



PHARMACY COUNCIL OF INDIA
(Constituted under the Pharmacy Act, 1948)

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Advisory

- 6 MAY 2021

Ref. No.14-56/2019- PCI (A) | 201

To,

All Pharmacy Institutions/Colleges/Examining Authorities

Subject: Guidelines for Conduct of classes / Examinations / Internship for Pharm.D Student / Practical Training in the prevailing situation of second wave of COVID-19

Sir/ Madam,

In view of the challenges faced by the institutions, staff, and students due to second wave of COVID-19, the Pharmacy Council of India reiterates that the University/Institutes should give utmost importance to health and safety of students, faculty and staff and adhere to the COVID-19 safety protocols.

The academic institutions in many parts of the country through various orders of the Government of India, State Governments, Statutory Bodies and district administration have been asked to close completely or asked to suspend classes and offer teaching learning in online mode using technology and work from home.

In context with the existing situation following guidelines and clarification are issued by the Pharmacy Council of India for conduct of classes, examinations and Internships etc. The Universities/Institutions are required to adopt the same.

GENERAL ADVISORY

1. The Principals / Heads of the institutions are advised to take necessary steps and put up the necessary timetable and structure in place so that the faculty are able to engage in online teaching to the students and complete the theory part of their curriculum through remote teaching for as long as the institutions have been asked to remain closed by the government and the district authorities in different parts of the country. They may do so by sharing the learning resources in advance through their website, email to students and other learning apps / platforms that are available in this regard. The institutions/Faculty may document the details of classes taken, the students engaged, the percentage of attendance and assessments and assignments conducted.
2. The Principals/Heads/Staff of the Institutions may develop standardized video demonstration materials using various virtual platforms for providing practical demonstrations to the students for progressing with practical classes.
3. The Principals/Heads of the Institutions may direct all departments/faculty to maintain attendance and record of assignments given to the students.
4. Institutes should encourage students to engage in self-learning, make full use of online resources and learn about the latest academic developments.
5. The Principals/Heads of the Institutions should facilitate and may provide access to E-library facility to all students and internet connectivity / support to the faculty for pursuing their academic responsibilities.
6. During this period, it is easy for faculty / staff / students to be affected by pandemic associated fear and stress, the colleges should provide professional psychological services for those who need them.

ACADEMIC ADVISORY

1. Conduct of Internal Assessments

The institutions may conduct Internal assessments in various courses as provided in the various regulations relating to the conduct of D. Pharm / B. Pharm / M. Pharm / Pharm.D /Pharm D (PB) / B. Pharm (Practice) program using online assessment mode (MCQ/Open Book/assignments/problem-based assessment etc.) so that the students are able to complete a part of their academic requirement to be eligible for admission to the respective examinations.

2. **Completion of course for D. Pharm, Pharm D., Pharm D (PB), B. Pharm (Practice) and odd Semesters of B. Pharm / M. Pharm.**

All the Institutes are required to complete course in online mode till the situation normalizes.

3. **Start of Even Semesters of B. Pharm and M. Pharm – II**

In the event of the pandemic situation prolonging for a longer duration resulting in the institutions requiring to remain closed, then after the completion of the courses for the particular semester for B. Pharm and M. Pharm courses and the academic year in case of D. Pharm and Pharm.D courses, the institutes are advised to start the online classes of next higher Semester of B. Pharm and M. Pharm and the next higher academic year in case of D. Pharm and Pharm.D and maintain continuity of academic requirements as per regulations.

4. **Conduct of Practical/Experiential/Clinical classes/Dissertation submission**

- i. The institutions may engage students to complete the same through block teaching on reopening of the colleges, keeping in view that the theory classes would have been completed through the online mode.
- ii. All routine academic activities like Seminars, Journal Clubs and other academic activities may be carried out using various learning resources, technology platforms and innovative teaching approaches.
- iii. The institute may document the details of academic activities conducted, the students engaged, the percentage of attendance and assignments given and their assessment.
- iv. The submission of M. Pharm dissertation/thesis will be in accordance to the guidelines given by the respective examining authority / University that will decide based on the existing situation and provide necessary timelines.
- v. All post graduate students to be encouraged to work and complete their academic records, documentation, library dissertation, term papers and publications during this time with the help of faculty.

EXAMINATION ADVISORY

1. **Examinations for Academic Session 2020-21**

Examinations for B.Pharm, M.Pharm, Pharm D., Pharm D (PB), B. Pharm (Practice), and D. Pharm

- i. The Universities/examining authorities are required to conduct examinations as per regulations following the prescribed protocols / guidelines related to COVID19 issued by government.
- ii. It is also suggested that where there is difficulty in mobilizing students from different regions/ states, the University / examining authority can adopt a collaborative effort with other universities / institutions in the state / other states. This would entail the students who are not able to travel out of their state / district, necessitating quarantine procedures, can appear for examinations where the students are residents. This would require the University / Examining Authority to put a proper coordination and planning in place prior to adopting this model.
- iii. Notwithstanding the above guidelines regarding conduct of examination and commencement of next academic session, every university/institution must ensure that it is prepared in all respects to carry out the academic activities following necessary protocols/guidelines/directions/advisories issued by the Central/State Governments and MHRD/UGC from time to time, in view of COVID-19 pandemic.

PRACTICAL TRAINING/INTERNSHIP ADVISORY

1. Practical training for D. Pharm Students

In case of D. Pharm – II, where the students are not able to appear for examination, students may be provided the option to progress with his/her Practical Training as mentioned in Chapter – III of the Education Regulations – 1991. The students however shall appear and pass their D. Pharm Part – II examinations before being awarded the Diploma in Pharmacy. The institutions may facilitate the same in cooperation with the students and the practical training providing organizations


2. Pharm D Internship under Pharm D Regulations 2008

- i. The fifth year Pharm D students may progress into internship phase as prescribed under regulation 16 of the Pharm D Regulations 2008. The student however shall appear and pass all examinations before graduating.
- ii. In view of above, in order to remove difficulties in internship for Pharm D students in the wake of current COVID-19 pandemic, it is decided to:
 - a. Allow internship in any hospital approved by the PCI within India provided the hospital and Dean/Principal of the Pharm D college where the student is studying, allow the same.
 - b. Allow internship to a foreign student who has gone to his/her home country, in a super specialty hospital situated in that country subject to –

- Approval of Dean/Principal of the Pharm D college where the student is studying, allows the same.
 - During internship, the intern shall maintain and submit a record of work duly verified and certified by the preceptor under whom s/he underwent internship in the hospital. Based on the record of the work and date of evaluation, the Dean or Principal shall issue certificate of satisfactory completion of training, following which the university shall award the degree or declare him/her eligible for it.
- c. For the said arrangement no separate permission or No Objection Certificate or clearance is required from PCI in this regard.
- iii. Further the kind attention is also invited to council's advisory with regard to internship vide circular Ref. No. 14-56/2019-PCI(A) dated 9th April 2020 as available on council's website, relevant portion of which is quoted below;

"The students who are undergoing their internships may be engaged using case based studies/OSCE through remote teaching and where possible to be given credit to the number of days engaged in such structured learning process where they have complied with the provisions made in the Appendix C of the Pharm D Regulations 2008 be given."

Yours faithfully


(ANIL MITTAL)
Deputy Secretary