



VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Ministry of Welfare

REGULATION
on the education, rights and obligations of pharmacists
and criteria for granting of licences and specialist licences,
No. 1090/2012.

SECTION I
General provisions.

Article 1
Scope.

This Regulation applies to pharmacists holding licences and specialist licences from the Medical Director of Health under Articles 2 and 5.

SECTION II
Licences.

Article 2
Professional title.

The right to use the professional title of pharmacist and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those who have been granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 3
Criteria for granting of a licence.

A licence under Article 2 may be granted to those who have completed an MA degree in pharmacy from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences, and in addition six months' practical training in a pharmacy or hospital dispensary.

A licence from a state within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland may also be confirmed, or a licence issued on the basis of education in those states. Recognition of professional qualifications and competence of a pharmacist who meets the criteria of Directive 2005/36/EC, on the recognition of professional qualifications, with subsequent amendments, is subject to Regulation on recognition of professional qualifications and competence of healthcare practitioners from other EEA states, No. 461/2011, or to Nordic Convention on a common Nordic labour market for certain health professionals and veterinarians, No. 36/1993 (*cf.* Amendment No. 6/2001).

A licence may also be granted to those who have completed a comparable qualification from an educational institution in a state outside the EEA or Switzerland, which is recognised as such by Icelandic health authorities, and by health authorities in the state where the education took place.

Other criteria for the issue of a licence are subject to Article 12.

Article 4
Opinions.

Before a licence is granted under Article 2 on the basis of education outside Iceland under the third paragraph of Article 3, the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the Faculty of Pharmacy in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences, with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria for education under the first paragraph of Article 3, for granting of a licence.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.

SECTION III

Specialist licences in pharmacy.

Article 5

Specialist licences.

The right to use the title of specialist in pharmacy and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 6

Criteria for specialist licences.

Specialist licences may be granted in specialist fields of pharmacy. This is subject to the condition that the specialist training of the applicant is defined as being within the specialist field for which he/she applies for a specialist licence. The relevant specialist field shall have a solid theoretical basis, and an equivalent shall exist in a recognised international forum.

In order to be entitled to receive a specialist licence under Article 5 a pharmacist shall fulfil the following standards:

1. he/she shall be licensed as a pharmacist in Iceland under Article 2; and
2. he/she shall have completed a master's or doctoral degree relevant to pharmacy or have equivalent education; and
3. he/she shall have worked as a pharmacist after graduation under indent 2 for the equivalent of at least two years full-time in the field for which the application for a specialist licence is made. If he/she has worked less than full-time, the duration of employment shall be proportionately longer.

Up to twelve months full-time may be subtracted if the person has been employed alongside doctoral studies in the relevant specialist field.

Further criteria for the granting of a specialist licence are subject to Article 12.

Article 7

Application and opinions.

An application for a specialist licence in pharmacy, together with documents confirming education and professional experience, and other necessary documents, shall be submitted to the Medical Director of Health.

Before a specialist licence is granted under Article 5 the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the Faculty of Pharmacy in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences, with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria of Article 6.

The Medical Director of Health may appoint a special committee to evaluate and comment upon applications for specialist licences.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.

SECTION IV

Rights and obligations.

Article 8

Professional standards and responsibility.

A pharmacist shall show respect for the patient/client and perform his/her tasks vigilantly and conscientiously and in accordance with the professional standards required of the profession at any time.

A pharmacist must be aware of his/her duties and respect ethical rules of the profession, maintain his/her knowledge and professional skill, and master innovations in his/her field of work.

A pharmacist shall be familiar with legislation and regulations applying to healthcare practitioners and healthcare services, and other legislation and government directives, as applicable.

A pharmacist is responsible for handling medications and as applicable advice, diagnosis and resolution of medication-related problems of patients/clients.

A pharmacist shall recognise his/her professional limitations, and seek assistance or refer the patient to another healthcare practitioner as necessary, for instance if he/she judges that he/she cannot provide the patient with appropriate healthcare service.