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**GUIDELINES FOR COMPETENCY BASED
POSTGRADUATE TRAINING
PROGRAMME FOR MD IN
MICROBIOLOGY**

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Preamble

The aim of postgraduate education in Microbiology is to impart requisite clinical, diagnostic, teaching and research skills with appropriate attitude and communication competencies required in the field of Medical Microbiology.

Currently the postgraduate students of Microbiology are trained in the laboratory with minimal exposure to patient care, but with technological advances and automation in diagnostic microbiology and increasing threat of infections due to emerging & reemerging microbes, drug resistance and widening host range, a microbiologist needs to develop clinical expertise in addition to technical expertise and be available more at the bedside to develop partnership with clinician in diagnosis and management of infectious disease cases. To fulfill these expectations, the program of MD Microbiology needs to shift focus to clinical aspects of microbiology, where a student is trained in the clinical setting and is able to contribute in the clinical management along with diagnosis, prevention and control of infectious disease.

This document provides guidelines to standardize Microbiology teaching at the postgraduate level throughout the country and fulfill the expectations as a microbiologist. The new curriculum guide has given more emphasis on training in patient care setting with integration of concepts of microbiology in various clinical specialties through dedicated postings, ward rounds, case discussion etc. This document has been prepared by subject-content specialists for the National Medical Commission. The Expert Group of the National Medical Commission had attempted to render uniformity without compromise to the purpose and content of the document. Compromise in purity of syntax has been made in order to preserve the purpose and content. This has necessitated retention of “domains of learning” under the heading “competencies”.

SUBJECT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES (GOALS)

A postgraduate student upon successfully qualifying in the MD Microbiology examination should be able to:

1. Demonstrate competence in clinical aspects as a Microbiologist to improve patient care.
2. Demonstrate application of microbiology in different clinical settings to address diagnostic and therapeutic problems along with preventive measures.
3. Play an important role in hospital infection control by actively participating in activities of the Hospital Infection Control Committee as a team member.
4. Demonstrate competence in recording, advising and guiding use of antimicrobials judiciously for infectious diseases in routine and in special clinical situations and population.
5. Demonstrate competence in developing guideline for antibiotic usage, including formulation of antibiotic policy in hospital.
6. Demonstrate communication skills required for safe & effective laboratory practice and teaching of microbiology
7. Demonstrate skills in conducting collaborative research in the field of Clinical Microbiology and allied sciences which has significant bearing on human health and patient care.
8. Demonstrate ability to plan, execute and evaluate teaching and training assignments efficiently and effectively in Microbiology for undergraduate students as per Competency Based Medical Education (CBME).
9. Identify public health epidemiology, global health patterns of infectious diseases and effectively participate in community outreach and public health programs for investigation, prevention and control of infectious diseases.
10. Demonstrate ability to work as a member of the rapid response team and contribute to investigations of outbreaks of infectious diseases in the hospital and outbreak/epidemic/pandemic in the community.
11. Demonstrate self-directed learning skills and keep updated with recent advances in the field of clinical microbiology.

12. Demonstrate administrative and organizational skills to establish good clinical microbiological services in a hospital and in the community in the field of clinical microbiology
13. Demonstrate effective leadership and teamwork skills while working with other members of the health care team in hospital, laboratory and community settings.
14. Demonstrate attributes of professional behavior and uphold the prestige of the discipline amongst the fraternity of doctors.

Postgraduate training

The postgraduate training should include the following components for a holistic approach-

1. Clinical Microbiology including Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
2. Laboratory skills in diagnostic Microbiology
3. Infection Prevention and Control Skills
4. Teaching and learning Skills
5. Research Skills
6. Attitude, Ethics and Communication skills

The postgraduate student should develop and demonstrate competence in the above components as follows:

1. Clinical Microbiology including Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

- i. Should be able to elicit relevant history for optimum clinico-microbiological correlation with laboratory results.
- ii. Should be able to perform basic physical examination and assess the patients with any suspected infection including community acquired/ tropical infection/ sepsis/ imported infection/ hospital acquired infections and emerging and re-emerging infections.
- iii. Should be able to formulate and critique diagnostic algorithms and patient care plans.

- iv. Should be able to choose, interpret and communicate the results of appropriate microbiological investigation in a suspected infection.
- v. Should be able to suggest optimal antimicrobial therapy, based on results of antimicrobial susceptibility tests and other investigations.
- vi. Should be able to advocate antibiotic stewardship for prevention and control of AMR (detailed competencies under AMR are given in Annexure I),
- vii. Should be able to educate patients/ relatives/ community on various aspects of antimicrobial use, antimicrobial drug resistance, prevention and control of infections.

2. Laboratory skills in diagnostic Microbiology

- i. Should be able to demonstrate acquisition of pre-analytical, analytical and post-analytical laboratory skills to ensure quality of test results.
- ii. Should be able to perform tests pertaining to basic, diagnostic, clinical and applied Microbiology.

3. Infection Prevention and Control

- i. Should be able to demonstrate knowledge, skills & attitude required to detect, prevent and control health care associated infections of all types.
- ii. Should be able to set up and manage Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD) and prepare effective sterilization and disinfection policy for the hospital.
- iii. Should be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills about management of biomedical waste in health care setting as per recent guidelines and educate staff about risks, preventive measures and the management of occupational exposure to infectious agents.

4. Teaching and Learning Skills

- i. The Medical Education Department/Unit of the institution should be able to sensitize the postgraduate students in basic concepts of medical education technologies like domains of learning, teaching skills, teaching - learning methods, lesson planning, learning resource material, assessment techniques etc.

- ii. Should be able to demonstrate good teaching skills while conducting teaching/training sessions like tutorials, demonstrations and practical for undergraduate students, laboratory technicians etc. and participate actively in the planning and conduct of assessment of students learning at various stages of formative / summative assessment.
- iii. Should be able to learn by integrating with concerned subspecialty.

5. Research Skills

- i. Should be able to plan, design and conduct meaningful scientific research in microbiology in collaboration with allied subjects.
- ii. Should acquire expertise to write research protocol, thesis and present a research paper in the scientific forum.
- iii. Should follow guidelines on ethical conduct in research.
- iv. Should acquire proficiency and demonstrate ability to use biostatistics, data management.
- v. Should be able to critically appraise a scientific article and have knowledge of evidence-based practice.
- vi. Should acquire expertise in writing proposals for research grants and know the various sources of research funding.

