and multi-sectorial in composition. The Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) shall review all ethical aspects of the project proposals received by it from DNB trainees in an objective manner & shall provide advice to researchers on all aspects of the welfare and safety of all the concerned after ensuring the scientific soundness of the proposed research through appropriate Scientific Review Committee.

11.10. The composition may be as follows:

- Chairperson
- One - two persons from basic medical science area
- One - two clinicians from various Institutes
- One legal expert or retired judge
- One social scientist/ representative of non-governmental voluntary agency
- One philosopher/ ethicist/ theologian

-
- One lay person from the community
 - Member Secretary

11.11. The accredited hospital / institute is required to have an Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC). As per MoHFW Notice No. U.11024/01/2018-HR(Part-2)/8015255 dated 12th September 2019, registration of Ethics Committee at institutes undertaking Biomedical and health research involving human participants with Department of Health & Research (DHR), Ministry of Health & Welfare, Government of India is compulsory

11.12. All NBEMS accredited hospitals are required to register their Ethics Committee with Department of Health Research in the Ministry of HFW as indicated in the aforementioned notice. The accredited hospitals which do not have their own in-house Ethics Committee will have to enter into a MoU with another nearby institute having its own in-house Ethics Committee duly registered with DHR, MoHFW.

11.13. In case the hospital does not have an Ethics Committee as above, it would be mandatory for the hospital/institute to either have an Ethics Committee duly registered with Department of Health & Research, MoHFW or have a MoU with another hospital/institute having a duly registered Ethics Committee.

Annexure - Thesis Protocol Approval (TPA)

(To be issued only on Official letterhead of the hospital)

Ref. No:

Dated:

Executive Director,
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences
Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar,
Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Ring Road)
New Delhi-110029

Subject: - Thesis Protocol Approval Letter

Sir,

This is for your kind information that the research proposal/thesis protocols of below listed DNB candidates have been considered and reviewed by the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) in its meeting held on _____ .

S.No	Name of DNB Trainees	Specialty	Session	Roll No.	Thesis Title

The IEC which reviewed the proposals is duly registered with the Department of Health & Research (DHR), Ministry of Health & Welfare, Government of India. The authenticated copies of composition of the IEC is enclosed herewith. The IEC has approved conducting the study on above listed research proposal(s) of DNB candidate(s) for the purpose of writing their DNB theses.

It is further certified that the proposed research protocol(s) have not been/shall not be submitted elsewhere for any degree, fellowship or any other titles for recognition. The minutes of aforesaid meeting of IEC are available with the hospital and can be reproduced before NBEMS, if so required, at any point of time.

**Name & Signature of the
Academic Head/DNB Coordinator**

**Name & Signature of
Administrative Head
of the Institute**

Encls.: i. Composition of Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC)

12. Thesis Writing and Submission

A. Guidelines for Writing a Fresh Thesis:

- 12.1. The proposed study must be approved by the institutional ethics committee and scientific research committee.
- 12.2. The thesis should be restricted to the size of 80 pages (maximum). This includes the text, figures, references, annexures, and certificates etc. It should be printed on both sides of the paper; and every page has to be numbered. Do not leave any page blank. To achieve this, following points may be kept in view:
 - 12.2.1. The thesis should be typed in 1.5 space using Times New Roman/ Arial/ Garamond size 12 font, 1" margins should be left on all four sides. Major sections viz., Introduction, Review of Literature, Aim & Objectives, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, References, and Appendices should start from a new page. Study proforma (Case record form), informed consent form, and patient information sheet may be printed in single space.
 - 12.2.2. Only contemporary and relevant literature may be reviewed. Restrict the introduction to 2 pages, Review of literature to 10-12 pages, and Discussion to 8-10 pages.
 - 12.2.3. The techniques may not be described in detail unless any modification/innovations of the standard techniques are used and reference(s) may be given.
 - 12.2.4. Illustrative material may be restricted. It should be printed on paper only. There is no need to paste photographs separately.
- 12.3. Since most of the difficulties faced by the residents relate to the work in clinical subject or clinically-oriented laboratory subjects, the following steps are suggested:

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- 12.3.1. The number of cases should be such that adequate material, judged from the hospital attendance/records, will be available and the candidate will be able to collect case material within the period of data collection, i.e., around 6-12 months so that he/she is in a position to complete the work within the stipulated time.
- 12.3.2. The aim and objectives of the study should be well defined.
- 12.3.3. As far as possible, only clinical/laboratory data of investigations of patients or such other material easily accessible in the existing facilities should be used for the study.
- 12.3.4. Technical assistance, wherever necessary, may be provided by the department concerned. The resident of one specialty taking up some problem related to some other specialty should have some basic knowledge about the subject and he/she should be able to perform the investigations independently, wherever some specialized laboratory investigations are required a co-guide may be co-opted from the concerned investigative department, the quantum of laboratory work to be carried out by the candidate should be decided by the guide & co-guide by mutual consultation.
- 12.4. The clinical residents are not ordinarily expected to undertake experimental work or clinical work involving new techniques, not hitherto perfected OR the use of chemicals or radioisotopes not readily available. They should; however, be free to enlarge the scope of their studies or undertake experimental work on their own initiative but all such studies should be feasible within the existing facilities.
- 12.5. The DNB residents should be able to freely use the surgical pathology/autopsy data if it is restricted to diagnosis only, if however, detailed historic data are required the resident will have to study the cases himself with the help of the guide/co-guide. The same will apply in case of clinical data.

12.6. Statistical methods used for analysis should be described specifically for each objective, and name of the statistical program used mentioned.

B. General Layout of a DNB Thesis:

12.7. Title- A good title should be brief, clear, and focus on the central theme of the topic; it should avoid abbreviations. The Title should effectively summarize the proposed research and should contain the PICO elements.

12.8. Introduction- It should be focused on the research question and should be directly relevant to the objectives of your study.

12.9. Review of Literature - The Review should include a description of the most relevant and recent studies published on the subject.

12.10. Aim and Objectives - The 'Aim 'refers to what would be broadly achieved by this study or how this study would address a bigger question / issue. The 'Objectives 'of the research stem from the research question formulated and should at least include participants, intervention, evaluation, design.

12.11. Material and Methods- This section should include the following 10 elements: Study setting (area), Study duration; Study design (descriptive, case-control, cohort, diagnostic accuracy, experimental (randomized/non-randomized)); Study sample (inclusion/exclusion criteria, method of selection), Intervention, if any, Data collection, Outcome measures (primary and secondary), Sample size, Data management and Statistical analysis, and Ethical issues (Ethical clearance, Informed consent, trial registration).

12.12. Results- Results should be organized in readily identifiable sections having correct analysis of data and presented in appropriate charts, tables, graphs and diagram etc.

12.13. Discussion-It should start by summarizing the results for primary and secondary objectives in text form (without giving data). This should be followed by a comparison of your results on the outcome

variables (both primary and secondary) with those of earlier research studies.

12.14. Summary and Conclusion- This should be a précis of the findings of the thesis, arranged in four paragraphs: (a) background and objectives; (b) methods; (c) results; and (d) conclusions. The conclusions should strictly pertain to the findings of the thesis and not outside its domain.

12.15. References- Relevant References should be cited in the text of the protocol (in superscripts).

12.16. Appendices- The tools used for data collection such as questionnaire, interview schedules, observation checklists, informed consent form (ICF), and participant information sheet (PIS) should be attached as appendices.

C. Thesis Submission to NBEMS

12.17. As per NBEMS norms, writing a thesis is essential for all DNB candidates towards partial fulfillment of eligibility for award of DNB qualification.

12.18. DNB candidates are required to submit their thesis before the cutoff date prescribed by NBEMS for the purpose of their eligibility for DNB Final Examination.

12.19. Online submission of soft copy of thesis can be done at NBEMS website through an online web portal <https://natboard.edu.in/thesisonline/index> Incomplete thesis submission forms will not be considered.

12.20. Candidates who fail to submit their thesis by the prescribed cutoff date shall NOT be allowed to appear in DNB final examination.

12.21. Fees for fresh thesis assessment is Rs. 3500/- (Excluding payment gateway charges) Fee can be remitted through payment gateway provided using a credit or debit card issued by banks in India or through Internet banking.)

