

REGULATION

on the education, rights, and obligations of medical doctors, and criteria for granting medical licences and specialist medical licences no. 856/2023.

SECTION I

General provisions

Article 1

Scope of application

This Regulation shall apply to the education, rights, and obligations of medical doctors, specialised medical training, and the granting of medical licences and specialist medical licences.

Article 2

Definitions

- a. *Progress assessment*: Annual assessment to determine whether a doctor engaged in specialised training meets the skills, competence, and knowledge criteria set in a target description.
- b. *Specialised training manual for doctors*: General guidelines on conducting specialised medical training in Iceland (Gold Guide).
- c. *Target description*: Description of specialised training, approved by the Evaluation and Accreditation Committee, cf. Article 23.
- d. *Graduation certificate*: Confirmation of graduation by the teaching board of the relevant speciality of teaching board for specialised foundation studies (cf. Article 20).
- e. *Specialised training*: Study and training undertaken by a doctor at a recognised teaching institution and according to a recognised target description, once the doctor has completed university studies in medicine and been granted a medical licence.
- f. *Recognised educational institution*: A health institution or a department of a health institution assessed by the Evaluation and Accreditation Committee for Specialised Medical Training as a qualified teaching institution for specialised training, cf. Article 24.

SECTION II

Medical and special medical licences

Article 3

Professional titles and special medical licences

Only those holding a medical licence issued by the Directorate of Health may use the professional title of 'Doctor' and work as a doctor in Iceland.

Only those so authorised by the Directorate of Health may use the professional title of 'Specialist' in accordance with Article 21 and work as a specialist in Iceland.

Article 4

Conditions for medical licences

A medical licence in accordance with Article 3(1) may be granted to holders of a Candidate of Medicine degree from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Iceland.

Medical studies shall be at least 5 years in duration and comprise at least 5,550 hours of study. By the end of the period of study, the following knowledge and skills shall have been acquired:

1. satisfactory knowledge of the fundamentals of medicine and a broad understanding of scientific methods, including how to assess biological functions, evidence-based medicine, and data interpretation;
2. adequate understanding of the structure, functions and behaviour of healthy and ill individuals, and of the relationship between health and a person's physical and social environment;

3. satisfactory knowledge of clinical disciplines and procedures and comprehensive understanding of mental and physical diseases, medicine from the point of view of prevention, diagnosis and treatment, and human reproduction;
4. suitable clinical experience in healthcare institutions under appropriate supervision.

Permission may be granted on the basis of studies undertaken in another country, upon receipt of an opinion of the type referred to Article 5 concluding that the studies undertaken are comparable to the studies referred to in paragraph 1 and meet the minimum requirements laid down in paragraph 2, provided that the studies took place at a university recognised by the health authorities of both the country of study and Iceland. When assessing applications, mutual agreements with other countries on the recognition of education and the recognition of professional qualifications shall be taken into account.

Recognition of the professional education and qualifications of a doctor meeting the conditions laid down in Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications, as amended, shall be governed by Regulation No 510/2020 on the recognition of the professional qualifications of healthcare workers from other EEA countries or Switzerland for the purposes of working in Iceland. Candidates not meeting the conditions for automatic recognition shall have their education assessed in accordance with paragraph 3.

Recognition of the professional education and qualifications of doctors from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland shall be governed by Chapter 12 of the EEA EFTA-UK agreement.

Applicants from countries with which Iceland has no agreement on the recognition of professional education and qualifications for the purposes of working as a healthcare worker in Iceland shall be governed by the special rules laid down in Regulation No 483/2023 on processing applications for work permits and specialist permits pursuant to Act No 34/2012 (Healthcare Workers Act) submitted by applicants from countries with which Iceland has no agreement on the recognition of professional education and qualifications.

Applications for a medical licence shall be sent to the Directorate of Health.

Fees for the granting of medical licences shall be governed by Article 28.

Article 5

Opinions on applications for a medical licence

Before granting a medical licence on the basis of Article 4(2), the Directorate of Health shall seek the opinion of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Iceland on whether the applicant's education may be deemed comparable to the education referred to in Article 4(1).

The Directorate of Health may also seek an opinion from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Iceland on applications for a medical licence based on studies undertaken in another EEA country, in cases where the applicant does not meet the conditions for a work permit in the country of study (e.g. owing to conditional vocational training) or does not meet the conditions for automatic recognition.

Article 6

Conditions for specialist medical licences

Specialist medical licenses may be granted in the medical specialties referred to Article 21 (i.e. main specialties, sub-specialties and additional specialties) upon completion of recognised formal specialised training.