6. Communication and attitudinal skills

- i. Should demonstrate the right kind of attitude, communication and ethics while dealing with clinical material and reports.
- ii. Should be able to work as an effective team member and leader.

SUBJECT SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES

The competencies will have a judicious mix of all domains of learning and may show predominance in one domain. The Post-Graduate student during the training

programme should acquire the following predominant domain specific competencies to achieve the defined goals:

A) Predominant in Cognitive Domain (Knowledge):

At the end of the course, the student should have acquired knowledge in the following competencies:

Paper I: General Microbiology (GM) & Immunology (IG)

General Microbiology (GM):

- i. Describe important historical events and developments in microbiology
- ii. Describe nomenclature, classification, morphology, growth requirements, pathogenesis and laboratory diagnosis of different bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi.
- iii. Explain the importance of normal flora microbes, including Microbiome in health and disease.
- iv. Explain the factors influencing and significance of microbial environment in health care setup.
- v. Describe the epidemiology of common infectious diseases, host-parasite relationship and their significance.
- vi. Describe various types of microscopes and microscopic techniques used in diagnostic microbiology.
- vii. Explain various methods of isolation, identification and preservation of microbes in laboratory.
- viii. Explain the type, mechanism of action and applications of microbial toxins, other virulence factors & microbial products like Bacteriocins.
- ix. Explain the concept & application of various biosafety and biosecurity issues in laboratory and patient care including physical, biological containment and standard precautions.
- x. Discuss the various methods of sterilization and disinfection and apply them in the laboratory and in patient care.

- xi. Explain the basic principles of bacterial genetics and applications of molecular techniques in medical microbiology.
- xii. Explain the concept of microbiological surveillance including patient screening methods, organism typing and genome sequencing methodologies.
- xiii. Explain the concept and application of quality assurance, quality control and accreditation in diagnostic microbiology.
- xiv. Describe the significance and causes/reasons regarding emerging infectious diseases with strategies for their identification and control.
- xv. Explain the concept and application of molecular biology techniques in the laboratory diagnosis of infectious diseases.
- xvi. Explain the concept and use of information technology (LIS, WHO NET etc.) in microbiology laboratory effectively.
- xvii. Describe the principles & implementation of animal and human ethics involved in diagnostics and research in Microbiology
- xviii. Explain the principles and application of recent technological advances, automation, and application of Artificial Intelligence, nanotechnology, biosensors, bioinformatics, etc. in diagnosis & research in Microbiology.
- xix. Explain the importance and methods of testing microbiology of air, water and food in patient care both in community/ hospital setting.
- xx. Explain in detail about types & mechanism of action of Antimicrobial agents, their pharmacokinetics & pharmacodynamics, along with mechanism of drug resistance.
- xxi. Describe types and applications of Bacteriophages in diagnostic and therapeutic of infections

Immunology (IG)

- i. Describe the structure and function of the immune system, immunological mechanisms in health and response of the host immune system to infections. (Innate and acquired immunity, Cells involved in immune response, Antigens , Immunoglobulins, Mucosal immunity, Cell mediated immunity, Cytokines, MHC complex, Immune tolerance etc)
- ii. Explain the complement system and describe its role in health and disease.

- iii. Describe the mechanism/s in immunological disorders (hypersensitivity, autoimmune disorders and immunodeficiency states) and discuss the laboratory methods used in their diagnosis including measurement of immunological parameters
- iv. Describe the types & principles of antigen and antibody reactions and immunological techniques used in diagnostic microbiology as well as in research.
- v. Describe the immunological mechanisms of transplantation and tumor immunity.
- vi. Describe the mechanism/s and significance of immune-potentiation and immune-modulation.
- vii. Describe various types, techniques and advances in the development and applications of vaccines including UIP and immunotherapy and reverse vaccinology.
- viii. Explain the role of animals in immunology.

PAPER II Clinical / Systemic Microbiology –I (CM –I)

- i. Discuss in depth about the etiological agents, source, transmission, host-parasite interaction, clinical manifestations, laboratory diagnosis, treatment, prevention, epidemiology, national, international guidelines in the situations/ scenario given below:

- **Infections of various organs and systems of the human body**

Microbiological basis of infective syndromes of various organs and systems of human body viz. CVS and blood, Respiratory Tract Infections, Urinary Tract Infections, Central Nervous System infections, Reproductive Tract Infections, Gastrointestinal Tract infections, Hepatobiliary System, Skin and Soft tissue infections, Musculoskeletal system, infections of Eye, Ear and Nose etc)

PAPER III: Clinical / Systemic Microbiology – II (CM-II)

- i. Discuss in depth about the etiological agents, source, transmission, host-parasite interaction, clinical manifestations, laboratory diagnosis, treatment, prevention, epidemiology, national, international guidelines in the situations/ scenario given below:
 - **Infectious diseases as per the source/risk**

- **Opportunistic Infections** in special and high risk host
- **Infections in special situations/ scenario.**

Microbiological basis of infective syndromes as per the source/risk e.g. Blood borne, sexually transmitted infections congenital, vector borne, food, air & water borne, zoonotic, laboratory acquired, occupational infections etc. Opportunistic Infections in special and high risk host eg Pregnancy, neonates, geriatrics, diabetics, immunocompromised host due to any reason, patients with Implants/Devices, dialysis etc, Infections in special situations/ scenario -Tropical, Travel related, Emerging/ Remerging Infectious diseases seen commonly, agents of bioterrorism etc.

- ii. Elicit relevant history, interpret laboratory results with clinic-microbiological correlation and develop diagnostic and treatment algorithms.

