

SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL (SLMC)

CODE OF CONDUCT & GUIDELINES FOR PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES AND INSTITUTIONS

Conduct of ERPM Mock OSCE Examinations by Professional Colleges and Institutions

1. Background and Purpose

1.1 The Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC), in accordance with the ERPM Guidelines 2025, holds primary responsibility for setting and administering the Examination for Registration to Practise Medicine (ERPM). Part II of the ERPM is administered as an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

1.2 Recent concerns and complaints have highlighted notable similarities between mock OSCEs conducted by external professional colleges or institutions and official ERPM examination content. These overlaps compromise examination confidentiality, undermine public confidence in the assessment framework, and create potential risks of litigation.

1.3 These Guidelines establish standard practices to safeguard the integrity, fairness, confidentiality, and independence of the ERPM, ensuring all candidates are evaluated under equal conditions while restricting mock examinations strictly to general clinical skills development.

2. Scope and Alignment of Mock Examinations

Mock examinations shall serve exclusively as educational tools for general clinical skills development and candidate familiarization with the OSCE format. Mock examinations must not replicate, imitate, disclose, predict, or speculate upon official ERPM test papers, clinical cases, examination stations, marking schemes, or assessment materials.

3. Advertising and Mandatory Disclaimers

3.1 Any preparatory course, training activity, or mock assessment designated as an “ERPM preparatory examination” must include the following prominent disclaimer on all course materials and promotional communications:

“This mock examination is not affiliated with the official Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) ERPM and does not guarantee any similarity to or prediction of actual examination content.”

3.2 Institutions and individuals are strictly prohibited from advertising or promoting preparatory activities using terms such as “ERPM past paper questions,” “ERPM predicted questions,” “likely ERPM stations,” or any phrases implying access to or alignment with official examination content.

4. Mandatory Pre-Examination Blackout Period

4.1 All institutions and individuals shall refrain from conducting any ERPM-specific mock OSCE or clinical preparatory assessment within thirty (30) calendar days prior to the scheduled start of the official ERPM examination.

4.2 The 30-day pre-examination blackout period is enforced based on the following regulatory imperatives:

- **Confidentiality:** Preventing unauthorized exposure to official examination materials and topics.
- **Equity:** Eliminating unfair advantages derived from direct exposure to recent mock scenarios.
- **Standardization:** Ensuring all candidates undergo final preparation under identical regulatory conditions.
- **Content Separation:** Eliminating content overlap between preparatory sessions and live examination stations.
- **Risk Management:** Mitigating legal exposure and administrative complaints regarding examination integrity.

5. Conflict of Interest and Examiner Restrictions

5.1 Subject Committee Chairs, committee members, and official ERPM examiners are strictly barred from acting as examiners, trainers, resource persons, or organizers for any external ERPM mock OSCE or preparatory course during the same examination cycle.

5.2 Exceptions may be granted solely upon prior written authorization from the SLMC Examination Committee, subject to formal justification proving that no actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest exists.

5.3 Appointed examiners shall maintain independent professional judgment, safeguard confidential examination assets, and ensure their assessment decisions remain free from external influences.

6. Summary Code of Directives

6.1 Blackout Window	Prohibits ERPM-specific mock OSCEs within 30 days prior to official ERPM examinations.
6.2 Educational Scope	Restricts mock exams strictly to general skills development and format familiarization without replicating official content.

6.3 Marketing Restrictions	Prohibits claims of using past papers, predicted questions, or likely stations in promotional materials.
6.4 Mandatory Disclaimer	Requires the official disclaimers on all promotional assets and course literature.
6.5 Dual-Role Bar	Prohibits official ERPM examiners and committee members from conducting or participating in mock exams.
6.6 Process Confidentiality	Mandates strict preservation of examination confidentiality, fairness, and institutional independence.
6.7 Compliance & Sanctions	Subjects non-compliant institutions and individuals to formal SLMC inquiry and disciplinary action.

7. Supervision and Enforcement

7.1 The SLMC Examination Committee shall maintain primary oversight of compliance and enforcement under these Guidelines.

7.2 Any person with knowledge of non-compliance or a breach of these directives may lodge a formal written complaint with the Registrar of the SLMC.

7.3 The SLMC retains full regulatory authority to investigate any professional college, institution, or individual suspected of non-compliance, including the authority to compel the submission of mock examination papers, course content, and promotional literature for review.

Effective Date: This Code of Conduct shall take effect immediately upon official promulgation by the Sri Lanka Medical Council.