For a doctor to be entitled to obtain a specialist medical licence pursuant to Article 3(2), they must:

- a. have completed an official degree in medicine from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Iceland pursuant to Article 4 or have completed similar studies abroad;
- b. have been granted a medical licence in Iceland pursuant to Article 3;
- c. be able to present a graduation certificate confirming that they have completed approved specialised training, including specialised foundation studies, or a similar certificate of

training in another country, and have acquired the qualifications, skills and knowledge required for the relevant specialty pursuant to Articles 6, 19 and 21; and

- d. have completed specialised training defined within the specialty for which their application for a specialist medical licence refers.

The total duration of study for specialised training must be at least 5 years (60 months) in the main specialty, after a previous period of specialised foundation studies or vocational training pursuant to Article 18(8). The total duration of study in a sub-specialty or additional specialty must be at least 2 years (24 months) in each, cf. however, Article 8(5).

In order to obtain a specialist medical license in a sub-specialty of a main specialty, the applicant must have obtained a specialist medical licence in the relevant main specialty and completed formal specialised training in the sub-specialty in question. In order to obtain a specialist medical license in an additional specialty, the applicant must have obtained a specialist medical licence in the relevant main specialty and completed formal specialised training in the additional specialty in question. Licences may be granted only in two sub-specialties and one additional specialty. Applications for specialist medical licences in specialties, sub-specialties and additional specialties are also subject to the requirements laid down in Article 21.

Article 7

Applications for specialist medical licences and opinions

Applications for a specialist medical licence in a main specialty in medicine pursuant to Article 21 shall be sent to the Directorate of Health.

Applicants shall submit a graduation certificate in the specialty in they are applying for a specialist medical licence, together with any other documents that the Directorate of Health deems necessary for the application.

Before a specialist medical licence may be granted for specialised training performed outside the EEA and Switzerland or the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Medical Director of Health shall must seek the opinion of the teaching board of the relevant specialty, or the Council for Advanced Medical Education if no such teaching board exists, on whether the applicant meets the conditions for specialised training laid down in Article 19, cf. Articles 13 and 15.

The Medical Director of Health may also ask for an opinion from the parties referred to in paragraph 3 in respect of applications from citizens of the EEA and Switzerland and studies undertaken in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, provided that the target description for the relevant specialty is approved by the Evaluation and Accreditation Committee for Specialised Medical Training.

Article 8

Specialist medical licences on the basis of specialised training in another country

A specialist medical licence may be granted on the basis of specialised training at an educational institution in another state only if the relevant teaching board deems that said training meets the target description for the specialty in Iceland. A specialist medical licence may also be recognised on the basis of an assessment of the teaching board of the relevant specialty or the Council for Advanced Medical Education to the effect that the applicant has completed recognised specialised training (cf. Article 19) in a country that lays down similar study requirements as are laid down in this Regulation, even if the study arrangements for the relevant specialised training, including time provisions, are different. The specialised training shall be recognised as such by the health authorities in this country and the health authorities of both the country of study and Iceland.

Applicants from countries with which Iceland has no agreement on the recognition of professional education and qualifications for the purposes of working as a healthcare worker in Iceland shall be governed by the special rules laid down in Regulation No 483/2023 on processing applications for work permits and specialist permits pursuant to Act No 34/2012 (Healthcare Workers Act) submitted by applicants from countries with which Iceland has no agreement on the recognition of professional education and qualifications.

Recognition of the professional education and qualifications of a doctor with specialised training who meets the conditions laid down in Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications, as amended, shall be governed by Regulation No 510/2020 on the recognition of the professional qualifications of healthcare workers from other EEA countries or Switzerland for the purposes of working in Iceland, or by agreements entered into by the governments of the Nordic countries which have entered into force as far as Iceland is concerned and which stipulate general rules for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications. Recognition of the professional education and qualifications of doctors with specialised training from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland shall be governed by Chapter 12 of the EEA EFTA-UK agreement.

Applicants for a specialist medical licence in a main specialty pursuant to Article 21 may be granted a limited exemption on an individual basis from a specific part of the specialised training listed in point 5.1.3 of Annex V to Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications, as amended (cf. Directive 2013/55/EU), provided that they have already completed that part of specialised training as part of other specialised medical training and has already obtained a specialist medical licence on the basis of that specialised training. The exemption may not cover more than half of the minimum time in the relevant specialised training.

Fees for the granting of specialist medical licences shall be governed by Article 28.

Article 9

Adjustment period

The adjustment period shall be governed by Regulation No 483/2023 or Regulation No 510/2020. The adjustment period shall be based on the requirements laid down in the official degree in medicine pursuant to Article 4(1) or at the end of specialised training in the relevant specialty.