Following organisms (bacteria, fungi, virus and parasites) must be covered under clinical/systemic microbiology and the list must be updated to include newly identified microbes from time to time-

Bacteria:

1. Gram positive cocci of medical importance including *Staphylococcus*, *Micrococcus*, *Streptococcus*, *anaerobic cocci* etc.
2. Gram negative cocci of medical importance including *Neisseria*, *Branhamella*, *Moraxella* etc.
3. Gram positive bacilli of medical importance including *Lactobacillus*, *Coryneform organisms*, *Bacillus* and *aerobic bacilli*, *Actinomyces*, *Nocardia*, *Actinobacillus* and other *actinomycetales*, *Erysipelothrix*, *Listeria*, *Clostridium* and other spore bearing anaerobic bacilli etc.
4. Gram negative bacilli of medical importance including *Enterobacteriaceae*, *Vibrios*, *Aeromonas*, *Plesiomonas*, *Haemophilus*, *Bordetella*, *Brucella*, *Gardnerella*, *Pseudomonas* and other *non-fermenters*, *Pasteurella*, *Francisella*, *Bacteroides*, *Fusobacterium*, *Leptotrichia* and other anaerobic gram negative bacilli etc.

5. *Helicobacter, Campylobacter, Calymmatobacterium, Streptobacillus, Spirillum* and miscellaneous bacteria
6. *Mycobacteria*
7. *Spirochaetes*
8. *Chlamydia*
9. *Mycoplasmatales; Mycoplasma, Ureaplasma, Acholeplasma and other Mycoplasmas.*
10. *Rickettsiae, Coxiella, Bartonella* etc.
11. Any newly emerging bacteria

Fungi:

1. Yeasts and yeast like fungi of medical importance including *Candida, Cryptococcus, Malassezia, Trichosporon, Geotrichum, Saccharomyces* etc.
2. Mycelial fungi of medical importance including *Dermatophytes, Aspergillus, Zygomycetes, Pseudallescheria, Fusarium, Piedra, other dematiaceous hyphomycetes and other hyalohyphomycetes* etc.
3. Dimorphic fungi including *Histoplasma, Blastomyces, Coccidioides, Paracoccidioides, Sporothrix, Talaromyces marneffeii* etc.
4. Fungi causing Mycetoma, Chromoblatomycosis, Occulomycosis Otomycosis, Phaeohyphomycosis etc
5. *Pythium insidiosum*
6. *Prototheca*
7. *Pneumocystis jirovecii*
8. *Lacazia loboi (Loboa loboi)*
9. Laboratory contaminant fungi
10. Fungi causing Mycetism and mycotoxicosis
11. Any newly emerging fungi

Virus:

1. DNA viruses of medical importance including Pox viruses, Herpes viruses, Adeno viruses, Hepadna virus, Papova and Parvo viruses etc.

2. RNA viruses of medical importance including Picorna viruses, Toga viruses, Flavi viruses, Orthomyxo viruses, Paramyxo viruses, Reo viruses, Rhabdo viruses, Arena viruses, Bunya viruses, Retro viruses, Filo viruses, Human immunodeficiency virus, Arbo viruses, Corona viruses, Calci viruses etc.
3. Oncogenic viruses
4. Bacteriophages
5. Slow viruses including prions
6. Unclassified viruses
7. Virioids
8. Any newly emerging virus

Parasite:

1. Protozoan parasites of medical importance including *Entamoeba*, *Free living amoebae*, *Giardia*, *Trichomonas*, *Leishmania*, *Trypanosoma*, *Plasmodium*, *Toxoplasma*, *Sarcocystis*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Cyclospora* *Isospora*, *Babesia*, *Balantidium*, etc.
2. Helminths of medical importance including those belonging to Cestoda (*Diphyllobothrium*, *Taenia*, *Echinococcus*, *Hymenolepis*, *Dipylidium*, *Multiceps* etc.), Trematoda (*Schistosomes*, *Fasciola*, *Fasciolopsis*, *Gastrodiscoides*, *Paragonimus*, *Clonorchis*, *Opisthorchis* etc.) and Nematoda (*Ascaris lumbricoides*, *Ancylostoma duodenale*, *Enterobius vermicularis*, *Trichuris trichiura*, *Filariasis* etc.)
3. *Rhinosporidium seeberi*
4. Entomology: common arthropods and other vectors viz. mosquito, sand fly, ticks, mite, cyclops, louse, myiasis etc.
5. Neglected tropical parasitic diseases
6. Any newly emerging parasite

Paper IV: Applied Microbiology (AM) & Recent Advances:

Student should be able to apply knowledge & comprehension about following applied aspects:

- i. **Prophylaxis** - Basic Principles and applications of general, immune as well as chemo- prophylaxis of infections in various clinical situations / scenarios.

- ii. **Vaccinology:** types of vaccines, principles, methods of preparation of vaccines and administration of vaccines.
- iii. **Health care associated Infections** - types, pathogenesis, diagnosis, prevention, control and surveillance of health care associated infections.
- iv. Biomedical waste and its management.
- v. **Role of microbes in non-communicable diseases** - infectious agents in origin and progression of non-communicable diseases like cancer, diabetes, musculoskeletal disorder and influence of these microbes on mental health.
- vi. **Antimicrobial Resistance Detection and Prevention:** classification, mechanism of action, detection and reporting drug resistance to antimicrobials (antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal, antimycobacterial and antiparasitic agents).
- vii. Investigation of an infectious disease outbreak in hospital and outbreak/epidemic/pandemic in community.
- viii. Information technology (computers) in microbiology.
- ix. Automation in Microbiology.
- x. Molecular techniques in the laboratory diagnosis of infectious diseases.
- xi. Statistical analysis of microbiological data and research methodology.
- xii. Animal and human ethics involved in microbiological work.
- xiii. Laboratory safety and management.

B. Predominant in Affective Domain

- i. Communicate effectively & empathically with patients and their relatives during sample collection, history taking, counseling and reporting results.
- ii. Acquire Consent taking and counseling skills and demonstrate these to undergraduates.
- iii. Communicate effectively with peers, and consultants for better clinical correlation of laboratory findings as well as research.
- iv. Demonstrate effective communication and attitudinal skill while teaching undergraduate students.

- v. Function as an effective team member and leader with good conflict management skills.
- vi. Adopt ethical principles, particularly maintenance of confidentiality when dealing with laboratory reports.
- vii. Demonstrate ability to recognize and manage ethical and professional conflicts and abide by prescribed ethical and legal codes of conduct and practice.
- viii. Demonstrate altruistic professional behavior with respect, discipline, responsibility, accountability, punctuality and integrity at all times while dealing with patients and their relatives.

