

**SRI LANKA**  
**MEDICAL COUNCIL**

**THE EXAMINATION FOR**  
**REGISTRATION TO PRACTICE**  
**DENTAL SURGERY IN SRI LANKA**  
**[ERPDS]**

**For the information of candidates**

**INCLUDES THE EXAMINATION GUIDELINES**

**COMPILED BY THE DENTAL SURGERY branch of the**  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL**

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## **FOREWORD**

The Examination for Registration to Practice Dental Surgery (ERPDS) in Sri Lanka is conducted by the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) for citizens of Sri Lanka who have obtained their medical qualification from medical schools overseas. The candidates should possess a BDS or equivalent degree from a dental school recognized by the SLMC, to be eligible to sit this examination. Passing the ERPDS enables them to apply for Provisional or Full Registration with the SLMC.

Although the general principles of dental practice are universal, clinical teaching and the relative emphasis on various aspects of training differ from country to country. They depend on the pattern of disease prevalence, the facilities and resources available for the provision of health services as well as the healthcare ethos of the country of training.

The ERPDS is designed to ascertain whether dental graduates qualified at dental schools overseas possess appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes for hands-on clinical training and patient care as an intern dental surgeon under local conditions.

The ERPDS is made more objective, comprehensive and structured. It aims to ensure that the examination is appropriate and conforms to the objectives. It is also convenient to conduct, and intended to be candidate-friendly. The new ERPDS provides greater accuracy and relevance in testing the above components. Problem solving and management of emergency cases are mandatory skills that are included in the assessment of all care-providers.

This document provides the candidates with an updated overview of the future arrangements for the ERPDS.

Education Committee of the SLMC

31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.

## OVERVIEW OF ERPDS

ERPDS Examination is held in two Parts. Part I has 3 theory papers (SEQ) and an OSCE. One to be successful in the Part I he/she should pass all 3 theory papers and OSCE.

<b>Part I</b>			
<b>Paper 1</b>	<b>Paper 2</b>	<b>Paper 3</b>	<b>OSCE / Spots</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral surgery</li> <li>• Oral medicine</li> <li>• Oral pathology</li> <li>• Common questions</li> </ul> <p>2Q each X 4 = 8 essay Questions <b>2.00 hours</b> Marks: 100 <i>Pass: 45 marks</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodontology</li> <li>• Restorative dentistry</li> <li>• Prosthetic dentistry</li> <li>• Common questions</li> </ul> <p>2Q each X 4 = 8 essay Questions <b>2.00 hours</b> Marks: 100 <i>Pass: 45 Marks</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paedodontics</li> <li>• Orthodontics</li> <li>• Community dentistry</li> <li>• Common questions</li> </ul> <p>2Q each X 4 = 8 essay Questions <b>2.00 hours</b> Marks: 100 <i>Pass: 45 Marks</i></p>	<p>5 min X 20 stations <b>2.00 hours</b></p> <p>Marks: 100 <i>Pass: 45 marks</i></p>

**Eligibility to proceed to Part II of the ERPDS: Pass ERPDS Part I.**

## Part II

<u>Clinical Examination</u>	<u>Oral surgery</u>	<u>Restorative dentistry</u>	<u>Prosthetic dentistry</u>
2 X Long cases <b>45 minutes each</b>	Practical <b>1.00 hour</b>	Practical <b>1.00 hour</b>	<b>Practical / clinical</b> <b>1.00 hour</b>
Marks: 100 <i>Pass: 45 marks</i>	Marks: 100 <i>Pass: 45 marks</i>	Marks: 100 <i>Pass: 45 marks</i>	Marks: 100 <i>Pass: 45 marks</i>

## 1. OBJECTIVES OF ERPDS

To assess

- 1.1) The core knowledge in the clinical dental subjects with particular reference to problems prevalent in Sri Lanka.
- 1.2) The skills and competencies required to bear the responsibilities as a pre-registration dental surgeon (intern dental surgeon).

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1) Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka
- 2.2) Should possess a BDS degree or equivalent qualification obtained from a foreign dental school recognized by the SLMC. (degree recognition certificate)

## 3. COMPOSITION OF THE ERPDS

The ERPDS consists of two parts – Parts I and Part II

**Part I** has the theory and OSCE components.

- Paper 1 contains 8 essay questions with two each in the subjects of Oral surgery, Oral medicine, Oral pathology and Common questions
- Paper 2 contains 8 essay questions with two each in the subjects of Periodontology, Restorative dentistry, Prosthetic dentistry and Common questions
- Paper 3 contains 8 essay questions with two each in the subjects of Paedodontics, Orthodontics, Community dentistry and Common questions
- OSCE contains 20 stations, covering all above areas.

Eligibility to proceed to Part II of the ERPDS: Pass of ERPDS Part I.

**Part II** has clinical and practical examinations.

- Clinical examination consists of two long cases of 45 minutes each.
- Practical examinations in the subjects of Oral surgery, Restorative dentistry and Prosthetic dentistry each of one hour duration.
- The examination will be **conducted in English**. Interaction with examiners will be in English. Interaction with patients however (in ERPDS Part II) may be in Sinhala or Tamil or English. An interpreter will be provided where necessary.
- The ERPDS shall be conducted twice per year.