12.22. Thesis should be submitted to NBEMS in hard bound form also. The front cover page should be printed in the standard format. A bound thesis should be accompanied with:

- Print out of online application form duly signed and stamped by all mentioned authorities
- Synopsis of thesis
- Copy of letter of provisional registration with NBEMS.
- Institutional Ethical Committee and Scientific Review Committee approval
- Annexure Publication

12.23. A declaration of thesis work being bonafide in nature and done by the candidate himself/herself at the institute of DNB training need to be submitted bound with thesis. It must be signed by the candidate himself/herself, the thesis guide and head of the institution, failing which thesis shall not be considered.

D. DECLARATION CUM UNDERTAKING FOR FRESH THESIS

I _____ hereby declare that this thesis entitled
“ _____
_____” is ‘bonafide ’in nature and
was carried out by me for under the guidance and supervision of my
guide _____ and co-guide _____.

The interpretations put forth are based on my reading and understanding of the original texts and they are not published anywhere in the form of books, monographs or articles. The other books, articles and websites, which I have made use of are acknowledged at the respective place in the text.

For the present thesis, which I am submitting to the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi, no degree or diploma or distinction has been conferred on me before elsewhere.

Place:
Date:

(Candidate Signature)
Candidate Name:
Specialty:
Registration Number:

COUNTERSIGNED & VERIFIED

(Guide Signature)
Guide Name:
Guide Designation:
Institution :
Stamp bearing name:

(Co-Guide Signature)
Co-Guide Name:
Co-Guide Designation:
Institution:
Stamp bearing name:

(HOI Signature)
HOI Name:
HOI Designation:
Institution :
Stamp bearing name:

D. Guidelines for submission of Modified Thesis

- 12.24. Thesis submission and its acceptance are mandatory requirements towards fulfillment of partial criteria for award of DNB qualification certificate.
- 12.25. Thesis must be modified strictly in accordance with the observation made by the assessor.
- 12.26. Modified thesis should be hard bound and the front cover page should be printed in the standard format. However, it should be labeled as **MODIFIED THESIS**.
- 12.27. A hard bound thesis should be accompanied with:
- A summary of thesis and modification incorporated.
 - Print out of online application form duly signed and stamped by all mentioned authorities
- 12.28. A declaration of thesis work “title” being bonafide in nature and done by the candidate himself at the institute of DNB training need to be submitted bound with modified thesis. **The certificate must specify that thesis have been modified as per suggestion of the assessor.** This certificate must be signed by the candidate himself/herself, the thesis guide and head of the institution, failing which thesis shall not be considered.
- 12.29. Modifications done in the thesis should be appropriately flagged.
- 12.30. Modified thesis is required to be submitted within 6 weeks of issuance of the communication.
- 12.31. Fees for modified thesis assessment is Rs. 1800/- (Excluding gateway charges) Fee can be remitted through payment gateway provided using a credit or debit card issued by banks in India or through Internet banking.

E. DECLARATION CUM UNDERTAKING FOR MODIFIED THESIS

I _____ hereby declare that this thesis
entitled “ _____

_____ is ‘bonafide’ in nature and was carried out by me for under the guidance and supervision of
my guide _____ and _____ co-guide

I hereby declare that the thesis has been modified as per the suggestions by the appraiser

The interpretations put forth are based on my reading and understanding of the original texts and they are not published anywhere in the form of books, monographs or articles. The other books, articles and websites, which I have made use of are acknowledged at the respective place in the text.

For the present thesis, which I am submitting to the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi, no degree or diploma or distinction has been conferred on me before elsewhere.

Place:

Date:

(Candidate Signature)

Candidate Name:

Specialty:

Registration Number:

COUNTERSIGNED & VERIFIED

(Guide Signature)

Guide Name:

Guide Designation:

Institution :

Stamp bearing name:

(Co-Guide Signature)

Co-Guide Name:

Co-Guide Designation:

Institution:

Stamp bearing name:

(HOI Signature)

HOI Name:

HOI Designation:

Institution :

Stamp bearing name:

13. Formative & Internal Assessment

- 13.1. National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences conducts Formative Assessment Test for all DNB/DrNB/ FNB trainees on an annual basis as per the below prescribed scheme:

Course	FAT conducted by NBEMS	FAT conducted by institute/ hospital in the form of Internal Appraisal
Broad Speciality Courses	In 2 nd year of DNB training	In 1 st & 3 rd year of DNB training
Super Speciality Courses	In 2 nd year of DrNB training	In 1 st & 3 rd year of DrNB training
Post Diploma Courses	In 1 st year of DNB training	In 2 nd year of DNB training
Fellowship Courses	In 1 st year of DNB training	In 2 nd year of DNB training
Direct 6 years Courses	In 2 nd & 4 th year of DrNB training	In 1 st , 3 rd & 5 th year of DrNB training

- 13.2. It includes various formal and informal assessment procedures by which evaluation of student's learning, comprehension, and academic progress is done by the teachers/ faculty to improve student attainment.
- 13.3. FAT is integral part of the effective teaching. The goal of Formative Assessment is to collect information which can be used to improve the student learning process.
- 13.4. The nature of evaluation to be followed should be on Formative Norms ONLY as it shall aim to give feedback on teaching and learning and become an integral part of the effective teaching.
- 13.5. The end goal should be to collect information which can be used to improve the student learning process. The purpose of the exercise is to assist the NBEMS accredited hospitals/ institutions to develop in to a center of academic excellence. This would further add value to

the services being rendered in these accredited hospitals/institutions.

- 13.6. It is essentially positive in intent, directed towards promoting learning; it is therefore part of teaching. Validity and usefulness are paramount in this exercise and should take precedence over concerns for reliability.
- 13.7. **Benefit for Faculty:** They can be able to determine what the students already know and to what extent. They can decide what minor modifications or major changes in training programme are to be introduced so that all trainees can succeed in upcoming assessments. They can create appropriate lessons and activities for groups of learners or individual students and also inform students about their current progress and guide them.
- 13.8. **Benefit for Students:** They can be motivated to learn and take responsibility for their own learning. They can learn valuable lifelong skills such as self-evaluation, self-assessment, and goal setting and become more adept at self-assessment.
- 13.9. The exercise of Internal Appraisal shall cover areas of knowledge as per the standard training curriculum and guidelines. The trainees shall be assessed for knowledge as per the curriculum in a composite manner.
- 13.10. In terms of NBEMS Public Notice dated 26-11-2019, appearance in minimum required numbers of Formative Assessment Tests/ Internal Appraisals is mandatory towards eligibility for appearing in DNB/DrNB/ FNB Final Examinations as per the below prescribed scheme:

Course	Number of FATs / Internal Appraisal mandatory
Broad Speciality Courses	Two
Super Speciality Courses	Two
Post Diploma Courses	One
Fellowship Courses	One
Direct 6 years Courses	Three

13.11. The compulsory participations in FATs shall apply to the candidates, who join in or after July 2019 admission session.

E. Formative Assessment:

13.12. NBEMS conducts Formative Assessment Test (FAT) for DNB/DrNB/ FNB trainees who are under training as per below given details:

Course	FAT conducted by NBEMS
Broad Specialty Courses	In 2 nd year of training
Super Specialty Courses	In 2 nd year of training
Post Diploma Courses	In 1 st year of training
Fellowship Courses	In 1 st year of training
Direct 6 years Courses	In 2 nd & 4 th year of training

13.13. The assessment scheme consists of Three Parts which has to be essentially completed by the trainees. The scheme includes: -

PART - I	Conduct of Theory Examination	Candidate has to appear for Theory Exam and is held for One day.
PART - II	Work Place Based Clinical Assessment	After Theory Examination, Candidate has to appear for Clinical Assessment.
PART - III	Performance Counselling Session On The Theory Performance	Candidate has to appear for his/her Theory Exam Assessment Workshop.

13.14. Part I: - Conduction of Theory Examination:

- The Theory Exam of FAT is conducted on an annual basis
- Mode of Examination: Descriptive (Paper & Pen)
- Number of sessions: Two sessions
- Centres for FAT (Theory): FAT Centre nearest available to the Training Institution
- Form & Fees for conduct of FAT: To be filled & paid by Training Institutions

13.15. Part II: - Work Place Based Clinical Assessment

- The work place based clinical assessment shall assess the candidates on parameters such as:
 - Case Discussion
 - Case Presentation
 - Case Management
 - Investigation Techniques
 - Investigation Interpretations
 - Instrument handling
 - Viva Voice
 - Ward rounds
 - Assessment of Log Book
 - Assessment of Thesis Work
- Scheme of work place based clinical assessment

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Clinical Examination (Case Preparation & Presentation)	Maximum 2 cases for each candidate (30 minutes of preparation & 30 minutes for presentation) The examiner may allot the same case to two candidates for case preparation. However, the candidate shall have to present the case individually before the examiners. In case of unavailability of patients for case presentation, Manikin or dummy or a healthy volunteer may be used for demonstration of clinical examination skills and for simulated cases.
Viva- Voice	Shall be conducted by all the Examiners together in a group
Investigation Techniques/ Investigation Interpretations / Instrument handling /Ward Round/ Clinical Investigations/ Spots	Wherever required.