C. Psychomotor Domain: (Skills)

C1. The postgraduate student should be able to *perform the following and/or interpret the results independently or as a part of a team*:

➤ **Laboratory skills:**

- Collect, transport and store appropriate specimens for microbiological investigations.
- Receive and process clinical specimens after appropriate preparation of samples for the appropriate investigation (centrifugation, extraction, mincing concentration etc.)
- Processing of samples by various methods like:
 - Macroscopic/gross examination of samples.
 - Choose the most appropriate microscopic method for demonstration of pathogens.
 - Prepare, examine, and demonstrate microbes in direct smears for diagnosis of infectious disease/s.
 - Isolate and identify pathogenic microbe from clinical specimens (by conventional & automated methods).
 - Perform, interpret & record antimicrobial susceptibility testing of the isolate.
 - Perform rapid, conventional and automated serological techniques for diagnosis of infectious diseases and immunological diseases.
- Maintain records and ensure quality control in microbiology.

- Maintain and preserve microbial cultures.
- Operate and maintain instruments used in the laboratory for sterilization and disinfection and patient care with quality control.
- Operate and maintain common laboratory equipment like microscopes, water bath, centrifuge, incubator, automated culture system, micro-centrifuge, ELISA washer and reader etc.
- Perform and assess significance of microbial contamination of food, water and air.
- Biosafety measures - biosafety cabinets, chemical material safety data sheet (MSDS), fire safety, needle stick injury management.

Organisms (Bacteria, Fungi, Virus and Parasites) based Laboratory skills:

- **Direct microscopic methods for demonstration of infectious agents:**
 - a. Wet mount examination for - looking for cells and organisms (bacteria, fungi, parasite)
 - i. Saline mount stool sample - parasitic morphology
 - ii. Iodine mount-parasitic morphology
 - iii. KOH for fungi
 - iv. Negative staining
 - b. Staining methods
 - i. Preparation of stains & quality check
 - ii. Preparation of peripheral blood smears from various samples
 - iii. Staining techniques - simple, differential, special staining methods - capsule, spore, flagella etc.
 - iv. Gram Staining
 - v. Acid Fast staining (with modifications).
 - vi. Leishman & Giemsa for demonstration of intracellular pathogen bacteria, parasite, fungi etc.
 - vii. Albert staining.
 - c. Fluorescent staining
 - i. Auramine staining - Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

- ii. QBC – for malaria.
- iii. Calcoflor white staining for fungus
- d. Isolation of pathogens
 - i. Preparation of glass wares
 - ii. Sterilization procedures
 - iii. Media preparation-required for isolation & identification
 - iv. Quality check of all media - functional as well as sterility check and maintenance of the record
 - v. Inoculation methods of various samples – surface, streak, stab etc depending on sample
 - vi. Incubation methods aerobic, anaerobic, microaerophilic, capnophilic depending on the pathogens.
- e. Identification of pathogen
 - i. Colony characters – various characters to be noted in different media.
 - ii. Staining to identify – Gram’s / Alberts / Acid Fast/ Lactophenol cotton blue depending on pathogen.
 - iii. Motility by hanging drop preparation and other methods.
 - iv. Biochemical reactions - phenotypic-enzymatic, oxidative fermentative, sugar fermentation, other special tests helping to identify up to species level.
 - v. Serotyping.
- f. Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing
 - i. Selection of antibiotic disks as per CLSI/EUCAST based on the probable identification of organism - bacteria, fungi.
 - ii. Detection of drug resistant strains - MRSA, VISA, VRE, ESBL, MBL, CRE etc.
 - iii. Broth microdilution methods for bacteria and fungi.
- **Immunological tests**
 - i. i. Collection, preparation and storage of samples
 - ii. ii. Perform Rapid tests //Latex agglutination/ ICT/ELISA etc

- **Molecular tests**
 - i. PCR/RT-PCR – all steps till interpretation
 - ii. CBNAAT
- **Biomedical waste management skills.**
- **Quality control skills in all areas.**

➤ **Clinical Microbiology Skills**

(Infectious Disease Case Based Skill)

- i. Demonstrate ability to take and interpret the history of infectious disease case.
- ii. Be able to clinically examine the case and diagnose.
- iii. Take decision for choice of samples to be collected for diagnosis
- iv. Suggest optimum choice of antimicrobial agent to be prescribed with reasons.

➤ **Infection Prevention and Control Skills-**

- i. Hand hygiene skills
- ii. Donning and doffing of PPE
- iii. Transmission based precautions in patient care
- iv. Segregation and disposal of biomedical waste in laboratory and hospital
- v. Handling of sharps
- vi. Post-exposure prophylaxis when exposed to blood and body fluids
- vii. Spillage management
- viii. Sterilization policy of environment and devices in the hospital as per the latest guidelines.
- ix. Calculation of HAI infection rates.
- x. Plan & conduct HAI surveillance & infection control audits

C 2. Should be able to **perform under supervision** and/or interpret the results of *the following desirable procedures independently or as a part of a team*:

- Demonstration of microbe by:

- i. IF – autoimmune diseases
- ii. IF – antigen demonstration in fungi/viral infection /cellular changes
- Isolation & Identification using newer automated systems for bacterial identification, -Mycobacterial culture and Mycobacterial susceptibility
- Immunological test
 - i. Nephelometry/ turbidometry method for quantitative CRP/ASO/RA test
 - ii. Chemi-Luminescence Immuno Assay
- Perform molecular & newer diagnostic tests for diagnosis of infectious disease.

C 3. Should observe the following procedures independently or as a part of a team and/or interpret the results of* : (optional)

- Demonstration of microbes by Electron microscope
- Viral culture & identification of growth of viruses
- Immunological test
 - iii. Quantiferon
 - iv. Flowcytometry
- Molecular -
 - i. Genome Sequencing methods
 - ii. Molecular typing.

Note: If any of the above facilities are not available in the institute effort to collaborate and post the students in nearby laboratory to acquire the skills shall be made.