Article 10

Power to refuse applications for medical licences and specialist medical licences

The Medical Director of Health shall refuse an applicant a medical licence or specialist medical licence if they do not meet the conditions laid down in this Regulation.

The Medical Director of Health may also refuse an applicant a medical licence and or specialist medical licence even if the conditions laid down in this Regulation are met, if the Medical Director of Health considers that the applicant's studies or specialised training have not been sufficiently continuous or that a long time has passed between the applicant completing continuous studies or specialised training and reception of their application. The Medical Director of Health may refuse a licence on that basis only if it is clear that the applicant has failed to demonstrate that they have nevertheless maintained their knowledge and skills and pursued continuing or lifelong education. The Medical Director of Health must seek an opinion from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Iceland, the teaching board of the relevant specialty or the Council for Advanced Medical Education, as appropriate, before refusing on that basis.

SECTION III

Specialised training in medicine and specialties

Article 11

Organisation of specialised training

Specialised training shall always take place at a recognised educational institution and according to the target description for the relevant specialty, cf. Articles 18 and 19 and Section IV.

Specialised training shall begin with specialised foundation studies pursuant to Article 18. Upon completion of specialised foundation studies, a doctor may apply for a place in specialised training in a specialty pursuant to Article 19.

Specialised training in a main specialty (cf. Article 21) shall last for at least 5 years, based on full-time work upon completion of specialised foundation studies. Specialised training in a sub-specialty or additional specialty shall last for at least a further 2 years.

Article 12

Responsibility for and supervision of specialised training

Specialised training for doctors shall be conducted at health institutions that have been recognised as teaching institutions (cf. Article 24). The medical director and teaching directors of the relevant teaching institution shall be responsible for specialised training. Specialised training shall be supervised by the Specialised Training Office at Landspítali University Hospital or the Development Centre of Icelandic Health Care, which shall appoint a teaching director and a teaching board for each specialty. The teaching director shall assign specialised training supervisors and clinical supervisors to specialist doctors.

The Specialised Training Office at Landspítali University Hospital or the Development Centre of Icelandic Health Care may enter into agreements with other health institutions that have been recognised as teaching institutions pursuant to Article 24 to handle tuition of part of special training.

The councils and committees referred to in Sections III and IV shall establish rules of procedure and keep minutes of meetings, and the chairs must call meetings and convene alternates as needed.

Article 13

Council for Advanced Medical Education

The Council for Advanced Medical Education is a consultative consultation forum, led by the Chief Physician of Specialised Training at Landspítali University Hospital and composed of teaching directors for specialised training, the Chair of the Teaching Council for Specialised Foundation Studies, the President of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Iceland, and a representative of supervising specialised training doctors. The Council for Advanced Medical Education shall work together with the Evaluation and Accreditation Committee to update the Doctors' Specialised Training Manual, at the request of the latter. Assessments by a teaching board of previous specialised training or equivalent work performed under supervision and according to the target description and decisions of a progress assessment committee (cf. paragraph 19) on study progress and graduation may be referred to the Council for Advanced Medical Education. If the decision of a progress assessment committee or teaching board is referred to the Council for Advanced Medical Education for review, the latter may appoint an ad hoc committee of three neutral specialist doctors – of whom at least one shall hold a specialist medical licence in the relevant specialty – to arrive at a conclusion that is final at the administrative level. Landspítali University Hospital shall provide the Council with facilities and secretarial assistance. Teaching institutions for specialised training shall have on their website information on the Council for Advanced Medical Education and the teaching boards for the specialties taught at the institution.

Article 14

Teaching directors

In each specialty taught in Iceland, there must be a teaching director with a specialist medical licence in the relevant specialty. The teaching director shall lead the teaching board of the relevant specialty as chair. The teaching board of any specialty that is only partially taught in Iceland shall strive to ensure cooperation with foreign teaching institutions for specialised training where specialised doctors can complete specialised training in that specialty. The teaching director and medical director shall be responsible for ensuring that the content, implementation and quality of special training are in accordance with the agreed target description pursuant to Article 23.

Article 15

Teaching councils

A teaching board shall operate within each specialty taught in Iceland and be led by the teaching director of the relevant specialty, who shall appoint at least two specialist doctors to the board. Those specialist doctors shall have completed supervisor training, and it is preferable for one of them to be a senior doctor. The number of doctors in the teaching board shall take into account the number of specialist doctors at any given time in the relevant specialty. Where possible, each teaching board shall have a representative of the relevant academic department of the Faculty of Medicine of the University

of Iceland and a representative of the relevant specialist association. Specialist doctors in the relevant specialty shall elect their own representative to the teaching board, who shall have freedom to speak and the right to make proposals. Alternates may be appointed.