Assessment of Thesis Work	<p>The Thesis work of the candidate shall be evaluated by the examiner on the following parameters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis Protocol Submission • Assessment of Thesis Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Research Purpose</i> • <i>Review of Literature</i> • <i>Data collection and analysis</i> • <i>Analysis and interpretation of Findings</i> • <i>Conclusion and Recommendations</i> • <i>Referencing</i> • <i>Readiness for Thesis Completion</i> • Thesis Viva
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13.16. Part III: - Performance Counselling Session On the Theory Performance

- The Accredited Hospital is required to organise a Workshop so that the performance of each Trainee is discussed and deliberated at length.
- During the course of this Workshop, Trainees who have performed well shall share their Learning, Training and Answering skills with other Trainees.
- Head of Departments and Faculty Members shall also share their knowledge, and also the key words / skills Assessors look for, in each answer.
- Such Workshops shall motivate Trainees, augment the DNB training being given by the Hospital, help in enhancing overall performance of the Trainees, so that they are able to plan & attempt the DNB Theory Examination in an effective manner.
- The hospitals shall also carry out a thorough Review of the performance of each Trainee who appeared in the FAT. Such a review will certainly help in identifying the weaknesses / shortcomings and positive aspects of each Trainee.

F. Internal Appraisal:

13.17. All NBEMS accredited Institutions are required to conduct the annual Internal Appraisals for their respective DNB/DrNB/FNB

trainees in accordance to the Guidelines prescribed by NBEMS as per below given details:

Course	Internal Appraisal conducted by institute/ hospital
Broad Specialty Courses	In 1 st & 3 rd year of training
Super Specialty Courses	In 1 st & 3 rd year of training
Post Diploma Courses	In 2 nd year of training
Fellowship Courses	In 2 nd year of training
Direct 6 years Courses	In 1 st , 3 rd & 5 th year of training

13.18. The detailed guidelines for conduct of Internal Appraisal are notified every year on NBEMS website and sent to the accredited hospitals also.

13.19. The assessment scheme consists of Three Parts which has to be essentially completed by the trainees. The scheme includes: -

PART - I	Conduct of Theory Examination	Candidate has to appear for Theory Exam and is held for One day.
PART - II	Work Place Based Clinical Assessment	After Theory Examination, Candidate has to appear for Clinical Assessment.
PART - III	Performance Counselling Session On The Theory Performance	Candidate has to appear for his/her Theory Exam Assessment Workshop.

13.20. **Part I: - Conduction of Theory Examination:**

- The Theory Exam of FAT is conducted on an annual basis
- Mode of Examination: Descriptive (Paper & Pen)
- Number of sessions: As per guidelines
- Centres for FAT (Theory): In the Training Institution

13.21. **Part II: - Work Place Based Clinical Assessment**

- The work place based clinical assessment shall assess the candidates on parameters such as:

- Case Discussion
- Case Presentation
- Case Management
- Investigation Techniques
- Investigation Interpretations
- Instrument handling
- Viva Voice
- Ward rounds
- Assessment of Log Book
- Assessment of Thesis Work

- Scheme of work place based clinical assessment

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Clinical Examination (Case Preparation & Presentation)	<p>Maximum 2 cases for each candidate (30 minutes of preparation & 30 minutes for presentation)</p> <p>The examiner may allot the same case to two candidates for case preparation. However, the candidate shall have to present the case individually before the examiners.</p> <p>In case of unavailability of patients for case presentation, Manikin or dummy or a healthy volunteer may be used for demonstration of clinical examination skills and for simulated cases.</p>
Viva- Voice	Shall be conducted by all the Examiners together in a group
Investigation Techniques/ Investigation Interpretations / Instrument handling /Ward Round/ Clinical Investigations/ Spots	Wherever required.
Assessment of Thesis Work	<p>The Thesis work of the candidate shall be evaluated by the examiner on the following parameters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis Protocol Submission • Assessment of Thesis Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Research Purpose</i> • <i>Review of Literature</i> • <i>Data collection and analysis</i> • <i>Analysis and interpretation of Findings</i> • <i>Conclusion and Recommendations</i> • <i>Referencing</i> • <i>Readiness for Thesis Completion</i> • Thesis Viva

13.22. **Part III: - Performance Counselling Session On the Theory Performance**

- The Accredited Hospital is required to organize a Workshop so that the performance of each Trainee is discussed and deliberated at length.
- During the course of this Workshop, Trainees who have performed well shall share their Learning, Training and Answering skills with other Trainees.
- Head of Departments and Faculty Members shall also share their knowledge, and also the key words / skills Assessors look for, in each answer.
- Such Workshops shall motivate Trainees, augment the DNB training being given by the Hospital, help in enhancing overall performance of the Trainees, so that they are able to plan & attempt the DNB Theory Examination in an effective manner.
- The hospitals shall also carry out a thorough Review of the performance of each Trainee who appeared in the Internal Appraisal. Such a review will certainly help in identifying the weaknesses / shortcomings and positive aspects of each Trainee.

14. DNB Final Theory & Practical Examinations

14.1. DNB Final is a two-stage examination comprising of theory and practical examination.

14.1.1. An eligible candidate who has qualified the theory examination is permitted to appear in the practical examination. Those who fail to qualify the theory examination are required to reappear in the theory examination

14.1.2. The practical examination of the session in which the candidate qualifies the theory examination shall be the mandatory first attempt. A candidate unsuccessful in the first attempt of practical examination is permitted to undertake two more attempt(s) of practical examinations. These two attempts shall be any two practical examinations conducted in next three consecutive sessions of DNB Final Examinations.

Example: Candidates qualifying theory examination of December 2021 session shall appear for their first attempt in the practical exams of December 2021 session compulsorily and in the event of they not passing this practical examination, the candidate(s) may take any two attempts at the practical exams of next three consecutive sessions as and when conducted.

14.1.3. Absentation from Practical Examination after successful submission of application is counted as an attempt.

14.2. **Examination (Broad Specialties):**

14.2.1. Theory Examination

- The theory examination comprises of four papers, maximum marks 100 each.
- There are 10 short notes of 10 marks each, in each of the papers.
- The number of short notes and their respective marks weightage may vary in some subjects/some papers.

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- Maximum time permitted is 3 hours.
 - Candidate must score at least 200/400 in the aggregate of 4 papers to qualify the theory examination. Grace marks of up to 2% of maximum marks i.e. 8/400 shall be given only to the candidates falling in the zone of consideration i.e. securing between 192-199 marks out of 400.
 - Only those candidates who have qualified the theory examination are permitted to take the practical examination.
 - The trainee chooses the test city of his/her choice for theory examination amongst the available options while filling the application form.

14.2.2. Practical Examination

- Maximum Marks: 300
- Comprises of OSCE and/or Clinical Examination, and Viva.
- Candidate must obtain a minimum of 150/300 marks to qualify for the Practical Examination.
- There is no provision for grace marks in Practical examination.
- There are a maximum of three attempts that can be availed by a candidate for Practical Examination.
- First attempt is the practical examination following immediately after the declaration of theory results in the same session.
- Second and Third attempt in practical examination shall be permitted out of the next three sessions of DNB Final Examinations; after payment of full examination fees as may be prescribed by NBEMS.
- Absentation from Practical Examination after successful submission of application is counted as an attempt. Appearance in first practical examination is compulsory.
- The date, time and venue of practical examination shall be intimated to all candidates who have qualified theory examinations through their Online Exit Examination Portal (OEEP) account. NBEMS reserves its rights to allot a practical center anywhere in the country; the candidates shall make their own arrangement for travel/ boarding etc. Change in centre of the practical examination is not permitted under any circumstances.

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- DNB Broad Specialty trainees whose theses are not accepted by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences by the time of announcement of practical examination centres shall not be allowed to appear in the practical examination.
 - Above scheme of practical examination may vary due to ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic.