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

General principles

Acquisition of competencies being the keystone of doctoral medical education, such training should be skills oriented. Learning in the program, essentially autonomous and self-directed, and

emanating from academic and clinical work, shall also include assisted learning. The formal sessions are meant to supplement this core effort.

All students joining the postgraduate (PG) courses shall work as full-time (junior) residents during the period of training, attending not less than 80% of the training activity during the calendar year, and participating in all assignments and facets of the educational process. They shall maintain a logbook for recording the training they have undergone, and details of the procedures done during laboratory and clinical postings in real time.

Teaching-Learning methods

This should include a judicious mix of demonstrations, symposia, journal clubs, clinical meetings, seminars, small group discussion, bed-side teaching, case-based learning, simulation-based teaching, self-directed learning, integrated learning, interdepartmental meetings and any other collaborative activity with the allied departments. Methods with exposure to the applied aspects of the subject relevant to basic/clinical sciences should also be used. **The suggested examples of teaching-learning methods are given below but are not limited to these. The frequency of various below mentioned teaching-learning methods can vary based on the subject's requirements, competencies, work load and overall working schedule in the concerned subject.**

A. Lectures: Didactic lectures should be used sparingly. A minimum of 10 lectures per year in the concerned PG department is suggested. Topics to be selected as per requirements of the subject. All postgraduate trainees will be required to attend these lectures. Lectures can cover topics such as:

1. Subject related important topics as per specialty requirement
2. Recent advances
3. Research methodology and biostatistics
4. Salient features of Postgraduate medical curriculum
5. Teaching and assessment methodology.

Topic numbers 3, 4 & 5 can be done during research methodology/biostatistics and medical education workshops in the institute.

B. Journal club: Minimum of once in 1-2 weeks is suggested.

Topics will include presentation and critical appraisal of original research papers published in peer reviewed indexed journals. The presenter(s) shall be assessed by faculty and grades recorded in the logbook.

C. Student Seminar: Minimum of once every 1-2 weeks is suggested.

Important topics should be selected as per subject requirements and allotted for in-depth study by a postgraduate student. A teacher should be allocated for each seminar as faculty moderator to help the student prepare the topic well. It should aim at comprehensive evidence-based review of the topic. The student should be graded by the faculty and peers.

D. Student Symposium: Minimum of once every 3 months.

A broad topic of significance should be selected, and each part shall be dealt by one postgraduate student. A teacher moderator should be allocated for each symposium and moderator should track the growth of students. The symposium should aim at an evidence-based exhaustive review of the topic. All participating postgraduates should be graded by the faculty and peers.

E. Laboratory work / Bedside clinics: Minimum- once every 1-2 weeks.

Laboratory work/Clinics/bedside teaching should be coordinated and guided by faculty from the department. Various methods like DOAP (Demonstrate, Observe, Assist, Perform), simulations in skill lab, and case-based discussions etc. are to be used. Faculty from the department where a student is posted should participate in moderating the teaching-learning sessions during clinical rounds.

F. Interdepartmental colloquium

Faculty and students must attend monthly meetings between the main Department and other department/s on topics of current/common interest or clinical cases.

G. a. Rotational clinical / community / institutional postings (As per Table I)

Depending on local institutional policy and the subject specialty needs, postgraduate trainees may be posted in relevant departments/ units/ institutions. The aim would be to acquire more in-depth knowledge as applicable to the concerned specialty. Postings would be rotated between various units/departments and details to be included in the specialty-based Guidelines. Few examples are listed below:

- Broad specialty departments
- Emergency/Casualty department
- Super specialty departments e.g. Cardiology / Endocrinology / Nephrology / Medical Oncology etc.
- Laboratory-based specialty units/departments e.g. Biochemistry / Microbiology/ Infection control unit/Laboratory Medicine etc.
- Medical Education Unit (MEU) or Department of Medical Education (DOME)

Clinical / Practical Training Schedule in Microbiology

The three-year training programme in microbiology is arranged in the form of rotational postings to different sections/laboratories/departments/disciplines for specified periods. Providing a suitable learning environment to develop clinical insight and achieve the outcomes of a medical microbiologist must be the driving force while planning posting schedules, which may be modified depending on needs, feasibility and exigencies. Student must be posted for various duration in different sections of Microbiology (like Bacteriology, Serology, Virology, Parasitology, Immunology, Mycobacteriology, Mycology and Hospital infection control), patient care areas in hospital (like emergency, OPDs, critical care areas, surgical and medical wards etc) as well as in community outreach programs, so that they can learn specific requirements of each section and participate in patient care and prevention of infectious diseases in the hospital as well as community. These postings are meant to provide hands-on training and develop required skills in clinical and laboratory medicine of microbiology.

Table 1. Following is the suggested plan of Rotation for Postgraduate students Postings to Diagnostic Laboratories/Hospital/ Community-

Sr no	Schedule of Rotation	Duration	Suggested Specific Learning Objectives
1	Microbiology laboratory i. Different sections of Bacteriology ii. Media preparation iii. Mycobacteriology iv. Serology/Immunology v. Mycology vi. Virology vii. Parasitology viii. Molecular lab ix. Hospital Infection Control including BMW management	Distributed in various section depending upon training & departmental needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the specific objectives in each section, a student is expected to acquire skills from basic to the most recent ones in diagnostic microbiology.
2	Sample Collection area	Two weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To learn pre-analytical parameters & procedures at sample collection area.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To communicate effectively with patients at sample collection area. • Learn to demonstrate respect, empathy & confidentiality when dealing with patients, samples and reports. • Demonstrate leadership skills in managing the functioning of the lab (staff management, preparing duty roster)
3	<p>Clinical Pathology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Hematology ii. Histopathology iii. Blood Bank 	Two weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic knowledge of clinical pathology (as applied to Microbiology) • Inflammation and repair • Intercellular substances and reaction • Pathological changes in the body in bacterial, viral, mycotic and parasitic infections <p>Clinical Pathology skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peripheral smear examination • CBC interpretation • Urine examination • Pathological investigations and their significance in infectious disease diagnosis.