Teaching councils shall be responsible for ensuring the quality of the relevant specialised training, making decisions about structure, content, and implementation based on the target description (cf. Articles 19 and 23), managing admission to specialised training posts, and assessing experience from previous specialised training or equivalent work performed under supervision and according to the target description. The teaching board shall also approve graduation certificates and provide the Directorate of Health with opinions on specialist licence applications in their field of expertise.

The teaching board for specialised foundation studies shall include the teaching directors for specialised foundation studies at Landspítali University Hospital and Akureyri Hospital for the part regarding hospitals, the teaching director for specialised foundation studies at the Development Centre of Icelandic Health Care for the part regarding healthcare, and – to the extent possible – the teaching directors of other teaching institutions of specialised foundation studies. Alternates shall be appointed from the same institutions. The teaching board shall select a chair from among the teaching directors for specialised foundation studies. Specialised foundation study doctors shall elect their own representative to the teaching board, who shall have freedom to speak and the right to make proposals.

Article 16

Supervisors

Specialised training supervisors shall be responsible for supervising doctors engaged in specialised training and writing reports on their training progress, to be submitted to the progress assessment committee for a formal progress assessment. Specialised training supervisors shall have a specialist medical licence in the relevant specialty and have completed and maintained supervisor training.

Specialist doctors in special training in a specific specialty shall have a named clinical supervisor at each teaching institution, who is responsible for supervising specialist doctors in their clinical work. Clinical supervisors shall have a specialist medical licence and have completed and maintained supervisor training.

In specialised foundation studies, doctors shall have a supervisor who is responsible for supervision and writing a progress report at the end of the academic year. Supervisors shall have a specialist medical licence and have completed and maintained supervisor training.

Article 17

Progress assessment committees

The progress assessment committee of each specialty shall be led by a teaching director, who shall appoint at least two experts in the relevant specialty and at least one independent member. The committee's main function is to issue decisions on annual progress and the graduation of doctors engaged in specialised training. Decisions issued by the progress assessment committee may be referred to the Council for Advanced Medical Education.

Article 18

Specialised foundation studies

Specialised training shall begin with specialised foundation studies. Specialised foundation studies must be carried out according to the target description for specialised foundation studies at educational institutions that have been recognised as educational institutions for specialised foundation studies (cf. Section IV). Specialised foundation studies shall be fully completed before specialised training in a main specialty may begin.

For a doctor to be admitted to specialised foundation studies, they must hold a medical licence issued by the Directorate of Health, pursuant to Article 3. The teaching board for specialised foundation studies shall draft an agreement on the rights and obligations of the institution and the doctor undertaking specialised foundation studies.

Specialised foundation studies shall last for 12 months and meet the requirements of the target description for specialised foundation studies. Specialised foundation studies shall be divided so that there is a period of at least 4 months in a healthcare clinic and 8 months in a teaching hospital, of which at least 2 months in internal medicine, surgery and emergency medicine. Work shall be full-time in nature. The teaching board for specialised foundation studies shall organise study modules.

The teaching board for specialised foundation studies shall make decisions on the progress of doctors in specialised foundation studies, in accordance with the progress criteria set out in the target description. An exemption from the requirement for full-time work may be granted authorising part-time, but not lower than 50%, specialised foundation studies, with the study time for each part of specialised foundation studies being extended by that amount. Work performed outside of organised study modules pursuant to this provision shall not be considered part of the specialised foundation studies.

The chair of the teaching board for specialised foundation studies shall confirm, on the basis of the decision of the same board, whether a doctor has completed specialised foundation studies satisfactorily. If there is any doubt as to whether a doctor has met the requirements of the target description, the council shall take appropriate action according to the Doctors' Specialised Training Manual and in consultation with the educational institutions for specialised foundation studies.

Teaching directors for specialised foundation studies at the Development Centre of Icelandic Health Care and at healthcare institutions that have been recognised as educational institutions for specialised foundation studies shall be responsible for ensuring that studies are in line with the target description pursuant to Article 23.

The teaching board for specialised foundation studies may assess the first stages of specialised training conducted abroad as qualifying towards specialised foundation studies, provided that said training meets the requirements regarding the target description and supervision and was conducted at a health institution that is recognised as an educational institution by the health authorities of both the country where the training was conducted and Iceland.

Article 19

Specialised training in medicine

Specialised training in medicine shall include academic and practical study at a health institution recognised by the Icelandic health authorities or at a university or health institution recognised for such specialised training in the country where specialised training is conducted.

Specialised training in medicine must meet, in terms of content and study time, the requirements for specialised training in the country where the specialised training is conducted. When assessing specialised training from another country, training must be assessed on the basis of the target description for the relevant specialty in Iceland.

