

EXAMINATION TO REGISTER TO PRACTICE MEDICINE (ERPM) IN SRI LANKA GUIDELINES 2025

1. These guidelines may be cited as the ERPM Guidelines 2025.
2. The provisions of these GUIDELINES shall come into operation on 1st January 2025.
3. These guidelines shall apply to medical professionals graduated from Council recognized medical degree programmes conducted by Universities, Medical Schools or Institutions overseas.
4. (1) The ERPM would test each candidate's
 - (a) ability to apply knowledge and skills to the care of patients in situations which relate to clinical practice in Sri Lanka
 - (b) competence in good clinical assessment and planning of care on an individual and community basis
 - (c) ability to conduct good clinical management, and
 - (d) ability to discharge medico-legal duties in medical practice.
- (2) The above competencies should be reflected during all stages of the ERPM.
5. The ERPM is limited to testing the candidates at the level of a general medical practitioner working in Sri Lanka performing the following tasks:
 - (1) ability to identify individual clinical problems, diagnoses and community issues
 - (2) competence in imparting the appropriate initial treatment including essential lifesaving management
 - (3) correct referral for more advanced treatment with the provision of care during transit
 - (4) provision of intermediate and long term after care
 - (5) display of soft skills essential for medical practice such as communication, critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork; and
 - (6) assisting the judicial system of Sri Lanka by performing medico-legal tasks

EXAMINATION

6. (1) The examination for candidates who are registering for the ERPM for the first time after the effective date of these guidelines would consist of:
 - (a) a Theory Component (ERPM Part I); and
 - (b) an applied clinical Objective Structured Clinical Examination (hereinafter referred to as "OSCE") component (ERPM Part II)

- (2) (a) A candidate should successfully complete the ERPM Part I to proceed to ERPM Part II.
- (3) The repeat candidates who are registering for the ERPM after the effective date of these guidelines have the following options:
 - (3.1) (a) change over to the format specified in section 6(1) and 6(2) and comply with the guidelines set forth starting in section 7 below
 - (b) candidates who have successfully completed Part A and D of the ERPM old format would be considered as having successfully completed Part I of the new format, and be allowed to sit ERPM Part II
 - (3.2) (a) continue to sit for the ERPM conducted according to the Format for the ERPM published on the website of the Council that has been in effect from 1st March 2017 and updated on 26 May 2021. [https://slmc.gov.lk/images/PDF_Main_Site/BOOK2021ERPMFORMAT.pdf].
 - (b) With effect from 1st January 2026, the examination will be conducted under the new format specified in section 6(1) and 6(2) and comply with the guidelines set forth starting in section 7 below
- (4) The SLMC would endeavor to conduct two (2) ERPM Part I and ERPM Part II examinations per year for each candidate proceeding in sequence unless serious natural and or national events hamper the conduct of the examination when appropriate alternative steps would be taken.
- (5) The SLMC should evaluate the quality of the examination by standard setting and assessment of candidate performance after each examination.

7.

- (1) All candidates should sit consecutive ERPM examinations until they successfully complete the ERPM. Excuses would only be granted for valid medical reasons supported by medical certificates.
- (2) All candidates should sit the ERPM examination held immediately following the date of degree approval.
- (3) Any candidate who wishes to take a leave of absence from ERPM examinations should obtain prior written approval of the Council. Such approval should only be granted for those engaging in academic and/or clinical work in the field of medicine during the leave of absence and should not exceed three (3) years.

EXAMINER POOL

8. The Council would call for applications for suitably qualified medical specialists in Sri Lanka from the relevant subjects to be included in the Examiner Pool to participate in the ERPM Part I and ERPM Part II. The examiners would be appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the Examinations Committee.

SUBJECT COMMITTEES

9. The Council shall appoint the following subject committees on the recommendation of the Examinations Committee.
 - (1) Medicine
 - (2) Surgery
 - (3) Paediatrics
 - (4) Obstetrics and Gynaecology
 - (5) Psychiatry
 - (6) Community Medicine
 - (7) Forensic Medicine
10. The Subject Committees would consist of
 - (1) members who are specialists in the field, and
 - (2) other experts co-opted from time to time based on the need for further input on specific areas of each subject.
11. All members of the Subject Committee would be appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the Examinations Committee.
12. The Council shall appoint a chairperson to each subject committee on the recommendation of the Examinations Committee from the members specified in 8.
13. Every appointed member of the subject committee, unless he/she vacates office earlier by death, by operation of law, resignation or removal, shall hold office for a term of five years and shall be eligible for a re appointment for an additional one term.
14. The Subject Committees would function according to the Standard Operating Procedures specified by the Examinations Unit.
15. Each member of the subject committees should declare their conflict of interest if any at the time of appointment as well as notify the head examination if arise during the course of function.