14.3. Eligibility (Broad Specialty)

14.3.1.DNB Broad Specialty Candidates (Post MBBS and Post Diploma):

- Candidates who have undergone training as a DNB trainee at any of the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences accredited institute after having registered with NBEMS as a DNB trainee and are completing their prescribed (as per letter of registration issued by NBEMS) training as a DNB trainee by the cut-off date prescribed in the bulletin of respective examination session and submission of certificate to this effect, can undertake the DNB Final Examination in the same specialty.
- For December session, the cut-off date usually shall be 30th June of next year and for June session, it shall be 30th of November of same year. The cut-off date may change due to variation in admission timelines for specific sessions due to unforeseen circumstances or uniform extension of training of the entire batch by NBEMS. The trainee shall be eligible to appear in DNB Final Examination of a particular session only if he/she completes his/her DNB training by the prescribed cut-off date for the said session.
- Submission of Training Completion Certificate indicating details of leave taken during DNB training for DNB trainees is an essential prerequisite. In case the candidate does not submit the training Completion certificate (as per applicable format) along with the application form, his/her application shall be rejected and fees forfeited.

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- Request for extension in cutoff date for completion of training for the purpose of eligibility determination for DNB final Examination are not considered.
 - **Candidates who have completed their DNB training while applying for DNB Final Examination** are required to submit Final Training Completion Certificate (FTCC) as per format prescribed in Annexure - IV.
 - **Candidates whose DNB training is ongoing while applying for DNB Final Examination** shall be required to submit **Provisional Training Completion Certificate (PTCC)** as per format in Annexure-III. The PTCC must confirm that the candidate would be able to complete his/her training by the prescribed cut-off, after taking into consideration all leave taken vis-a-vis the maximum permissible leave as per NBEMS leave rules and the required period of extension, if any. Such candidates are required to submit **Final Training Completion Certificate (FTCC)** as per format in Annexure-IV **immediately on completion of their training**. Such candidates shall be provisionally allowed to appear for DNB Final Examination subject to completion of their DNB training by the prescribed cut-off date.
 - Candidates who submit their **Provisional TCC with correct leave details** projecting their training completion on/before the prescribed cut-off date for the examination, happen to avail more leave after applying for the examination due to some unforeseen reasons which might take their training beyond the prescribed cut-off date, shall NOT be declared INELIGIBLE for the examination.
 - If such a candidate qualifies the theory and practical examination, his/her Provisional Pass Certificate shall only be issued on completion of his/her DNB training and submission of Final TCC to this effect.
 - If such a candidate qualifies theory examination but fails to qualify the practical examination, his/her candidature for theory examination shall remain valid and he/she shall be allowed to appear in the next remaining attempt(s) of practical examination,

provided that he/she completes his/her DNB training before the next attempt of practical examination.

- However, candidates who at any stage are found to have misrepresented/failed to disclose the complete details of leave taken by them, in their **Provisional TCC**, shall be declared INELIGIBLE on failing to complete their training on/before the prescribed cut-off date for the examination. Candidature of such candidates for DNB Final Examination shall stand cancelled and result, if any declared, shall be treated as null and void.

14.4. **Eligibility related to appearance in FAT:**

- In terms of the NBEMS notice dated 26th November 2019 (published on NBEMS website www.natboard.edu.in), appearance in minimum required numbers of Formative Assessment Tests (FATs) during the DNB/DrNB training shall be mandatory towards eligibility for appearing in DNB/DrNB Final Examinations. This compulsory participation in FATs shall apply to candidates who have joined their training in or after July 2019 admission session.

14.5. **Eligibility related to Thesis Submission/Acceptance:**

- As per NBEMS norms, writing a thesis is essential for all DNB trainees towards partial fulfilment of eligibility for award of DNB qualification certificate.
- In terms of the NBEMS norms, the last date for submission of thesis by DNB trainees is prescribed for the purpose of eligibility of DNB Final Examination. DNB trainees who have failed to submit their theses to National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences for assessment by the cut-off date prescribed for a particular session of DNB Final Theory examination are not eligible to apply for the said DNB Final Theory Examination.
- DNB Trainees who have failed to qualify the Final theory examination in earlier sessions are not eligible to apply for any further final theory examinations till such time their theses are accepted by NBEMS.

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- The status of thesis submission/acceptance, as may be applicable, shall be verified the time of submission of online application for DNB Final Theory Examination.

14.6. Declaration of DNB/DrNB Final Examination Result:

- DNB final is a qualifying examination.
- Results of DNB final examinations (theory & practical) are declared as PASS/FAIL. There will be **no re-evaluation or rechecking/ re-totaling of answer sheets**. Requests for re-evaluation/re-totaling shall not be entertained.
- The details of marks obtained/grading in final theory/practical Examinations will be provided to all the candidates. Procedure for obtaining question wise marks can be seen at NBEMS website (Notice dt. 20.04.10, 14.12.11)
- Results can be seen on NBEMS website <https://natboard.edu.in> No separate certificate for passing theory examination will be issued.
- Candidates successful in the practical examination are issued Provisional Certificate of Passing DNB. Provisional Pass Certificates are valid till issuance of DNB qualification certificate in convocation of National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences for all purposes, including but not limited to, employment, registration with state medical councils etc.
- Under normal circumstances the certificates of passing are issued to the candidates within four weeks of declaration of results, however, due to unforeseen circumstances, this period may vary.
- For issuing a duplicate provisional pass certificate, submit a request letter stating reasons to issue a duplicate certificate, copy of FIR lodged with police authorities clearly mentioning the loss/non-receipt of certificate, affidavit in support of application (attested by public notary/oath commissioner/judicial magistrate), fee of Rs. 1000/- + GST@18% for document upto preceding 3 years and Rs. 2000/- +

GST@18% for documents more than three years old. The demand draft should be made in favour of National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, payable at New Delhi.

14.7. **NBEMS Convocation and Award of DNB qualification certificates**

- Candidates who have qualified both DNB Final Theory & Practical Examinations, and whose theses have been accepted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, shall be conferred with DNB qualification in the specialty concerned on enrolment for the convocation.
- National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences confers DNB qualification subject to fulfilment of eligibility criteria at the Convocation Ceremony.
- Details of the NBEMS Convocation are announced at NBEMS website <https://natboard.edu.in> as and when the schedule are finalized for respective year.
- DNB qualification certificates are issued to qualified candidates through post after convocation for the batch is declared open and qualification is conferred to the candidates in the convocation. Gold Medals are awarded in an award ceremony to the winners “in-person”.

Tentative Timelines for Issuance of various Certificates

S.No.	Examination Processes	Documents/Information Required	Tentative Timelines for issuance
1	Provisional Pass Certificate	<p>Successfully qualifying DNB Final Practical Examination</p> <p>Submission of Final Training Completion Certificate</p> <p>Acceptance of Thesis by NBEMS</p>	Within 4 weeks of fulfilment of all of these required documents/ processes
2	Attempt Certificate	<p>Communication from registered email of candidate along with following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of Provisional Pass Certificate issued by NBEMS • Copy of Registration Letter issued by National Board of Examinations • Final Training Completion Certificate • Details of Examination (Theory & Practical): Applied/ Appeared • No Fees charged 	Within 2 weeks of receipt of written request
3	No Objection Certificate (NOC)	<p>Communication from registered email of candidate along with following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of Provisional Pass Certificate issued by NBEMS • Copy of Registration Letter issued by NBEMS • Final Training Completion Certificate • Documentary Proof where NOC is required to be produced • No Fee Charged 	Within 2 weeks of receipt of written request if NOC has not been issued already as a component of PPC
4	DNB Mark sheet (Total Marks scored in Theory and Practical)	<p>Communication from registered email of candidate along with following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of Provisional Pass Certificate issued by NBEMS • Copy of Registration Letter issued by NBEMS • Final Training Completion Certificate • Documentary Proof where DNB Final Exam marks are required to be produced • No Fee Charged 	Within 2 weeks of receipt of written request

S.No.	Examination Processes	Documents/Information Required	Tentative Timelines for issuance
5	Transcripts	<p>Communication from registered email of candidate along with following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of Provisional Pass Certificate issued by NBE • Copy of Registration Letter issued by NBEMS • Final Training Completion Certificate • Documentary Proof where transcript is required to be produced • Postal Charges applicable; No other fees charged • Shall only be issued directly to the employing/ verification authority concerned 	Within 2 weeks of receipt of written request
6	Photocopies of Theory Answer Sheets (Issued only to Fail Candidates)	<p>Communication from registered email of candidate to be submitted within 30 days of declaration of result along with following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of Admit Card issued by NBEMS • Copy of result uploaded on NBEMS website • Final Training Completion Certificate • Fee of Rs. 100/- per paper plus GST @ 18% through bank draft drawn in favour of National Board of Examinations payable at New Delhi 	Within 2 weeks of receipt of written request
7	Document Verification by employing/ verification agency	<p>Communication from verifying agency concerned along with following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covering Form/ Document Release request • Document to be verified • Fee of Rs. 2000/- plus 18% GST through bank draft drawn in favour of National Board of Examinations payable at New Delhi to be submitted by the agency concerned alongwith request letter or by the candidate directly to NBEMS 	Within 2 weeks of receipt of written request