Specialised training in a main specialty shall begin with specialised foundation studies pursuant to Article 18, which shall be fully completed before specialised training in a speciality may begin. A specialised foundation studies graduation certificate shall be presented pursuant to Article 20. In order to be admitted to specialised training, including specialised foundation studies, a doctor must have received a medical licence in Iceland pursuant to Section II.

All specialised training in Iceland shall be carried out according to the approved target description (cf. Article 23) and at health institutions or departments of health institutions that have been recognised as teaching institutions for specialised training in medicine (cf. Article 24). The teaching director for specialised training, the medical director, and the doctor engaged in specialised training shall enter into a specialised training contract stipulating the rights and obligations of the institution and the doctor engaged in specialised training and the plan, duration, and arrangement of specialised training.

The standard arrangement for specialised training shall be full-time work for 5 years, i.e. a total study period of 6 years including specialised foundation studies. Lower work ratios shall mean extending the total period for specialised training by that amount. As a rule, the total study period shall not exceed 9 years, including specialised foundation studies. The Council for Advanced Medical Education may, upon a proposal from the teaching director, approve a longer total study period, if there is good reason for doing so.

Upon approval of the new target description in a medical specialty, specialist doctors who in specialised training in that specialty in Iceland shall have their specialised training under the old target description assessed according to the new target description. If there is good reason to do so, a specialist doctor may be given the opportunity to complete their specialised training according to the old target description. The teaching board of the relevant specialty in Iceland shall carry out the assessment and reach a conclusion, which may be appealed to the Council for Advanced Medical Education.

The teaching board may assess a formal doctoral programme completed by a specialist doctor in the field of medicine or related subjects as equivalent to up to 6 months of the total period of specialised training in a main specialty, provided that it is related to the relevant specialised training field. This shall be subject to the doctor engaged in specialised training having met all the skills and qualification criteria for specialised training, in line with the progress criteria set out in the target description. The total study period for clinical specialised training shall nevertheless not be shorter than 5 years (cf. Article 25 of the Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council).

Accrued summer holiday and shift leave taken during the specialised training period shall be counted as part of the total study period. The progress assessment committee shall decide whether to extend specialised training in the event of absence for other reasons exceeding 14 working days per academic year.

A progress assessment must be carried out annually, and decisions on study progress and graduation regarding doctors engaged in specialised training shall be based on such as assessment (cf. Article 20). Graduation shall be confirmed by the teaching director and the teaching board when it is known that all skill and qualifications requirements have been met according to the progress criteria set out in the target description by issuing a graduation certificate pursuant to Article 20, signed by the teaching director also on behalf of the teaching board.

If a doctor engaged in specialised training leaves specialised training in one specialty and starts specialised training in another specialty, without completing the former, the teaching board may assess part of the specialised training carried out as counting towards the latter, as long as it considers there to be sufficient overlap between the target descriptions of both specialties and between the skill and qualifications criteria met by the doctor in their previous specialised training. A maximum of 24 months of specialised training may count towards another specialty. However, no more than half of study time taking place in Iceland should be so assessed, in the event of part-time specialised training.

Those completing specialised training in both a main specialty and a sub-specialty in 7 years may be given more flexible time limits between the main specialty and the sub-specialty than set out above, provided that the qualifications criteria of the target descriptions are met. However, the main specialty may not take any less than 3 years.

Article 20

Graduation certificates

The teaching board for specialised foundation studies shall sign a graduation certificate based on the supervisor's opinion and assess when a doctor has completed specialised foundation studies pursuant to Article 18.

The teaching board for specialties that can be pursued fully in Iceland shall sign a graduation certificate when the doctor engaged in specialised training has met the requirements of their specialised training pursuant to Article 19, according to the target description and the decision of the progress assessment committee.

The teaching board for a given specialty may issue a graduation certificate pursuant to paragraph 2 even if part of the specialised training took place in another country, provided that the teaching board deems the doctor engaged in specialised training to have met all the requirements of the applicable target description for the specialty in Iceland.

Article 21
Specialties

Specialties shall be based on a solid academic foundation and have a counterpart at a recognised international level.

The Minister may decide to include a new medical specialty under this Regulation, provided that it is based on a solid academic foundation and has a counterpart at international level and is recognised abroad. The Minister shall seek the opinion of the Directorate of Health and the Icelandic Medical Association.

The Directorate of Health may grant specialist medical licences in the specialties listed below. Main specialties are listed in bold and groups under Chapters I–XVIII and numbered 1, 2, 3, etc. Sub-specialties are listed under a, b, c, etc. and involve further specialisation in the academic and professional field of the main specialty. Additional specialties are listed under i–iii of Chapter XIX.