## **4. COMPLETING PART I AND PART II**

### **4.1 To pass the ERPDS Part I,**

- 4.1.1 A candidate should pass papers 1, 2 and 3 and OSCE. A candidate has to obtain 50% or more in each paper of the ERPDS part I and the OSCE examination.
- 4.1.2 A candidate who obtains less than 30% in any paper would be considered as having failed the entire ERPDS part I and has to sit all 3 papers and the OSCE of the ERPDS part I.
- 4.1.3 A candidate who has obtained less than 50% in the OSCE would be considered as having failed the entire ERPDS part I and has to sit all 3 papers and the OSCE of the ERPDS part I.
- 4.1.4 A candidate who has passed the OSCE but has failed all 3 theory papers even though have scored more than 30% in each subject, would be considered as having failed the entire ERPDS part I and has to sit all 3 papers and the OSCE of the ERPDS part I.
- 4.1.4 A candidate who obtains less than 50% but more than 30% marks in any paper, but has passed at least one paper and OSCE, would be considered as referred in that particular subject and would be required to sit that paper/papers in subsequent sittings and have to complete the unsuccessful subjects.
- 4.1.5 Therefore, to consider a candidate has referred in a subject in ERPDS Part I, should have
  - 4.1.5.1 passed the OSCE and at least one paper, and
  - 4.1.5.2 scored a minimum of 30% in subjects that the candidate has failed

### **4.2 To pass the ERPDS Part II,**

- 4.2.1 A candidate should pass all components in one and the same sitting.
- 4.2.2 Candidate has to score a minimum of 45 marks in each component and the aggregate marks of 50 to pass ERPDS Part II.

## **5 REQUIREMENTS TO PASS THE ERPDS AND QUALIFY FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION**

To pass the ERPDS and qualify to obtain provisional registration with the SLMC, a graduate with qualifications from a dental school overseas must meet the following criteria:

- 5.1 Successfully complete ERPDS Part I, as described in 4.1 above.
- 5.2 Successfully complete ERPDS Part II, as described in 4.2 above.
- 5.3 **ORDER OF MERIT FOR EMPLOYMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
(Insert the scheme agreed for the dental graduates)

Calculation for ranking by order of merit at ERPDS will be performed taking into account the following details of each candidate who has passed in both Parts of the ERPDS (Parts I & II).

- 5.3.1 Candidates will be grouped according to the total number of attempts of addition of attempts at each of the ERPDS Parts I & II.
- 5.3.2 A grand total mark (out of 800) is calculated by adding the highest mark scored for each Part. (Part I out of 400 & Part II out of 400)
- 5.3.3 The grand total mark obtained for all Parts of the ERPDS is then used to determine the rank order within each group.
- 5.3.4 The list of rank order according to merit is then forwarded to the Ministry of Health for appointment as Intern Dental Officers.

## **6. RULES FOR THE EXAMINATION FOR REGISTRATION TO PRACTISE DENTAL SURGERY (ERPDS) IN SRI LANKA**

This Examination is limited to those who are eligible to sit, under Act No.16 of 1965 and Section 43(1)(c) of the Medical Ordinance, having fulfilled the requirement criteria.

- 6.1 Those who complete would be eligible to obtain Provisional Registration with the SLMC to proceed to training as an Intern.
- 6.2 Every candidate who registers for an examination shall be deemed to have sat the examination unless he/she withdraws from the examination with proven valid reasons by the relevant committee of SLMC to approve such withdrawal within the specified period (closing date for applications) or submits a valid medical certificate (MC) covering the period of absence before the end of the examination. The medical certificate shall be from a medical practitioner registered with the SLMC. Such MC will require the acceptance of the relevant committee of the SLMC. The candidate may have to appear before a Medical Board appointed by the SLMC if the necessity arises. Changing of the date, time, venue or centre of the examination by the candidate is not permitted and such requests shall not be entertained.
- 6.3 Candidates shall be present at the examination hall at least 30 minutes before the commencement of each paper or clinical/viva voce examination, but shall not enter the hall until requested to do so by the supervisor.
- 6.4 A candidate should have the Passport, National Identity Card or Driving License (to prove his/her identity) as well as the SLMC Registration Card and the Admission Card with the Index Number when entering the examination hall and on every occasion on presenting for the examination.