16. Any appointed member of the subject committee may at any time resign his office by letter addressed to the President, SLMC and such resignation shall take effect upon it being accepted by the President, SLMC.
17. In the event of vacation of office of any appointed member by reason of his death resignation, removal, the SLMC may appoint another person to hold office for the unexpired period of the term of office of the member whom he succeeds.
18. If any member of the subject committee other than the Chairperson is temporarily unable to perform duties of his office for a period exceeding three months due to ill health or absence from Sri Lanka, or for any other cause, the President, SLMC may appoint some other person to act in his place during such period.
19. A committee member who is directly or indirectly interested in any decision that is to be taken on any matter by the Subject Committee shall disclose the nature of such interest at the meeting of Subject Committee where such decision is being taken, and such disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the committee and such member shall not take part in any deliberation or decision of the Subject Committee with regard to that matter, and shall withdraw from such meeting while such deliberation is in progress or such decision is being made.
20. If the Chairperson of the subject committee is, by reason of illness or absence from Sri Lanka temporarily unable to perform the duties of his office, the SLMC shall nominate another member of the Committee to act in his place.
21. No proceeding, act or decision of the subject committee shall be invalidated by reason only of the existence of a vacancy among its subject committee members or of any defect in thereof.

EXAMINER PANEL

22. (1) An Examiner Panel consisting of the Chairpersons of all 7 Subject Committees, would decide on the final construction of the papers for ERPM Part I, having considered the questions submitted by the Subject Committee based on the agreed composition and questions and the blueprint.

(2) The Examiner Panel would determine the questions/content of the OSCE circuit at the ERPM Part II which would be developed further by the examiners in charge of each OSCE test station.
23. An examiner is directly or indirectly interested in the examination process shall disclose the nature of such interest at the commencement or during the course of the examination process and bring it to the notice of the chief examiner/head examination, SLMC immediately, and such disclosure shall be recorded in the incidence recording register, and such examiner shall not take part in examination process and related matter thereafter and shall withdraw immediately from the examination process.

ERPM PART I

24. The ERPM Part I would consist of three Multiple Choice Question papers made by the Examiner Panel from the questions scrutinized and forwarded to the Panel by the Subject Committees as follows:

Subject	Paper 1		Paper 2		Paper 3	
	True False Type	Single Best Answer Type	True False Type	Single Best Answer Type	True False Type	Single Best Answer Type
Medicine	25	25	-	-	-	-
Paediatric	25	25	-	-	-	-
Surgery	-	-	25	25	-	-
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	-	-	25	25	-	-
Psychiatry	-	-	-	-	17	15
Community Medicine	-	-	-	-	16	18
Forensic Medicine	-	-	-	-	17	17

25. Each question shall carry equal marks. Negative marks would be awarded for wrong answers in the True/False type questions, but they would not be carried forward to the next question. The pass mark for each paper shall be 50% (rounded to the first decimal).

26. Conduct of the examination

Following table describes the way the examination will be conducted over 3 days

Day of the examination	<u>Day 1</u>		<u>Day 2</u>		<u>Day 3</u>	
Paper Name	Paper 1		Paper 2		Paper 3	
Question type	True/False	SBA	True/False	SBA	True/False	SBA
Number of Question	Q 01 to 50	Q 01 to 50	Q 01 to 50	Q 01 to 50	Q 01 – 50	Q 01 – 50
Session and of time conduct	Session 1 9.00am to 11.00am (120mins.)	Session 2 12.30am to 2.30pm (120mins.)	Session 3 9.00am to 11.00am (120mins.)	Session 4 12.30am to 2.30pm (120mins.)	Session 5 9.00am to 11.00am (120mins.)	Session 6 12.30am to 2.00pm (120mins.)

27. (1) A candidate who has to obtained 50% or more in each paper in ERPm Part I would be considered as having passed ERPm Part I.
- (2) A candidate who obtains less than 25% in any paper would be considered as having failed the entire ERPm Part 1 and would required to sit all thee papers of ERPm part I.
- (3) A candidate who obtains less than 50% but more than 25% in any paper would be considered as having been refered in the paper and would be required to sit that paper of ERPm part I.

ERPm PART II

28. The ERPm Part II would be an applied clinical Objective Structed Examination conducted in circuits of twenty candidates, each circuit consisting of eighteen test stations and two rest stations lasting three hours and twenty minutes (conducted over ten minutes per station x 20 stations = 200 minutes).
29. The distribution of the number of questions in the Objective Structured Clinical Examination are stated below although the questions would be of mixed content and not arranged subject wise.

Subject	Number of questions
Medicine	4
Paediatirc	3
Surgery	3
Obsterrics and Gynaecology	3
Psychiatry	1
Community Medicine	2
Forensic Medicine	2
Rest Stations	2

30. Each station shall carry equal marks. The pass mark for ERPm Part II shall be 50% (rounded to the first decimal).

COMPLETION OF THE ERPM

31. Candidates who have passed ERPM Part I and ERPM Part II as stated in paragraphs 27 and 30 above respectively shall be considered as having successfully completed the ERPM.

PREPARATION OF THE MERIT LIST FOR INTERNSHIP APPOINTMENTS

32. The Council shall prepare a merit list including all the candidates who have successfully completed the ERPM at the time the ministry of health requests a merit list to grant internship appointments.
33. The merit list shall include both new and repeat candidates who have completed the ERPM in the format specified in these guidelines. The raw marks would be used for calculation of merit list and the marks obtained in the old format and the new format ERPM would be considered together.
34. The merit list would rank the candidates according to a composite mark calculated for each candidate taking into account each component of the ERPM and the number of attempts at the ERPM.

APPLYING FOR THE EXAMINATION

35. The SLMC will advertise for ERPM Part I and applications will be called. After completion of Part I, ERPM Part II will be advertised, and applications will be called.