			<p>Blood Bank skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfusion transmitted infection • Blood grouping • Screening of blood & blood donors • Counseling skills <p>Histopathology skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various stains and staining techniques used in histopathological examination of infectious agents • Identification of pathogen and/or pathological changes in tissue sections in infectious diseases.
4	Clinical Biochemistry	One week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic understanding of biochemistry as applied to immunological/ molecular methods for study of microbial diseases and pathogenesis of infections. • Significance of biochemical markers/profile in diagnosis, prognosis and monitoring of infective syndromes like sepsis
5	ICTC /PPTCT/ART	Two weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV counseling skills • HIV Testing strategies • HIV Surveillance strategies • Treatment regimens in HIV positive

			case, management of drug resistance, and prophylaxis PEP, prevention & management of opportunistic infection
6	Tuberculosis and RNTCP	Two weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis of Pulmonary and extra pulmonary TB • Fluorescent Microscopy for TB • Molecular diagnosis • National tuberculosis Elimination Program • Treatment regimens in susceptible and drug resistant TB cases
7	District hospital postings (mandatory) 3rd or 4th semester for 3 months	Three months*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify types of infections seen in community • Identify lacuna in KAP in community that promote development of infections • Choice of antimicrobials and treatment plan for infections in community • Infection control in community • Should contribute to strengthen the services of the district health system, the diagnostic laboratory services. • Participate in public health programs & research activities

8	Clinical locations – i. Medicine & allied (General Medicine, Respiratory Disease, Skin & Venereal Disease) ii. Pediatrics iii. Surgery & allied (General Surgery, Orthopedic) iv. Obstetric and Gynecology	Two months Posting to be done for morning half of the day	Depending on the area of posting- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History taking and physical examination skills • Sample collection and transportation skills • Identification of common infections and make a differential diagnosis • Choose the appropriate laboratory investigations required for confirmation of diagnosis • Interpret the laboratory results and correlate them clinically. • Learn common treatment plan, particularly choice of antimicrobials and identify factors that influence choice of antimicrobials. • Acquire reasoning and critical thinking required in decision making when dealing with an infectious disease case • Infection control practices
9	Critical care units- i. Medical ICU	Three weeks (in morning half day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All above in a critical setting along with • Availability and choice of specialized investigations necessary for optimum

	ii. Surgical ICU iii. Neonatal/Pediatric ICU		management of a critical patient with ID. Significance and adherence to antibiotic policy and antibiotic stewardship program Infection control in ICU
10	Institutional Super specialty wing if available Dialysis, Oncology, Cardiology etc	One week (morning half day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To study infections seen in special situations along with their management & prevention approach
	Total duration of posting outside microbiology laboratory	33 weeks	

***Posting under “District Residency Programme”**

Depending upon the objectives to be achieved, feasibility and availability of resources, the rotational postings can be within the hospital or outside the hospital.

During the clinical posting, opportunities to present and discuss infectious disease cases through bedside discussion and ward/grand rounds with clinicians in different hospital setting must be scheduled.

The PG student must be tagged along with the resident of the clinical department for bedside case discussion, under the guidance of an assigned faculty. A minimum of five case histories shall be recorded by a student during course of study. The case history must be representative of different type of Infectious Disease (ID) cases likely to be encountered eg., those caused by different microbes in community and hospital setting, HAI, infections in critical care/ ward

setting, infection in different age groups, infections in special host like Immunocompromised host, traveler, specific occupations etc.

The process of recording case histories can begin in first half of 2nd year of PG program, after students have learnt about various infective syndromes. The severity and complexity of cases must progress gradually, with simple community-based infection to begin with. At least one fourth of the cases recorded must have been discussed with the ID specialist or a clinician and their feedback/remarks documented in log book/ portfolio with their signatures.

Documentation of students learning at the end of each posting is required.

Emergency duty

The student should also be posted for managing emergency laboratory services in Microbiology. He/she should deal with all emergency investigations in Microbiology.

G b. *Posting under “District Residency Programme” (DRP):

All postgraduate students pursuing MD/MS in broad specialties in all Medical Colleges/Institutions shall undergo a compulsory rotation of three months in District Hospitals/District Health System as a part of the course curriculum, as per the Postgraduate Medical Education (Amendment) Regulations (2020). Such rotation shall take place in the 3rd or 4th or 5th semester of the Postgraduate programme and the rotation shall be termed as “District Residency Programme” and the PG medical student undergoing training shall be termed as “District Resident”.

Every posting should have its defined learning objectives. It is recommended that the departments draw up objectives and guidelines for every posting offered in conjunction with the collaborating department/s or unit/s. This will ensure that students acquire expected competencies and are not considered as an additional helping hand for the department / unit in which they are posted. The PG student must be tagged along with those of other relevant departments for bedside case discussion/basic science exercises as needed, under the guidance of an assigned faculty. }

Opportunities to present and discuss infectious disease cases through bedside discussion and ward/grand rounds with specialists / clinicians in different hospital settings must be scheduled to address antimicrobial resistance issues and strategies to deal with it.

H. Teaching research skills

Writing a thesis should be used for inculcating research knowledge and skills. All postgraduate students shall conduct a research project of sufficient depth to be presented to the University as a postgraduate thesis under the supervision of an eligible faculty member of the department as guide and one or more co-guides who may be from the same or other departments.

In addition to the thesis project, every postgraduate trainee shall participate in at least one additional research project that may be started or already ongoing in the department. It is preferable that this project will be in an area different from the thesis work. For instance, if a clinical research project is taken up as thesis work, the additional project may deal with community/field/laboratory work. Diversity of knowledge and skills can thereby be reinforced.

I. Training in teaching & learning skills

MEU/DOME should train PG students in education methodologies and assessment techniques. The PG students shall conduct UG classes in various courses and a faculty shall observe and provide feedback on the teaching skills of the student.

J. Log book

During the training period, the postgraduate student should maintain a Log Book indicating the duration of the postings/work done in Wards, OPDs, Casualty and other areas of posting. This should indicate the procedures assisted and performed and the teaching sessions attended. The log book entries must be done in real time. The logbook is thus a record of various activities by the student like: (1) Overall participation & performance, (2) attendance, (3) participation in sessions, (4) record of completion of pre-determined activities, and (5) acquisition of selected competencies.