S.No.	Examination Processes	Documents/Information Required	Tentative Timelines for issuance
8	Issuance of Duplicate Certificate	<p>Communication from registered email of candidate along with following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of NCR/Lost Report filed with Police authorities • Duly signed affidavit for non-receipt/loss of certificate • Copy of original certificate, if available • Fee of Rs. 1000/- plus 18% GST (for documents upto 3 years old) or Rs. 2000/- plus GST@18% (for documents more than 3 years old) through bank draft drawn in favour of National Board of Examinations payable at New Delhi • For duplicate degree certificate, Rs. 2000 plus GST @18% is charged 	Within 2 weeks of receipt of written request
9	Question wise Marks (Issued only to Fail Candidates)	<p>Communication from registered email of candidate to be submitted within 30 days of declaration of result along with following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of Admit Card issued by NBEMS • Copy of result uploaded on National Board of Examinations website • Final Training Completion Certificate • Documentary Proof where DNB Final Exam marks are required to be produced • Fee of Rs. 1000/- plus GST @ 18% through bank draft drawn in favour of National Board of Examinations payable at New Delhi 	Within 2 weeks of receipt of written request
10	DNB qualification Certificate	<p>Successfully qualifying DNB Final Practical Examination</p> <p>Issuance of PPC by NBEMS</p> <p>Enrolment for Convocation by depositing Rs. 2500/- as Enrolment Fee</p>	Degree Certificate are sent through post with 4 weeks of being conferred in Convocation
11	Equivalence Certificate	<p>Communication from registered email of candidate to be submitted along with following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary Proof where equivalence certificate is required to be produced • PPC Issued by NBEMS • Final Training Completion Certificate • No Fees charged 	Within 2 weeks of receipt of written request

DNB Training Completion Certificate (Provisional)

Format of Training Completion Certificate to be furnished by all DNB Candidates who have undergone training in institute accredited with NBEMS for DNB training.

❖ *Submission of False/Fabricated information/documents shall be liable for penal action.*

NOTE: Ensure that DNB/DrNB training completion certificates MUST be issued on an OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD of the training hospital/institute under signature and stamp of Dean/ Principal/ Medical Superintendent/Head of the Institution/Director only, as per the prescribed format along with the leave records.

Office dispatch No.:

Date of issue.....

To,
The Executive Director
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences
Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar,
Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Ring Road)
New Delhi-110029

Candidate's
Photograph

Sub: Furnishing of DNB Training Completion Certificate (PROVISIONAL)

Sir,

This training completion certificate has been issued to Dr _____ Son/ Daughter/ Wife of _____ who was registered with National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences w.e.f _____ vide Registration Number _____ for Two/ Three years of DNB training in the specialty of _____ in our hospital/institution, for the purpose of appearing in DNB Final Examination.

It is hereby certified that:

1. He/She has joined the DNB course on _____ and **WILL BE COMPLETING** mandatory Two/ Three years of training on _____.
2. The details of leave availed by the candidate till date are as follows:

Year of Training (First/ Second/ Third)	Period of Leave (Specify Dates of leave)	Nature of Leave	No. of Days
Total number of leave availed by the candidate during his/her DNB training till date (Grand Total in Days)			

3. He/She has appeared in the Formative Assessments Test (FAT) conducted by NBEMS and the Internal Assessments conducted by our hospital/institution as per details mentioned below:

Year of Training (First/ Second/ Third)	Year of appearing in FAT conducted by NBEMS	Year of appearing in Internal Assessment conducted by the hospital

-
4. He/She has completed his/her thesis under supervision of an approved thesis guide and submitted his/her thesis for assessment to NBEMS on/before the prescribed cut-off date.
 5. He/She has worked during his/her DNB training as a resident doctor strictly in accordance with leave and other training guidelines of National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences.

It is understood that if the details mentioned herein above are found at any stage to be incorrect/false/incomplete, he/she shall be declared INELIGIBLE for DNB Final Examination and his/her candidature for the same shall stand cancelled and result, if any declared, shall be treated as null and void.

Yours sincerely,

Acknowledgement of the
candidate under his/her
Signature

Signature of Head of the Institution _____

Name & Designation _____

Official Stamp of the Issuing Authority with
Name, Designation and Institute

DNB Training Completion Certificate (Final)

Format of Training Completion Certificate to be furnished by all DNB Candidates who have undergone training in institute accredited with NBEMS for DNB training.

❖ *Submission of False/Fabricated information/documents shall be liable for penal action.*

NOTE: Ensure that DNB/DrNB training completion certificates MUST be issued on an OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD of the training hospital/institute under signature and stamp of Dean/ Principal/ Medical Superintendent/Head of the Institution/Director only, as per the prescribed format along with the leave records.

Office dispatch No.:.....

Date of issue.....

To,
The Executive Director
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences
Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar,
Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Ring Road)
New Delhi-110029

Candidate's
Photograph

Sub: Furnishing of DNB Training Completion Certificate (Final)

This training completion certificate has been issued to Dr _____ Son/ Daughter/ Wife of _____ who was registered with National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences w.e.f _____ vide Registration Number _____ for Two/ Three years of DNB training in the specialty of _____ in our hospital/institution, for the purpose of appearing in DNB Final Examination.

It is hereby certified that:

6. He/She has joined the DNB course on _____ and **HAS COMPLETED** mandatory Two/ Three years of training on _____.
7. The details of leave availed by the candidate till date are as follows:

Year of Training (First/ Second/ Third)	Period of Leave (Specify Dates of leave)	Nature of Leave	No. of Days
Total number of leave availed by the candidate during his/her DNB training till date (Grand Total in Days)			

8. He/She has appeared in the Formative Assessments Test (FAT) conducted by NBEMS and the Internal Assessments conducted by our hospital/institution as per details mentioned below:

Year of Training (First/ Second/ Third)	Year of appearing in FAT conducted by NBEMS	Year of appearing in Internal Assessment conducted by the hospital

-
9. He/She has completed his/her thesis under supervision of an approved thesis guide and his/her thesis has been ACCEPTED by NBEMS vide acceptance letter dated _____.
10. He/She has worked during his/her DNB training as a resident doctor strictly in accordance with leave and other training guidelines of National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences.

It is understood that if the details mentioned herein above are found at any stage to be incorrect/false/incomplete, he/she shall be declared INELIGIBLE for DNB Final Examination and his/her candidature for the same shall stand cancelled and result, if any declared, shall be treated as null and void.

Yours sincerely,

Signature of Head of the Institution _____

Name & Designation _____

Acknowledgement of the
candidate under his/her
Signature

Official Stamp of the Issuing Authority with
Name, Designation and Institute

15. Unfair Means Guidelines

If during the course of training / examination, a candidate is found indulging in any of the following, he/she shall be deemed to have used unfair means.

- 15.1. Candidate undergoing DNB/DrNB training if by himself or in connivance with the accredited Institute authorities tries to abstain himself from DNB/DrNB training or submits false/ forged certificate towards DNB/DrNB training.
- 15.2. Maintaining incomplete/incorrect log book, attendance records, training schedule, thesis work etc.
- 15.3. Submission of DNB/DrNB training certificate with wrong dates of joining and completion of training.
- 15.4. Candidate misbehaving or using abusive language with other DNB/DrNB trainees or patients or staff of accredited institute or with the faculty of the accredited institute.
- 15.5. Candidate who has resigned from DNB/DrNB course (after joining the DNB/DrNB course) if appears for DNB/DrNB entrance during the scheduled duration of training.
- 15.6. If a candidate is found to have made a wrong statement in his/her online application form for admission to the examinations / counseling / training or has attempted to secure or has secured admission to any of the examinations of NBEMS by making a false statement or by production of a false document.
- 15.7. If at any stage a candidate has tampered with any entry in the certificate or statement of marks or any certificate issued by any governmental or non-governmental body or any other document that has been issued to him/ her NBEMS.
- 15.8. In the answer book, a candidate is not permitted to write his/her name or put his/her signature (except on the jacket of the answer

sheet) or put any sign or mark which may disclose his/her identity to the examiner.

