

PREAMBLE:

In pursuit of equitable and inclusive medical education, the National Medical Commission (NMC) remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring fair access to medical courses for all eligible candidates, including Persons with Disabilities (PwD). In alignment with the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the Post-Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2023, this interim report outlines the foundational framework and preparatory measures for facilitating the admission of PwBD candidates in Post Graduate Medical Education Course.

This report serves as a step towards strengthening existing mechanisms, identifying challenges, and proposing recommendations for creating an enabling environment that upholds the principles of dignity, non-discrimination, and equal opportunity. It focuses on key aspects such as assessment of disability, eligibility criteria, reasonable accommodations, accessibility standards, and institutional readiness.

The NMC acknowledges the valuable contribution of a diverse medical workforce and envisions a system where every aspiring student, irrespective of physical or cognitive ability, is empowered to pursue a career in medicine and serve society with competence and compassion.

1. Introduction

In alignment with the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016**, and subsequent notifications, particularly the directive issued by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)** on **12.03.2024**, which underscores the principles of inclusive education and reasonable accommodation, and the landmark judgment of the **Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 25.10.2024** in *Om Rathod vs Union of India & Others* (SLP (C) No. 21942 of 2024), a significant shift has been initiated in the national approach toward disability inclusion in higher education. That as a result of said exercise, the Under Graduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB) on 19.07.2025 issued Interim Guidelines for granting admission to PwBD candidates in MBBS course for Academic Year 2025-26. Following the said interim guidelines, the Post Graduate Medical Education Board has also initiated the necessary steps and expanded the existing expert committee to review the Disability guidelines for PG courses by including two additional experts. As a conclusion to the deliberation in the meetings held on 23.09.2025; 29.09.2025 and 03.10.2025, the experts recommended that considering the fact that Post Graduate course contains multiple specialties and each specialty requires specific criteria which is a complex and lengthy process, therefore in order the safeguard the interest of PG aspirants and patients, the interim Guidelines dated 19.07.2025 shall be followed by the NMC for AY 2025-26. with certain modifications to fulfill requirement of postgraduate study/practice.

1. Upper limit of disability range which makes person ineligible to pursue a postgraduate medical course as per note no. 4 of Annexure 9 of PGMER-23 will be kept in abeyance till final guidelines are issued.

2. Functional Competency Approach

These legal and policy developments collectively emphasize the prioritization of **functional competency** over rigid **percentage-based disability thresholds**. In response, the **National Medical Commission (NMC)** has undertaken proactive measures to ease challenges faced by PwBD candidates, ensuring a fair and inclusive medical education environment. This includes facilitating reasonable accommodations, revisiting eligibility norms, and adopting evaluation criteria focused on individual capabilities.

4. Interim Admission Approach for AY 2025–26

Defining essential competencies for each type of disability in each specialty involves a very complex process which is multi-dimensional & dynamic. Assistive devices & medical technologies are also rapidly advancing & evolving. Striking a balance between inclusion and the imperatives of patient safety and clinical competence in medical education and practice is of paramount importance.

Pertinent to mention that Post Graduate medical courses shall require specialty specific deliberations, as the required competencies and skills may vary over a wider range and therefore extensive consultations with medical experts/ beneficiaries/ stakeholders are needed.

In view of aforesaid facts, final guidelines after following all procedural aspects and further consultations, shall be notified & implemented from subsequent Academic Years. However, the admission process for **PwBD** candidates for **AY 2025–26** must continue uninterrupted. Accordingly, **the group of medical experts under the committee duly constituted by NMC** (under the chairmanship of **Dr. Achal Gulati**), have unanimously reached to a conclusion to adopt **interim guidelines** for admissions in AY 2025–26.

6. Mandatory Use of UDID Portal

As per **Gazette Notification S.O. 1736(E) dated 05.05.2021**, issued by the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, all disability certificates and UDID cards must be issued via the **UDID online portal**, effective **June 1, 2021**.

Accordingly, the UDID card has been established as a mandatory document for persons with disabilities. In this context, it may be regarded as an essential and authoritative proof for evaluating the eligibility of meritorious NEET PG candidates under the disability category.

7. Evaluation Framework Based on MoSJE Guidelines

Further in view of the paramount importance of patient safety and clinical competence, the assessment of candidates with disabilities may be conducted in accordance with the recently notified guidelines dated 12.03.2024 issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE). These guidelines provide a structured and uniform framework to ensure that the evaluation of disability is both comprehensive and consistent with the responsibilities inherent to medical practice.

8. Institutional Responsibilities under the RPwD Act

The medical colleges as per the recommendations prescribed under RPwD Act, 2016, shall make maximum efforts in accommodating and facilitating the candidates with disabilities:

- ***Non-Discrimination in Admission and Education (Section 16):***

Institutions must ensure that no student with a disability is denied admission on the grounds of disability and must provide an inclusive education system at all levels.

- ***Infrastructure Accessibility (Section 45):***

Institutions must ensure barrier-free access to buildings, classrooms, libraries, laboratories, hostels, and other facilities as per the standards notified by the Government of India.

- ***Sensitization and Capacity Building:***

Colleges are encouraged to conduct awareness and sensitization programs for faculty, staff, and students to promote an inclusive environment and reduce attitudinal barriers.

- ***Nodal Officer for Disability Affairs:***

Institutions are advised to appoint a dedicated Nodal Officer or establish a Disability Cell to address the concerns and support needs of students with disabilities.

- ***Grievance Redressal Mechanism:***

An accessible and responsive grievance redressal system must be in place to address complaints related to discrimination or lack of accommodation.

9. Decision Taken

The expert panel **unanimously agreed** on the following for PG admissions under the PwBD category for **AY 2025–26**:

1. PwBD candidates must submit:
 1. A **valid UDID card** issued by a designated medical authority under MoSJE.
 2. **Self-Certified affidavits** in the format provided under **Schedule -I**.
 3. **The candidate will have to approach the designated medical board for verification of their self-certified affidavit.**
2. Designated Medical Boards (~~46~~ 29 designated medical boards) are required to undertake following duties:
 1. The competencies mentioned in the appendix under Schedule-I are basic & mandatory. The candidates, to the satisfaction of the designated medical board, may demonstrate the competencies that have been declared by him/her. If the board finds the declared competencies unsubstantiated based on the candidate's performance, it must issue a reasoned decision declaring him/her ineligible to pursue medical course.
 2. If the candidate while self-declaring the essential competencies mentions one or more competencies in negative or is not able to demonstrate one or more of the listed essential competencies, the board shall see if he/she is able to compensate such deficits, by other alternative functionalities; and may take a holistic view regarding his capability to pursue PG course.
 3. The designated medical boards may utilize standardized tests and tools to evaluate the abilities of the candidates, as per their declaration, instead of focusing on the disabilities.
 4. All decisions of the designated medical board(s) shall be in the form speaking orders. The Board, based on the functional competency of the candidate, may also recommend the appropriate course, in case the board finds that the candidate may not be able to perform in the preferred course.
 5. In case the candidate is aggrieved by the report/ certificate issued by the medical board, he/she may avail the existing appeal provision under the jurisdiction of DGHS/ MCC wherein the MCC may direct him/her to any other medical board for re-assessment.

Admissions will be processed by the **counseling authority**, based on **NEET-PG 2025 scores**, institutional preferences, and verification of required documents by the concerned designated medical board(s). Medical colleges will provide accommodations accordingly.