The purpose of the Log Book is to:

- a) Help maintain a record of the work done during training.

- b) Enable Faculty/Consultants to have direct information about the work done and intervene, if necessary.
- c) Provide feedback and assess the progress of learning with experience gained periodically.

The Log Book should be used in the internal assessment of the student, should be checked and assessed periodically by the faculty members imparting the training. The PG students will be required to produce completed log book in original at the time of final practical examination. It should be signed by the Head of the Department. A proficiency certificate from the Head of Department regarding the clinical competence and skillful performance of procedures by the student will be submitted by the PG student at the time of the examination.

The PG students shall be trained to reflect and record their reflections in logbook particularly of the critical incidents. Components of good teaching practices must be assessed in all academic activity conducted by the PG student and at least two sessions dedicated for assessment of teaching skills must be conducted every year of the PG program. The teaching faculty shall refer to the MCI Logbook Guidelines uploaded on the Website.

K. Course in Research Methodology: All postgraduate students shall complete an online course in Research Methodology within six months of the commencement of the batch and generate the online certificate on successful completion of the course.

Other aspects

- The Postgraduate trainees must participate in the teaching and training program of undergraduate students and interns attending the department.
- Trainees shall attend accredited scientific meetings (CME, symposia, and conferences) at least once a year.
- Department shall encourage e-learning activities.
- The Postgraduate trainees should undergo training in Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS).
- The Postgraduate trainees must undergo training in information technology and use of computers.

During the training program, patient safety is of paramount importance; therefore, relevant clinical skills are to be learnt initially on the models, later to be performed under supervision followed by independent performance. For this purpose, provision of skills laboratories in medical colleges is mandatory.

Skills & performance

The student should be given graded responsibility to enable learning by apprenticeship. The faculty throughout the year should assess competence of the student in skills. Feedback must be given and area of improvement/remarks should be mentioned for the skill and student should be re-assessed for the skills which are not acquired. To go to the next level, it should be mandatory for the student to acquire lower level skills satisfactorily, i.e only on satisfactory completion of assisted/performed with assistance skills should the student be permitted to perform the skill independently.

ASSESSMENT

I. FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT, ie., assessment to improve learning

Formative assessment should be continual and should assess medical knowledge, patient care, procedural & academic skills, interpersonal skills, professionalism, self-directed learning and ability to practice in the system.

General Principles

Internal Assessment should be frequent, cover all domains of learning and used to provide feedback to improve learning; it should also cover professionalism and communication skills.

The Internal Assessment should be conducted in theory and practical/clinical examination, should be frequent, cover all domains of learning and used to provide feedback to improve learning; it should also cover professionalism and communication skills. At least five clinical cases shall be assessed through discussion of case histories recorded by the students while posted

in clinical setting and recorded along with feedback (preferably by ID specialist if available /clinician).

Quarterly assessment during the MD training should be based on:

- Case presentation, case work up, case handling/management
- Journal club- Paper presentation & discussion
- Seminar/Lecture/ group discussion
- Case based /Laboratory or Skill based discussions
- Interdepartmental case or seminars, clinical microbiology round/ grand round/ seminar-discussion

Note: These sessions may be organized and recorded as an institutional activity for all postgraduates.

- Attendance at Scientific meetings, CME programmes

The student is to be assessed periodically as per categories listed in the postgraduate student appraisal form (Annexure I1).

II. SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT, i.e., assessment at the end of training

Essential pre-requisites for appearing for examination include:

1. **Log book** of work done during the training period including rotation postings, departmental presentations, and internal assessment reports should be submitted.
2. At least **two presentations** at national level conference. One research paper should be published / accepted in an indexed journal. **(It is suggested that the local or University Review committee assess the work sent for publication).**

The summative examination would be carried out as per the Rules given in the latest POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION REGULATIONS. The theory examination shall be held in advance before the Clinical and Practical examination, so that the answer books can be assessed and evaluated before the commencement of the clinical/Practical and Oral examination.

The postgraduate examination shall be in three parts:

1. Thesis

Thesis shall be submitted at least six months before the Theory and Clinical / Practical examination. The thesis shall be examined by a minimum of three examiners; one internal and two external examiners, who shall not be the examiners for Theory and Clinical examination. A postgraduate student in broad specialty shall be allowed to appear for the Theory and Practical/Clinical examination only after the acceptance of the Thesis by the examiners.

2. Theory examination

The examinations shall be organized on the basis of 'Grading' or 'Marking system' to evaluate and to certify postgraduate student's level of knowledge, skill and competence at the end of the training, as given in the latest POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION REGULATIONS. Obtaining a minimum of **50% marks in 'Theory' as well as 'Practical' separately** shall be mandatory for passing examination as a whole. The examination for M.D shall be held at the end of 3rd academic year.

There shall be four theory papers (as per PG Regulations).

Paper I- General Microbiology and Immunology (GM & IG).

Paper II– Clinical / Systemic Microbiology (CM I).

Paper III– Clinical / Systemic Microbiology (CM II).

Paper IV- Recent Advances & Applied Microbiology (AM).

Universities shall prepare a blueprint for assessment of competencies and ensure 60-70% weightage is given to higher levels in Blooms taxonomy (application and above) in theory with more number of clinical scenario based questions. In **Paper II/III (CM – II/III) –distribution of Clinical Scenarios testing the ability of a student to deal with infections caused by**

various etiological agents is suggested to be 40-50% Bacterial, 20-30% Viral, 10-20 % each for Mycobacterial, Parasitic & Fungal pathogens.

3. Practical/Clinical and Oral/Viva Voce examination

Practical examination

Practical examination should be spread over two days and include various major components of the syllabus focusing mainly on the psychomotor & affective domain.

Type of Exercises for Practical Examination should include cases (actual or paper based depending on the feasibility) of infectious diseases for workup and evaluation of clinical microbiology competence along with exercises to test ability to perform bacteriology, virology, parasitology, mycology, mycobacteriology, immunology, serology with microscopic examination and antimicrobial susceptibility report,.

Oral/Viva voce examination: The simultaneous viva-voce on the clinical case & lab based practical exercise should be taken along with main viva by each examiner separately. Oral examination shall be comprehensive enough to test the postgraduate student's overall ability to apply knowledge of the subject to hospital/community/research areas focusing on psychomotor and affective domain skills.

