

F.No. 22-10/2020-INC

Dated: **10 JUL 2020**

### CIRCULAR

### ADDENDUM TO INC GUIDELINES ON ACADEMICS AND EXAMINATIONS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

#### **Introduction**

In view of the present conditions of Covid pandemic, despite the opening of lockdown all over the country in phased manner, Indian Nursing Council has received various representations from various Institutions/Universities regarding conduct of examinations due to restriction in travel imposed in current pandemic situation.

Further to INC letter No F No 1-6/2020-INC dt 14 May 2020, the following guidelines are being issued for conduct of examinations for undergraduate and postgraduate nursing students-

#### **1. Guidelines for Examination**

- (a) The examinations of final year students will be conducted as per the proposed time frame given in INC circular dt 14 May 2020. As per academic calendar announced, the exams can be conducted and completed by end of September if feasible, by taking appropriate measures in the interest of students as and when the normalcy is restored in the respective States.
- (b) Nursing is patient centered, competency based profession and involves the clinical dexterity in meeting patient care needs hence in order to maintain the uniform standard of examination, Universities/Examining Boards shall conduct their examinations in accordance with INC norms.
- (c) Keeping in view the basic infrastructure available at the level of the institutions and accessibility of internet to the students, especially in remote areas, it is not feasible to adopt the online mode of examination in Nursing Institutions.
- (d) If the situation does not appear to be normal in view of COVID-19 & in case it is not feasible to conduct examination as per academic calendar then students (except final year) who have undergone the course and are not able to appear for the examinations, shall be permitted to commence their studies for next higher classes and to progress into the next academic year on the basis of internal evaluation and performance in college examinations as per the following grading-

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- (i) 50% marks on the basis of the pattern of internal assessment of student
- (ii) and the remaining 50% marks on the basis of average of performance in College examinations during the entire year (theory and practicals).
- (iii) If average of performance in College examinations during the entire year is not available then 100% evaluation may be done on the basis of internal assessment.
- (e) Any student failing in subject/s/examination will be allow the students to commence their studies for next higher classes in accordance with guidelines issued on 14 May 2020. However, the students will be considered to have passed the examination and be eligible for the award of the degree/diploma only if they are successful in all the subjects of the said program.
- (f) The students in the final year passing out of Nursing course will have to mandatorily undergo the theory and Practical examination after the lockdown opens and travel restrictions are resolved. The examining authority may as soon as possible conduct the theory and Practical examinations of the Final year of the said program and announce the results in a time bound manner so that students are able to pursue their careers without disruption.
- (g) If the students wishes to improve the grades, he/she may appear in special exams as planned by the University/examining body for such subjects during next year by offering one additional improvement opportunity when the situation normalises.
- (h) It is reiterated that no institution shall submit average internal marks of the test students more than 75% as specified in curriculum note of INC syllabus.

## **2. Guidelines for Entrance Examination**

- (a) Keeping in mind uncertainties due to global pandemic, the general public interest and State/local/Institutional policies, if entrance examination for the next academic session for UG and PG Nursing programs is feasible during the current pandemic situation, it may be conducted. However, if it is not possible to conduct the entrance examination, then merit list of admission may be prepared, category wise, on the basis of marks obtained by the candidates in the last qualifying examination. The candidates for admission to academic year 2020-21 must be informed suitably through institution website or online advertisement to avoid anxiety and inconvenience to students and their parents.

## **3. Guidelines for completion of Internship period of final year students**

- (a) The guidelines for each practical area has already been laid out in INC circular dated 14 May 2020 regarding relaxing practical area attendance to 80%. Skill lab and clinical

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procedures ratio in the log book (which also includes deliveries to be conducted in the case book) has been relaxed upto 30%-40%. If clinical experience is not feasible, the Institution shall ensure completion through skill lab or simulation using online technology so that students of final year can complete at least 80% practical attendance in all clinical areas prescribed in Internship period. It is desirable that internship is completed in the above prescribed manner before the Nursing course is deemed completed.

#### 4. General

(a) The principles of hygiene, social distancing must be advocated by all at all times to ensure the health, safety and security of the students, faculty and staff.

(b) These guidelines are one time measure applicable only during this academic year due to national pandemic situation. The guidelines are advisory in nature and each University/Examining Authority may chart out its own plan of action taking into consideration the issues pertaining to COVID-19 Pandemic. Notwithstanding the above Guidelines, every University/Institution has to ensure a suitable plan for the examinations following necessary advisories/guidelines/ directions issued by the Centre/State Government, MHRD or UGC from time to time to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

(c) If any student, Association/ Society, Institution etc. desires to make a representation in this regards, they are hereby advice to make the same to the respective State/University. The respective University/ State Govt. may take up the matter with INC only if it considers it absolutely necessary to grant specific relaxation on case to case basis.



Lt Col (Dr) Sarvjeet Kaur  
**Secretary**

#### Copy for information & necessary action:

1. Vice chancellor of all Universities.
2. Registrars of all State Nursing Council.
3. Examination Boards.
4. Principal of all Schools/Colleges of Nursing.
5. INC website.