- 15.9. Use/possession of any kind of electronic gadgets including mobile phones with or without internet (whether the gadgets are actually used or not).
- 15.10. Having in possession of any note-book(s) or notes or chits or any other unauthorized material concerning the subject pertaining to the examination paper.
- 15.11. Anything written on any part of clothing, body, desk, table or any instrument such as set square, protractor, blotting paper and question paper etc.
- 15.12. Giving or receiving assistance directly or indirectly of any kind or attempting to do so.
- 15.13. Change of seat without the permission of Examination Superintendent/ In charge Computer Laboratory.
- 15.14. Writing questions or answers on any material other than the answer.
- 15.15. Tearing of any page of the answer book or supplementary answer book etc.
- 15.16. Contacting or communicating or trying to do so with any person, other than the Examination Staff, during the examination time in the Examination center/Computer Laboratory.
- 15.17. Consulting notes, books or any other material or outside person while going out of the examination hall/Computer Laboratory to toilet or to any other place.
- 15.18. Impersonation.

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- 15.19. Candidate appearing multiple times with same or different identity in different sessions of same examination conducted on Computer Based Testing platform.
 - 15.20. Using or attempting to use any other undesirable method or means in connection with the examination.
 - 15.21. Taking away the answer book out of the examination hall/room. Smuggling out Question Paper or its part; or smuggling out answer book/supplementary answer sheet or part thereof.
 - 15.22. Running away or swallowing or destroying any note or paper or material found with him/her.
 - 15.23. If the answer books show that a candidate has received or given help to any other candidate through copying.
 - 15.24. Threatening any of the officials connected with the conduct of the examinations or threatening of any of the candidates.
 - 15.25. Found exchanging answer book or question paper with solution or copying from unauthorized material.
 - 15.26. Peeping into the computer monitor screen of the other candidate.
 - 15.27. Disclosing his/her identity or making distinctive mark in the answer book for that purpose or fails to deliver his/her answer book/continuation sheet before leaving the examination hall.
 - 15.28. Hacking or attempting to hack or causing interference with the website of NBEMS or its Technology Partner(s) or their Information Technology systems.
 - 15.29. Tampering with Information Technology systems of NBEMS or Technology Partner(s) or Computer Laboratory.
 - 15.30. Damaging the computer systems of computer Laboratory.

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- 15.31. Candidate found to have attempted or trying to attempt personally or through another person to influence or pressurise an examiner, or any officer or official connected with the examinations of the NBEMS or its technology partner, either at the Board or at the office of technology partner or their respective residence(s), in any matter concerned with the examinations.
 - 15.32. If at any stage if it is found that the candidate has appeared multiple times in the same session of examination or has appeared in same or different examination of NBEMS with different names, unfair means case shall be registered against such candidate and dealt accordingly.
 - 15.33. Any act of candidate/any person which is detrimental to safe, secure and smooth conduct of examination and the decision of EEC in this regard shall be final.
 - 15.34. Candidate is found talking/peeping to another candidate during the examination hours in the examination room.
 - 15.35. A candidate who refuses to obey the Superintendent of Examination center/ Computer Lab and changes his/her seat with another candidate and/or creates disturbance of any kind during the examination and/or otherwise misbehaves in the examination hall.
 - 15.36. A candidate found copying from notes written on any part of his/her clothing, body, desk or table or instrument like set squares, protractors, scales etc. or who is found guilty of concealing, disfiguring, rendering illegible, swallowing or destroying any notes or papers or material found with him/her or found exchanging answer book or question paper with solution or talking to a person or consulting notes or books outside the Examination Hall, while going to the toilet or in the toilet.
 - 15.37. Any candidate found guilty of having adopted anyone or more of the above Unfair means/misconduct is liable to be penalized with a penalty by the Ethics Committee, which may vary from cancellation of the examination/ expulsion up to next 14 attempts or 7 yrs and/or cancellation of candidature as may be decided by Examinations Ethics Committee after considering each case.

15.38. The above list is purely indicative. If any act of omission or commission attributed to the candidate/intent by the candidate to vitiate the sanctity of the examination in decision of NBEMS shall be taken up as unfair means.

16. Communication Protocols

- 16.1. Information in this handbook, information bulletins of respective processes/examinations & NBEMS websites will help answer most of the queries of DNB trainees.
- 16.2. The NBEMS website provides for Student Login option to all the processes for which trainees are required to interact with NBEMS. The said portal provides customized information such as application status of examination application is available at *Online Exit Examinations Portal (OEEP)*
- 16.3. In case DNB trainees are still facing issues, then they can contact NBEMS through any of the following modes:

- **NBEMS Candidate Care helpline:** NBEMS provides candidate support through its contact centre with dedicated calling agents on all working days from 09:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

NBEMS Contact Centre Number: +91-11-45593000

- **Communication Web Portal:** An online web portal can be accessed from following web-link to submit any query related to counseling, registration, training, examination etc:

<https://exam.natboard.edu.in/communication.php?page=main>

- **By Post:**
Executive Director
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences,
Medical Enclave,
Ansari Nagar,
New Delhi -110029

- 16.4. Queries shall only be processed if same are sent through email ID of trainee registered with NBEMS.

-
- 16.5. Following Information must be provided in queries addressed to National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences:
- *Name of trainee*
 - *Email ID*
 - *Mobile Number*
 - *Correspondence Address*
 - *NBEMS Registration Number*
 - *Specialty*
 - *Name of DNB training Institute*
 - *Application Form ID/Roll Number for DNB Final Examination*
 - *Specialty of Examination*
- 16.6. Queries sent without aforesaid information may not be entertained.
- 16.7. Do not send the same query multiple times, as it will delay the response process.
- 16.8. Queries shall not be entertained from persons claiming themselves to be representative, associates or officiates of the applicant candidate.

17. Grievance Redressal Mechanism for NBEMS Trainees & Candidates

A. Objective

17.1. To redress the grievance of the DNB/DrNB/FNB trainees registered with the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) for DNB/DrNB/FNB training respectively.

B. Composition

17.2. The composition of NBEMS Grievance Redressal Committee for DNB trainees shall be as under:

Designation	Role in the Committee
Vice President, GB NBEMS	Chairperson
Governing Body Member	Member
Any other co-opted expert/faculty with the permission of the Chairperson	Member
Executive Director	Member
Head of Concerned Department at NBEMS	Member Secretary

C. Terms of reference

17.3. The terms of reference of the NBEMS Grievance Redressal Committee for DNB trainees shall be as under:

17.3.1. To attend to grievances of registered DNB/DrNB & FNB trainees related to DNB/DrNB/FNB training against the hospital.

17.3.2.To attend to disciplinary issues related to DNB/DrNB/FNB training against registered DNB/DrNB/FNB trainees of the hospital.

17.3.3.To attend the grievance of the trainees with NBEMS in matters related to DNB/DrNB/FNB training, counselling, registration, thesis and/or examinations etc conducted by NBEMS.

17.3.4.To attend the grievance of the candidates with NBEMS who have applied for/appeared in counseling/examinations conducted by NBEMS.

17.3.5.To make recommendations on the grievance of the trainees/candidates after going through the facts of the matter.

17.3.6.To recommend penalty against trainees making false representations.

17.3.7.To provide platform for level – 2 Grievance Redressal.

D. Venue of the meeting

17.4. The venue of the meeting of NBEMS Grievance Redressal Committee for DNB trainees/candidates shall be at NBEMS office at New Delhi. The meeting may be convened on a virtual platform also, if so required.