I. Surgery:

1. General surgery

Sub-specialties:

- a. Paediatric surgery
- b. Breast and endocrine surgery
- c. Upper gastrointestinal surgery
- d. Cardio and thoracic surgery
- e. Plastic surgery
- f. Colon and rectal surgery
- g. Urology
- h. Vascular surgery

2. Paediatric surgery

3. Hand surgery

4. Neurosurgery

5. Cardiothoracic surgery

6. Abdominal surgery

Sub-specialties:

- a. Upper abdominal surgery
- b. Colorectal surgery

7. Plastic surgery

8. Urology

9. Vascular surgery

II. Ophthalmology:

Sub-specialties:

- a. Oculoplastic surgery
- b. Cataract surgery
- c. Paediatric ophthalmology
- d. Glaucoma and glaucoma surgery
- e. Corneal surgery
- f. Vitreoretinal diseases
- g. Neuro-ophthalmology

III. Orthopaedic surgery:

Sub-speciality:

- a. Hand surgery

IV. Obstetrics and gynaecology:

Sub-specialties:

- a. Foeto-maternal medicine
- b. Gynaecological endocrinology
- c. Gynaecological oncology
- d. Infertility
- e. Gynaecological urology

V. Otorhinolaryngology:*Sub-specialties:*

- a. Otorhinolaryngology
- b. Audiology
- c. Laryngology
- d. Paediatric otorhinolaryngology
- e. Otoneurology

VI. Anaesthesiology and intensive care medicine:*Sub-specialties:*

- a. Pre-hospital and retrieval emergency medicine
- b. Intensive care medicine
- c. Advanced pain medicine
- d. Obstetric anaesthesia
- e. Paediatric anaesthesia and intensive care medicine
- f. Cardiothoracic and vascular anaesthesia and intensive care medicine

VII. Internal medicine:**1. Internal medicine***Sub-specialties:*

- a. Haematology
- b. Haemato-oncology
- c. Addictive medicine
- d. Rheumatology
- e. Intensive care medicine
- f. Cardiology
- g. Endocrinology
- h. Oncology
- i. Palliative medicine
- j. Pulmonary medicine
- k. Gastroenterology
- l. Nephrology
- m. Allergology
- n. Infectious diseases
- o. Geriatrics

2. Haematology**3. Haemato-oncology****4. Rheumatology****5. Cardiology***Sub-specialties:*

- a. Heart failure and transplantation
- b. Interventional cardiology
- c. Cardiovascular imaging
- d. Cardiac electrophysiology

6. Endocrinology**7. Oncology***Sub-speciality:*

- a. Radiation oncology

8. Pulmonary medicine**9. Gastroenterology****10. Nephrology****11. Allergy and immunology****12. Infectious diseases****13. Geriatrics****VIII. Occupational and environmental medicine**

IX. Paediatrics:*Sub-specialties:*

- a. Child and adolescent psychiatry
- b. Paediatric haematology and oncology
- c. Paediatric emergency medicine
- d. Paediatric medical genetics
- e. Developmental and behavioural paediatrics
- f. Paediatric rheumatology
- g. Paediatric critical care medicine
- h. Paediatric cardiology
- i. Paediatric habilitation
- j. Paediatric endocrinology
- k. Paediatric pulmonology
- l. Paediatric gastroenterology and nutrition
- m. Neonatology
- n. Paediatric nephrology
- o. Paediatric allergology
- p. Paediatric allergy and immunology
- q. Paediatric immunology
- r. Paediatric infectious diseases
- s. Paediatric infectious diseases and immunology
- t. Paediatric neurology
- u. Adolescent medicine

X. Emergency medicine:*Sub-specialties:*

- a. Paediatric emergency medicine
- a. Pre-hospital and retrieval emergency medicine
- c. Toxicology

XI. Physical medicine and rehabilitation**XII. Public health****XIII. Psychiatry:****1. Psychiatry***Sub-specialties:*

- a. Child and adolescent psychiatry
- b. Addiction psychiatry
- c. Forensic psychiatry
- d. Community psychiatry
- e. Geropsychiatry

2. Child and adolescent psychiatry**XIV. General medicine***Sub-speciality:*

- a. Rural medicine

XV. Dermatology*Sub-speciality:*

- a. Dermatopathology

XVI. Laboratory medicine:

- 1. Haematopathology**
- 2. Clinical toxicology**
- 3. Clinical genetics**
- 4. Clinical physiology**
- 5. Clinical biochemistry**
- 6. Clinical pharmacology**
- 7. Clinical immunology and transfusion medicine**

