



MBBS to get new syllabus in 2019

By Vicky Pathare, Pune Mirror | Updated: Aug 11, 2018, 02:30 IST

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MCI updating curriculum after 2 decades, pending a final go-ahead; training of 4,000 teachers has already begun

After almost two decades, the Medical Council of India (MCI) has revisited the national syllabus for the prestigious bachelor's degree programme in medicine (MBBS), and is all set to update it from the next academic year onwards, after

it is expected to be published soon. Officials claim a final meeting is yet to be held in New Delhi, after which the syllabus will be finalised and approved by a committee.

MCI has already started training around 40,000 teachers across India to teach the revised curriculum from the next academic session — this batch will then further train other teachers.



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Over the years, medical colleges have been adding new subjects to their customised curricula; now, the MCI had essentially standardised all of these under one umbrella. The process had started in 2013, while the Union health ministry approved the syllabus in December 2017. With new diseases evolving in recent times, several topics in the current curriculum are irrelevant, and required long overdue changes.

Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS) vice-chancellor Dr Dilip Mhaisekar, an MCI member, said, "The final amendment to the curriculum is expected to be done in October or November, during the MCI general body meeting. It gives more emphasis on practical knowledge rather than just theoretical knowhow. Lifestyle changes in the last two decades have evolved new diseases, which have been taken into consideration now. As it will come into effect in 2019, the training and upgradation of professors will be finished before the academic year begins. The approved curriculum will be sent to MUHS with a list of trained professors, who will go on to sensitise their peers in their respective colleges."

A few students Mirror spoke to had varying views on the development. MBBS first-year student at BJ Medical College, Sharad Pahilwan, said, "Those studying for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) to qualify for medical studies take almost three years to do so in the foundation course. No one gets prepared for the exam within a fortnight. If the entire curriculum changes, the students also need to prepare for the NEET accordingly — this is going to be tough for them. If the changes made are just additional to the current syllabus, it will be less bothersome." Another first-year at the same college, Rohan Gujrathi, said, "The changes are welcome and the need of the hour. There have been huge advancements in skills and techniques that need to be taught. The current syllabus has many old techniques for which the healthcare equipment is already outdated and unavailable at colleges."

Touching upon some aspects of the new syllabus, DY Patil Medical College dean Dr JS Bhawalkar said, "The new MBBS curriculum is interaction-oriented, including clinical skills and knowledge from the first-year itself. Earlier, clinical skills and practicals came in only in the third year. Part of this also focuses on how to deal with angry mobs, communicate with them and handle crowds. Many doctors are unaware of medicolegal nuances, which will now be taught. Some new topics like the 'psychomotor domain' have also been included; our college has already started man-machine interactions to highlight modern advancements in healthcare, especially in anticipation of the new curriculum."

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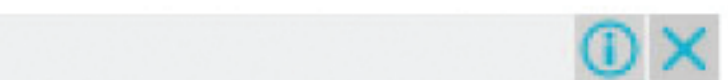
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