E. Frequency of the meeting

17.5. The meetings of NBEMS Grievance Redressal Committee for DNB trainees/candidates shall be held once in every 3 months

F. Quorum for meeting

17.6. At least 3 members and Member Secretary should be present.

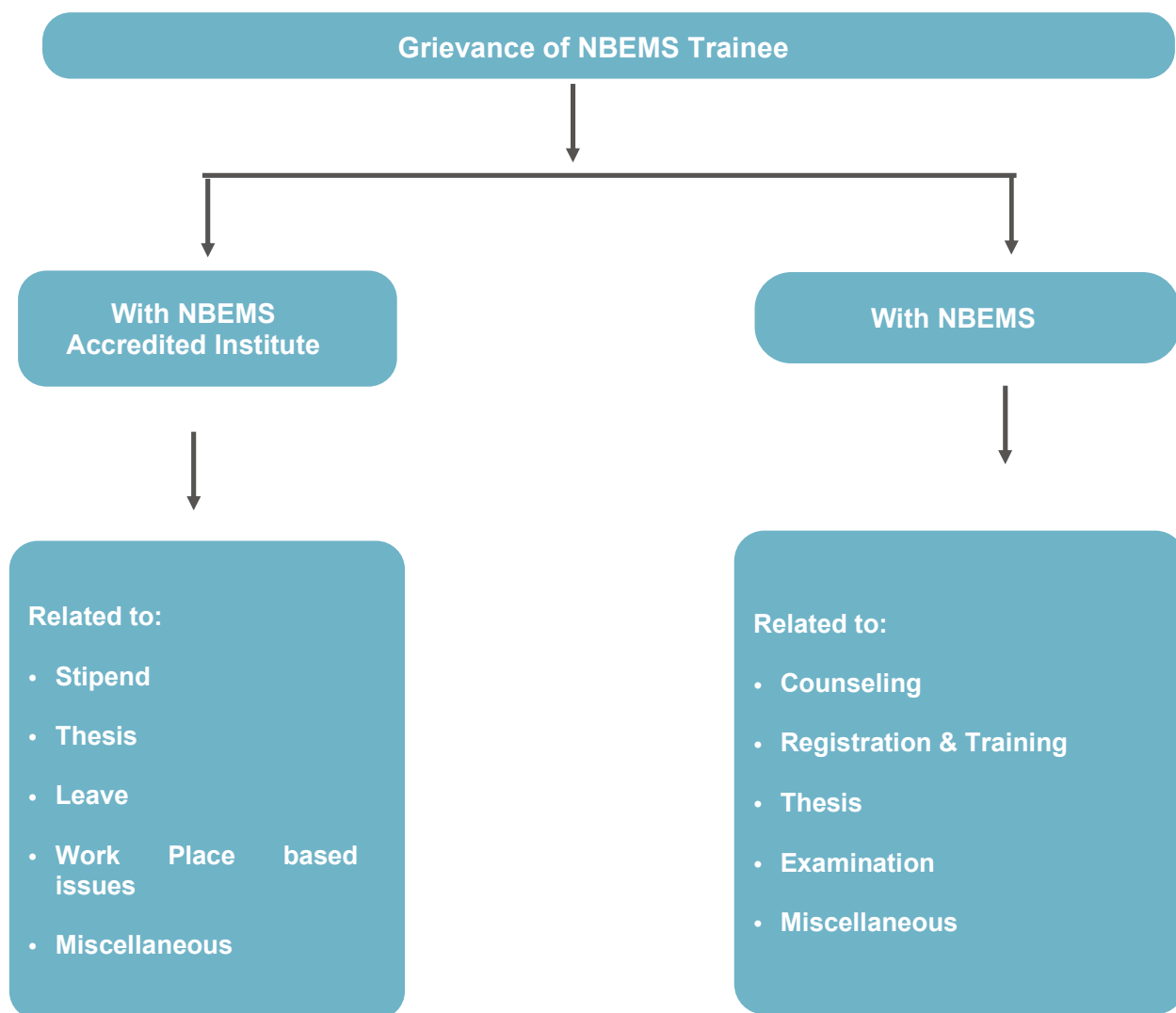
G. Presiding officer

17.7. Every meeting shall be presided by the Vice President of NBEMS and if the Vice President is unavailable then the Governing Body Member will be presiding the meeting.

H. Voting

17.8. Every member shall have one vote except the Head of the NBEMS Department concerned. The Head of the NBEMS Department concerned will not have any voting rights as he/she has dealt the case at the time of redressal of the grievance at the 1st level. If there is an equality of votes on any issue being deliberated by the Committee, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

I. Nature of Grievance



J. Grievance Redressal Procedure:

a) Grievance against NBEMS Accredited Hospital

17.9. To address issues between the DNB/DrNB/FNB trainees and NBEMS accredited hospitals, a Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) exists at each of the accredited hospital as per composition detailed below for addressing grievances of the DNB/DrNB & FNB candidates. The composition of the said committee is as under:

S. No.	Members	Role
1	Head of the Institute	Chairman
2	In-house, Senior Consultant, Medical Specialty	Member
3	In-house, Senior Consultant, Surgical Specialty	Member
4	DNB Coordinator of the hospital	Member
5	Medical Superintendent or equivalent in the hospital	Member
6	Representative of DNB & FNB Candidates of the hospital	Member
7	External Medical Expert of the Rank of Professor of a Govt. Medical College with Basic Science background	Member

17.10. The *Terms of Reference* for the Hospital GRC is as under:

17.10.1. To attend to grievances of registered DNB/DrNB & FNB candidates related to DNB/DrNB/FNB training against the hospital.

17.10.2. To attend to disciplinary issues related to DNB/DrNB/FNB training against registered DNB/DrNB & FNB trainees of the hospital.

17.10.3. To submit an action taken report to NBEMS in matters which are escalated for redressal at NBEMS level.

17.11. **Level - 1 Grievance Redressal Mechanism:** Any grievance against the NBEMS Accredited Institution related to DNB/DrNB/FNB training shall first be attended by the above-mentioned Grievance

Redressal Committee of the NBEMS Accredited hospital as level - 1 redressal mechanism.

- 17.12. Such matters shall not ordinarily be entertained by NBEMS directly. However, if the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the hospital Grievance Redressal Committee, such matters shall be forwarded for further adjudication to the NBEMS Grievance Redressal Committee constituted for this purpose along with action taken report of Grievance Redressal Committee of the concerned accredited hospital.
- 17.13. The representation has to be submitted within one month of disposal of the grievance at level - 1. The Grievance can be submitted by the trainee through a dedicated Online Grievance Registration Portal (OGRP).
- 17.14. The aggrieved trainees may be asked to be physically/virtually present themselves before the NBEMS committee to present their grievance along with the supporting documents. The Head of Institute of the hospital/ the Head of the concerned department at hospital may be asked to attend the proceedings, if required.
- 17.15. No legal person / lawyer shall accompany the hospital/ the trainee under any circumstance.
- 17.16. The trainees shall be given an ample opportunity to present their case before the Committee.

b) Grievance against NBEMS:

- 17.17. **Level - 1 Grievance Redressal Mechanism:** Any grievance against the NBEMS related to DNB/DrNB/FNB training and/or exam shall first be attended by the concerned department of NBEMS. Complainant can register their grievance with the concerned department through **Communication Web Portal of NBEMS**, as level - 1 redressal mechanism.
- 17.18. If the complainant is not satisfied with the resolution provided by the respective department of NBEMS, such matters shall be

forwarded for further adjudication to the NBEMS Grievance Redressal Committee constituted for this purpose along with the resolution provided by the concerned department of NBEMS.

17.19. The representation has to be submitted within one month of disposal of the grievance at level - 1. The Grievance can be submitted by the trainee through a dedicated **Online Grievance Registration Portal**. The decision/resolution provided at Level -1 shall be mandatorily required to be submitted while submitting the Grievance at Level - 2. In case no resolution has been provided despite multiple communications at Communication Web Portal, details of all those communications needs to be provided. Matter cannot be escalated to Level - 2 unless the maximum time sought at NBEMS Communication Web Portal to resolve the matter at Level - 1 has been exhausted.

17.20. No legal person / lawyer shall accompany the trainee under any circumstance

17.21. The trainees shall be given an ample opportunity to present their case before the Committee.

K. Recommendations of the Committee

17.22. Committee shall make its recommendations subsequent to the representation being made by the trainee. The recommendations shall be approved by the Examination Committee and thereafter the GB will ratify the same, before the final outcome is communicated to the trainee.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(Department of Health and Family Welfare)
NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 3rd August, 2016

S.O. 2672(E),-In exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (2) of section 11 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 (102 of 1956), the Central Government after consulting the Medical Council of India, Hereby Makes the following further amendments in the First Schedule of the Act, namely;

- (i) The following diplomate National Board (DNB), Broad Specialty Courses (three years courses at the Post MBBS level) shall be inserted, namely,

Diplomate National Board (Anatomy)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations, New Delhi on or after August 1984.
Diplomate National Board (Emergency Medicine)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after June, 2013.
Diplomate National Board (Field Epidemiology)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after December 2012.
Diplomate National Board (Immunobematology & Transfusion Medicine)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after December 2008.
Diplomate National Board (Rural Surgery)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after December 2009.

- (ii) The following Diplomate National Board (DNB), Super Specialty Course (three years courses at the Post MD/MS level) shall be inserted, namely

Diplomate National Board (Endocrinology)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations, New Delhi on or after Feb 1989.
Diplomate National Board (Hematology)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations, New Delhi on or after December 2010.
Diplomate National Board (Medical Genetics)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after January, 2015.

