

Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(International Cooperation Section)

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 20th April, 2020.

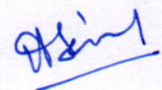
NOTICE

Sub: Relaxation in the existing instructions for Statement of Need (SON) certificate for joining training programme / course in medical specialities in medical institutions in the USA – regarding.

1. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is aware that a large number of candidates are facing difficulties in India and abroad in completing the required documentation while applying for a Statement of Need (SON) certificate for joining training programme/ course in medical specialities in medical institutions in USA due to measures taken by Governments for containment of COVID-19. A large number of candidates have sought relaxation in the existing guidelines for submission of documents alongwith an application for SON certificate and requested the Ministry to allow them to submit the scanned copy of their applications through email.

2. In view of exceptional circumstances on account of COVID-19 pandemic and taking into account various these representations, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare after due consideration and to safeguards the interests of the doctors who are pursuing residency/fellowship in USA, *as a one-time measure*, has decided to give some relaxation in the existing guidelines for submission of applications for SON certificate. It has been decided that if a candidate face difficulty in submission of applications with requisite documents in physical form, he/she may submit scanned copy of duly filled in application form and essential documents (copy of offer letter received from concerned foreign University/Institution and valid Indian passport; valid VISA in connection with applicant's present stay in a foreign country (whereas applicable only); copy of earlier issued SON, if issued earlier) through email to mk.sinha26@nic.in and cc to soic-mohfw@nic.in.

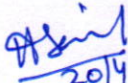
3. While sending the scanned copy of application alongwith above mentioned documents, an undertaking (**Annexure –A**) shall invariably be submitted by the applicant stating that the original SON application alongwith all the documents as prescribed in the guidelines for SON certificate will be submitted by the candidate to "The Under Secretary (IC), International Cooperation Section, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Department of Health & Family



Welfare), Room No.403, 'D' Wing, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi – 110011 on or before **31st May, 2020**.

4. In such case, an SON certificate will be issued through email to ECFMG at moh@ecfm.org; and a copy will be marked to the candidate at email address mentioned in the application form. The original SON certificate (in a seal envelop to be sent to ECFMG by the candidate) will be released only after receipt of physical copy of application alongwith all requisite documents from the applicant **by 31st May, 2020**.

5. If a candidate fails to submit by 31st May, 2020, the original application alongwith all requisite documents as per the existing guidelines/instructions to this Ministry or any discrepancy is noticed in the original documents submitted by the applicants vis-à-vis email on the basis of which an SON certificate has been issued through email to ECFMG, the SON certificate issued earlier would liable to be cancelled.


20/4/2020
(M.K.Sinha)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Ph.23062550

Email: mk.sinha26@nic.in

(To be placed on the website of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)