Table 2. Suggested Day wise distribution of practical exercises:

Ex. No	Day -1	Ex. No	Day-2
1	Clinical Microbiology exercise (Give a real clinical case /paper based scenario addressing commonly seen cases in bacteriology/mycobacteriology/vir	1 cont	Clinical Microbiology exercise - Conclusion

	<p>ology/mycology/parasitology/HAI /AMR/out break /national project based etc of infectious diseases to the PG for workup and evaluation with respect to case history, basic physical examination, required investigations, interpretation of diagnostic test results, and therapeutic management decisions including prescription of antibiotics,, along with IC practices)</p>		
2	<p>Long Exercise- Bacteriology (Mixed culture given with a clinical history representing any specimen collected from respective systemic infection)</p>	2 cont	<p>Long Exercise - Bacteriology conclusion</p>
3	<p>Short Exercise – Bacteriology (Identification of a pure culture)</p>	3 cont	<p>Short Exercise - Bacteriology conclusion</p>
4	<p>Serology Exercise (In a clinical case, choice of test & technique with interpretation of test results)</p>	4 cont	<p>Serology cont. if required</p>
5	<p>Virology techniques (In a clinical case, choice of test & technique with interpretation of test results. Viral serology/ Molecular</p>	5 cont	<p>Virology cont. if required</p>

	techniques depending upon availability)		
6	Mycology (Identification of fungi in a clinical case)	6 cont	Mycology cont. if required
7	Parasitology (In a clinical case, choice of test & technique with interpretation of test results Stool examination, Examination of Peripheral blood smear etc)	9	Pedagogy (10-15minutes)
8	Slides (Slides including histopathology for microscopic identification & discussion	10	Log book, Dissertation Viva, Grand-Viva

National Medical Commission

13. Topley and Wilson's Microbiology and Microbial infection by Brian W. J. Mahy, Graham Selby Wilson, and William Whiteman Carlton Topley
14. Text book of Medical Mycology by Jagadish Chandra
15. Atlas of Fungal infection by Carol A. Kauffman
16. Bennett and Brachman's Hospital Infection, 6th edition, William R Jarvis.

Journals

03-05 international Journals and 02 national (all indexed) journals.

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Annexure I

Following are the competencies to be achieved under Antimicrobial Resistance Detection and Prevention:

1. Demonstrate in depth knowledge of classification, mechanism of action and drug resistance of antimicrobials (antibacterials, antiviral, antifungal, antimycobacterial and antiparasitic agents).
2. Explain various phenotypic and genotypic methods used in laboratory for detection of drug resistant strains and their implications in patient care.
3. Demonstrate skills in performing antimicrobial susceptibility testing with calculations of MIC/MBC by various phenotypic and genotypic methods and interpret results as per standard guidelines (CLSI, EUCAST etc).
4. Detect and report bacterial drug resistance by identification of the commonly isolated drug resistant strains (MRSA, VRSA, VRE, CRE, MBL, AMP-C etc) and choose the most appropriate agent for therapeutic use in a specific clinical scenario.
5. Explain the implications of AST result on antimicrobial therapy to clinicians/colleagues.
6. Communicate effectively with clinicians to guide and create an antimicrobial treatment plan based on organism identification and susceptibility test.
7. Explain the concept of narrow/broad spectrum of antimicrobials, PK/PD parameters and their significance on response to antimicrobial therapy.
8. Explain significance of monitoring of antimicrobial therapy in patient care.
9. Explain the concept of empiric, syndromic and culture-based treatment strategies for treating infections.
10. Explain the need to de-escalate from empirical broad-spectrum therapy to targeted narrow-spectrum therapy.
11. Explain the importance of appropriate use of antimicrobial agents, risk of antimicrobial resistance and spread of AMR in the health care environment and the community.
12. Explain the concept of normal microbial flora, colonization, contamination and infection with its role in deciding antimicrobial therapy.

13. Demonstrate knowledge about antimicrobial prophylaxis including peri-operative surgical prophylaxis regimens.
14. Describe the concept of first-, second- and third-line antimicrobial therapy for infections.
15. Explain the importance of restricted reporting of susceptibility data by the laboratory to control antimicrobial use.
16. Explain the concept and application of WHO tool for optimizing use of antimicrobial agents: Access, Watch and Reserve (AWaRe).
17. Explain the importance of antimicrobial formularies, consumption data and prescribing policies and processes to monitor use of antimicrobials in hospitals.
18. Effectively use information technology (LIS, WHO NET etc.) for data collection and surveillance of AMR in microbiology laboratory.
19. Explain significance of collecting local antimicrobial resistance data and its use in deciding direct empirical antimicrobial therapy.
20. Demonstrate knowledge and skills to develop antibiotic policy by using local AMR data in hospital.
21. Explain significance of adherence to antibiotic policy and antibiotic stewardship program.
22. Be a part of antimicrobial stewardship team for the institution.
23. Demonstrate knowledge about recent published guidelines that recommend antimicrobial treatment therapy in various clinical situations.
24. Effectively communicate with the patients/ relatives about the role of antimicrobial agents in their disease and advice on appropriate use.
25. Actively engage with patients, relatives and the community to advise on the role of antimicrobial agents in therapy and the threat of resistance.
26. Participate in clinical audit and quality improvement programmes relating to antimicrobial use.
27. Teach students, colleagues and other health professionals regarding antimicrobial use and resistance.

Student appraisal form for MD in Microbiology											
	Elements	Less than Satisfactory			Satisfactory			More than satisfactory			Comments
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	Scholastic aptitude and learning										
1.1	Has knowledge appropriate for level of training										
1.2	Participation and contribution to learning activity (e.g., Journal Club, Seminars, CME etc)										
1.3	Conduct of research and other scholarly activity assigned(e.g Posters, publications etc)										
1.4	Documentation of acquisition of competence (eg Log book)										
1.5	Performance in work based assessments										
1.6	Self-directed Learning										
2	Work related to training										
2.1	Practical skills that are appropriate for the level of training										
2.2	Respect for processes and procedures in the work space										

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