Diplomate National Board (Medical Oncology)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after December 2002.
Diplomate National Board (Neonatology)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after June 2005.
Diplomate National Board (Peripheral Vascular Surgery)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after December 2009.
Diplomate National Board (Rheumatology)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after December 2008.
Diplomate National Board (Surgical Gastroenterology)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after January, 2002.
Diplomate National Board (Surgical Oncology)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after December 2006.
Diplomate National Board (Thoracic Surgery)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after January 2014.

(iii) The following Fellowship National Board (FNB), Courses (two years courses at the Post MD/MS level) Shall be inserted, namely,

Fellowship National Board (Critical care Medicine)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations, New Delhi on or after March 2001.
Fellowship National Board (Cardiac Anesthesia)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after January, 2001.
Fellowship National Board (Hand & Micro Surgery)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after February 2002.
Fellowship National Board (High, risk Pregnancy & Perinatology)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after January 2001.
Fellowship National Board (Interventional Cardiology)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after February 2002.

Fellowship National Board (Infectious Disease)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after February 2008.
Fellowship National Board (Laboratory Medicine)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after December 2006.
Fellowship National Board (Minimal Access Surgery)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after December 2000.
Fellowship National Board (Pediatric Hemato Oncology)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after December 2006.
Fellowship National Board (Pediatric Cardiology)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after March 2001.

Fellowship National Board (Pediatric Intensive Care)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after December 2006.
Fellowship National Board (Reproductive Medicine)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after May 2003.
Fellowship National Board (Spine Surgery)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after February 2001.
Fellowship National Board (Trauma Care)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after May 2001.
Fellowship National Board (Vitreoretinal Surgery)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after March 2001.
Fellowship National Board (Paediatric Gastroenterology)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after January 2014.
Fellowship National Board (Sports Medicine)	This shall be recognised medical Qualification When granted by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi on or after January 2014.

Note: - The FNB qualifications shall not be treated as a recognised medical qualification for the purpose of teaching faculty.

[No. V.11025/19/2014-MEP]

ALIR. RIZVI, Jt. Secy.

No. V 11015/17/83-ME. (Policy)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY
WELFARE (DEPT. OF HEALTH)

New Delhi, Dated the 19th September, 1983

NOTIFICATION

S. O. In exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (2) of section (ii) of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 (102 of 1956), the Central Government after consulting the Medical Council of India, hereby makes the following further amendments in the First Schedule of the Act, namely:

(i) In the entries relating to National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi after the entry Membership of National Academy of Medical Sciences (Microbiology) M.N.A.M.S. (micro) the following entries shall be inserted, namely:

Membership of the National Academy of Medical Science (Family Medicine)	M.N.A.M.S. (Family Medicine)
Membership of the National Academy of Medical Science (Biochemistry)	M.N.A.M.S (Biochemistry)
Membership of the National academy of Medical Science (Nuclear Medicine)	M.N.A.M.S (Nuclear Medicine)
Membership of the National Academy of the Medical Sciences (Clinical Pharmacology and therapeutics)	M.N.A.M.S (Clinical Pharmacology and therapeutics)

((ii) "The M.N.A.M.S. qualifications in various disciplines granted by the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi as included in this Schedule, shall be recognized medical qualifications only when granted on or before 30th August, 1982"

(iii) As a result of the change of nomenclature of the medical qualification granted by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi, from M.N.A.M.S. (Membership of the National Academy of Medical Sciences) to Diplomate NB (Diplomate of National Board), in the entries relating to National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi, after the foot note related to M.N.A.M.S. qualification, etc. following entries shall be inserted, namely.

"The Diplomate of National Board qualification in various disciplines granted by the National Board of Examination, New Delhi, shall be recognized medical qualifications when granted on or after 30th August 1982".

Diplomate National Board (Physiology)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Phy)
Diplomate National Board (General Medicine)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Gen Med)
Diplomate National Board (General Surgery)	..... Diplomate N.B.(Gen Surg)
Diplomate National Board (Ophthalmology)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Ophthal)
Diplomate National Board (Anesthesiology)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Anaes)
Diplomate National Board (Social and Preventive Medicine)	..... Diplomate N.B. (SPM)
Diplomate National Board (Paediatrics)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Ped)
Diplomate National Board (Psychiatry)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Psy)
Diplomate National Board (Orthopaedics)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Ortho)
Diplomate National Board (Radio-diagnosis)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Radio Dig)
Diplomate National Board (Radio Therapy)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Radiotherapy)
Diplomate National Board (Health Administration including Hospital Administration)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Health Administration)
including	
	Hospital Administration)
Diplomate National Board (Oto-rhinolaryngology)	.....Diplomate N.B. (Otorhino)
Diplomate National Board (Dermatology & Venereology)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Derm & Vener)
Diplomate National Board (Obstetrics & Gynaecology)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Obs & Gynae)
Diplomate National Board (Respiratory Diseases)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Resp disease)
Diplomate National Board (Neuro Surgery)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Neurosurgery)
Diplomate National Board (Paediatric Surgery)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Ped
Surg)	
Diplomate National Board (Neurology)	..... Diplomate N.B.
(Neurology)	
Diplomate National Board (Plastic Surgery)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Plastic Surg)
Diplomate National Board (Genito-Urinary Surgery)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Genitourinary Surg)
Diplomate National Board (Cardio-Thoracic Surgery)	.....Diplomate N.B.(Cardiothoracic Surg)
Diplomate National Board (Physical Medicine Rehabilitation)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Phy. Med & Rehab)
Diplomate National Board (Forensic Medicine)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Forensic Med)
Diplomate National Board (Maternal Child Health)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Maternal Child Health)
Diplomate National Board (Nephrology)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Nephrology)
Diplomate National Board (Cardiology)	..... Diplomate
N.B.(Cardiology)	
Diplomate National Board (Gastro-enterology)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Gastro)
Diplomate National Board (Microbiology)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Micro)
Diplomate National Board (Family Medicine)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Family Medicine)
Diplomate National Board (Pathology)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Pathology)
Diplomate National Board (Biochemistry)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Biochemistry)
Diplomate National Board (Nuclear Medicine)	..... Diplomate N.B. (Nuclear Med)

Diplomate National Board (Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics) Diplomate N.B. (Clinical
Pharma and
Therapeutic)

Sd/- (P.C. Jain)
UNDER SECRETARY to the Govt. of India

To
The General Manager, Government of India Press, Mayapuri, Ring Road,
New Delhi

A/o. V11015/17/83-M.E. (P)

Copy forwarded for information

1. The Secretary, Medical Council of India Kotla Road, New Delhi
2. Dte. Gen. of Health Services, New Delhi
3. All State Government/ Union Territories.
4. Ministry of Law & Justice, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
5. National Medical Library, (to arrange 50 copies of Gazette Notifications)
6. The Secretary-cum-Registrar, National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, New Delhi

sd/- (P.C. Jain)
UNDER SECRETARY

Extracts from the National Medical Commission Act, 2019

Recognition of medical qualifications granted by statutory or other body in India.

37. (1) The medical qualifications granted by any statutory or other body in India which are covered by the categories listed in the Schedule shall be recognised medical qualifications for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Diplomate of National Board in broad-speciality qualifications and super-speciality qualifications when granted in a medical institution with attached hospital or in a hospital with the strength of five hundred or more beds, by the National Board of Examinations, shall be equivalent in all respects to the corresponding postgraduate qualification and the super-speciality qualification granted under this Act, but in all other cases, senior residency in a medical college for an additional period of one year shall be required for such qualification to be equivalent for the purposes of teaching also.

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THE GAZETTE OF INDIA EXTRAORDINARY [PART II—SEC. 1]

THE SCHEDULE

[See section 37]

LIST OF CATEGORIES OF MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS GRANTED BY
STATUTORY BODY OR OTHER BODY IN INDIA

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Categories of medical qualifications</i>
1.	All medical qualifications granted by the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry.
2.	All medical qualifications granted by All India Institutes of Medical Sciences.
3.	All medical qualifications granted by the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh.
4.	All medical qualifications granted by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences, Bangalore.
5.	All medical qualifications granted by the National Board of Examination.

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences
Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar,
Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Ring Road)
New Delhi- 110029

Candidate Helpline: 011 - 45593000
(Monday to Friday: 09:30AM to 06:00 PM)
Website: <https://natboard.edu.in>
<https://nbe.edu.in>