- 8. **Clinical chemistry**
- 9. **Pathology**
 - Sub-specialties:*
 - a. Paediatric pathology
 - b. Haematopathology
 - c. Cytopathology
 - d. Forensic pathology
 - e. Neuropathology
- 10. **Immunology**
- 11. **Forensic pathology**
- 12. **Clinical microbiology**
- 13. **Clinical bacteriology**
- 14. **Clinical virology**
- XVII. **Diagnostic radiology**
 - Sub-specialties:*
 - a. Paediatric radiology
 - b. Scintigraphy
 - c. Interventional radiology
 - d. Musculoskeletal radiology
 - e. Neuroradiology
- XVIII. **Neurology:**
 - 1. **Neurology**
 - Sub-specialties:*
 - a. Inflammatory diseases of the central nervous system
 - b. Epilepsy
 - c. Cerebrovascular diseases
 - d. Movement disorders
 - e. Headache
 - f. Clinical neurophysiology
 - g. Neurological rehabilitation
 - 2. **Clinical neurophysiology**
- XIX. **Additional specialities**
 - i. **Geriatric medicine**, if the applicant has a specialist medical licence in general practice.
 - ii. **Palliative medicine**, if the applicant has a specialist medical licence in a main speciality other than occupational and environmental medicine, a speciality within laboratory medicine, public health, diagnostic radiology, or clinical neurophysiology.
 - iii. **Advanced pain medicine**, if the applicant has a specialist medical licence in a main speciality other than occupational and environmental medicine, a speciality within laboratory medicine, public health, diagnostic radiology, or clinical neurophysiology.

SECTION IV

Evaluation and Accreditation Committee for specialised training for doctors

Article 22

Appointment and role

The Minister shall appoint an Evaluation and Accreditation Committee composed of five specialist doctors for 4 years at a time. Two members shall be appointed at the nomination of the Icelandic Medical Association (plus one alternate), one member shall be appointed at the nomination of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Iceland (plus one alternate), one member shall be appointed at the nomination of the Council for Advanced Medical Education (plus one alternate), and

the Minister shall appoint a chair without nomination. The Committee shall call upon experts within specialised fields of medicine, as required. The Ministry shall provide the Committee with working premises and a member of staff.

The Evaluation and Accreditation Committee for specialised training for doctors shall:

1. approve target descriptions for specialised foundation studies pursuant to Article 18 and specialties pursuant to Article 21;
2. assess the suitability of health institutions or departments within them to be recognised as teaching institutions to conduct specialised training for doctors, including specialised foundation studies (cf. Article 18);
3. supervise special training and educational institutions as required, no less regularly than every 4 years. This shall involve such activities as ensuring that special training takes place only at approved educational institutions, according to the target description, and that supervisors have completed and maintained supervisor training;
4. establish quality criteria for: (a) drafting target descriptions; (b) introducing and implementing special training; and (c) supervising educational institutions and special training. Such criteria shall be in accordance with international quality criteria;
5. enforce the decisions taken in accordance with audits and quality control;
6. submit proposals to the Minister regarding which specialties should be offered for special training in Iceland and what they should be called;
7. plan and manage a numbering system for specialist doctors;
8. provide reviews requiring the Committee's professional expertise;
9. publish a manual on implementing specialised training for doctors, to be updated regularly and as required, in cooperation with the Council for Advanced Medical Education.

The Directorate of Health shall approve and publish the quality criteria established by the Evaluation and Accreditation Committee and the specialised training manual for doctors.

The Directorate of Health shall publish an overview of accredited teaching institutions for specialised medical training, including specialised foundation studies, together with approved target descriptions.

The Committee shall review its assessment of recognised educational institutions and approved target descriptions every 4 years, or more often if necessary.

The Committee may delegate the performance of quality control of teaching institutions for specialised training to other parties, subject to terms set by the Committee and at the Committee's responsibility.

Article 23

Approval of target descriptions

Target descriptions shall follow the quality criteria for establishing target descriptions. They shall stipulate, among other things, the organisation of special training, admission, the content, arrangement and duration of special training and individual study modules, quality requirements, supervision, progress assessments, and skills and qualifications criteria.

When assessing target descriptions, the Committee shall call upon experts within specialised fields of medicine and seek out international consultants, as required.

Before approving a target description, the Committee shall obtain comments from the relevant specialist association, the teaching institution for the specialty, and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Iceland.

The Committee shall send the approved target descriptions for specialised foundation studies and specialties to the Minister and the Directorate of Health.

Article 24

Recognition of educational institutions

In order to be recognised as a teaching institution for specialised training in medicine, a healthcare institution or a department within it must meet quality criteria pursuant to Article 22.

The Committee shall present to health institutions the quality criteria on which it bases its assessment for recognising a health institution as a teaching institution for specialised medical training.

A health institution that has been recognised as an educational institution shall notify the Committee of any changes in their operations and staffing that may affect the eligibility of the health institution or department of a health institution to be recognised as an educational institution to conduct specialised medical training.