**Note: Any damage or defacement or modification of Passport, National Identity Card, Driving License, Admission Card (including photograph) and the SLMC Registration Card will result in the candidate being disallowed to sit the**

**examination and the incident subsequently subjected to an enquiry and due punishment given if found to be guilty.**

- 6.5 On admission to the hall, a candidate should occupy the allotted seat/place and should not change it except on the specific instruction of the supervisor.
- 6.6 It is the sole responsibility of the candidate to sign the attendance sheet at the examination hall on each occasion before leaving the examination venue. Failure to do so would be considered as not having sat the examination.
- 6.7 No candidate shall be admitted to the examination hall for any reason whatsoever after 30 minutes from the commencement of the examination. A candidate will not be allowed to leave the hall until 30 minutes has lapsed from commencement of the examination or during the last 5 minutes of the paper.
- 6.8 Candidates shall bring their own pens, ink, erasers, pencils or any other equipment and stationery which the candidates have been instructed to bring for the written papers.. The candidate should wear a white overcoat for the clinical examination.
- 6.9 Examination stationery, i.e writing paper, answer papers etc. would be supplied as and when necessary. No sheet of paper or answer book supplied to a candidate may be torn, crumpled, folded or otherwise mutilated. No other paper shall be used for answering by candidate. Any materials supplied including question papers, whether used or unused, should be handed over to invigilators and should not be removed from the examination hall.
- 6.10 Every candidate shall enter his/her Index Number on the answer papers and the question papers. A candidate who writes on his/her answer paper an Index Number other than his/her own is liable to be considered as having attempted to cheat. A script that bears no Index Number or one that is not legible will be rejected. No candidate shall write his/her name or any other identifying mark on the answer script.
- 6.11 Candidates are under the authority of the supervisor/coordinator/examiners and shall assist them by carrying out instructions as well as those of the invigilators and other supporting staff, during the examination and immediately before and after it. Candidates shall stop work promptly when ordered to do so by the supervisor/examiner/ invigilator.
- 6.12 Every candidate shall hand over the answer scripts personally to the invigilator or remain in his/her seat until it is collected. On no account shall a candidate hand over the answer script to an attendant, a minor employee or any other candidate.
- 6.13 No candidate shall have on his/her person or on any document listed above, any notes, signs or formulae. Except for stationery such as pencils, pens erasers, identity



documents, Index Cards and Admission cards, no other paper or envelopes should be kept with the candidate. No candidate shall have on his/her person, with him/her or anywhere near him/her any material such as books, notes parcels, handbags or any electronic communication equipment such as cellular phones, note pads etc. If a candidate has brought any of the above, they should be placed at a location indicated by the supervisor or the invigilator.

- 6.14 A candidate should not communicate in any form with another candidate or any other person other than an invigilator or a supervisor during the examination.
- 6.15 No candidate should copy or attempt to copy from any book, paper notes or similar material or from the scripts of or by communication with another candidate. A candidate shall not help another candidate or obtain help from another person. No candidate should conduct himself/herself negligently so as to provide an opportunity to assist any other candidate.
- 6.16 Every candidate shall conduct himself/herself in the examination hall and precincts so as not to cause disturbance or inconvenience to the supervisors/examiners or other staff and to other candidates. A candidate is liable to be evicted from the examination hall for disorderly conduct.
- 6.17 Absolute silence shall be maintained in the examination hall and its precincts. A candidate is not permitted for any reason whatsoever to communicate or have any dealings with any person other than the supervisor/examiner/invigilator. The attention of the supervisor/examiner/ invigilator could be drawn by rising of a hand.
- 6.18 During the course of answering a paper, viva voce examination or examining a patient, no candidate shall be permitted to leave the examination hall even temporarily. In the case of an emergency, the supervisor/examiner/invigilator will grant permission to do so but the candidate will be under their surveillance and would be accompanied by officials.
- 6.19 No person shall impersonate a candidate, nor shall any candidate allow himself/herself to be impersonated by another person.
- 6.20 No candidate shall obtain or attempt to obtain by any means prior knowledge of questions/clinical cases/examination material or names of examiners. All examination centres are out-of-bounds for a specified period before and during the exam.
- 6.21 Serious notice will be taken of any dishonest assistance given to a candidate, by any person aiding, abetting or copying at the examination.

- 6.22 If circumstances arise, which in the opinion of the supervisor/examiner/invigilator requires cancellation or postponement of the examination; he shall stop the examination, collect the scripts already written and then report the matter as soon as possible to the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC).
- 6.23 The supervisor/examiner is empowered to require any candidate to make a statement in writing on any matter which may have arisen during the course of the examination, and such statement shall be signed by the candidate.  
Any suspected violation of examination rules will be inquired by a panel appointed by the Council of the SLMC and if found guilty penalties would be imposed as per the ERPMS Examination and Proposed Punishments/Remedial Actions for Examination Offences.
- 6.24 The results of the examination announced by the SLMC will be final and no complaints or representations will be entertained regarding the results, except re-scrutiny of the papers of ERPMS Parts I and II, which is officially permitted.
- 6.25 If a candidate considers that there had been an injustice/unfairness in the conduct of the ERPMS (Part II) examinations, complete the feedback form (given below) **within 2 working days of completion of the examination at the respective center the candidate participated** and **return the signed document by registered post** to the registrar/SLMC, in double envelopes. The outer envelope should be addressed to the Registrar SLMC, 31 Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10. The inner envelope should contain the sealed letter of complaint stating “ERPMS Complaint” and dated. The complaint would be kept securely and acted upon in due course by an Appeals Board. Such complaint(s) should be submitted using the form made available in the SLMC web site. The SLMC will ensure the confidentiality of the complainant.