The Committee shall send the Minister and the Directorate of Health an overview of accredited teaching institutions for specialised foundation studies and specialties.

SECTION V

Rights and obligations

Article 25

Professional requirements and responsibility

Doctors shall show respect to their patients and perform their duties with vigilance and devotion and in accordance with the professional requirements governing doctors at any given time. Doctors must be aware of their professional duties and the rules of medical ethics.

Doctors shall familiarise themselves with the laws and regulations that apply to healthcare professional and health services, as well as other laws and government orders, as appropriate.

Doctors must pursue lifelong education and thus maintain their knowledge and professional skills and adopt job-related innovations. Doctors shall record information about their continuing education in accordance with the recommendations of the relevant professional association and fulfil their obligation to provide information to their employer in this regard, as appropriate.

Doctors shall be responsible for the medical diagnosis and treatment they provide.

Doctors shall respect their professional limitations and seek help or refer patients to another healthcare professional, as necessary and possible, for instance if they believe that they are unable to provide the patient with appropriate healthcare.

Article 26

Obligation to provide information and registration

A doctor's obligation towards their patients to provide information is governed by Act No 74/1997 on patients' rights.

A doctor's obligation to provide information to the Directorate of Health, including information required for monitoring healthcare professionals and health services and drafting health reports, is governed by Act No 41/2007 on the Directorate of Health and public health.

Any doctor treating a patient must enter a medical record in accordance with Act No 55/2009 on medical records and the regulations enacted pursuant to that Act.

Article 27

Confidentiality

Doctor confidentiality is governed by Article 17 of Act No 34/2012 on healthcare professionals.

SECTION IV

Miscellaneous provisions

Article 28

Fees

The Directorate of Health may charge a special fee according to the tariff set by the Minister in addition to the fee referred to in Article 10 of Act No 88/1991 on additional treasury for any kind of processing or handling of applications for a medical licence or specialist medical licence, including for the translation of documents, the assessment of a healthcare professional's application by a reviewer, the examination and assessment of documentation or any other administrative work regarding applications for a professional licence or specialist medical licence Article 31 Act on health workers, no. 34/2012, in accordance with Article 8(3) of Act No 26/2010 on the recognition of

professional education and qualifications for employment in Iceland (cf. Article 45 of Regulation No 510/2020 on the recognition of the professional qualifications of healthcare workers from other EEA countries or Switzerland for the purposes of working in Iceland).

Article 29

Other legal acts and rules

Various provisions of Act No 34/2012 on healthcare professionals, Act No 41/2007 on the Directorate of Health and public health, Act No 55/2009 on medical records, Act No 40/2007 on healthcare services, Act No 74/1997 on patients' rights, the procedural rules laid down in Administrative Act No 37/1993 and other laws and government orders shall apply, as appropriate, to procedures under this Regulation and to doctors and specialist doctors.

Article 30

Validity of older licences

General medical licences and specialist medical licenses – whether in main specialities, sub-specialities or additional specialities – issued on the basis of previous regulations shall remain valid. No distinction shall be made between general medical licences issued before the entry into force of this Regulation and medical licences pursuant to this Regulation.

Article 31

Entry into force

This Regulation, which is enacted with reference to Articles 5, 8, 30 and 31 of Act No 34/2012 on healthcare professionals, shall enter into force immediately. At the same time, Regulation No 467/2015 on the education, rights and obligations of medical doctors and criteria for granting medical licences and specialist medical licences (as amended by Regulations No 29/2017 and 411/2021) shall be repealed. However, the second paragraph of the interim provision of Regulation No 467/2015 shall remain in force until 31 December 2023.

Interim provision

Those who were participating in or had completed a formal internship comparable to that stipulated in Article 8(3) of Regulation No 467/2015 at the time Regulation No 411/2021 entered into force, shall, at the end of the internship period, be considered to have completed specialised foundation studies, provided that the internship in question was in accordance with the target description pursuant to Article 23.

Doctors in specialist training in Iceland who have less than 3 years left of their specialised training in general medicine, child and adolescent psychiatry, emergency medicine, orthopaedic surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, psychiatry or general medicine at the time this Regulation enters in force may be granted a specialist medical licence on the basis of previous Regulation No 467/2015. This exemption shall be valid until 30 July 2026, except if a doctor engaged in specialised training goes on sick leave, maternity leave or similar after the entry into force of this Regulation. In that case, the exemption shall be valid for an equivalent longer period, but no longer than 30 July 2028.

Ministry of Health, 8 August 2023

Willum Þór Þórsson

No

2023

Ásta Valdimarsdóttir

Section B – Issued on: