





# NMC PUBLICATION CRITERIA

Complete Guide: MCI/NMC Gazette Updates from 2009 to 2025 | Updated 30 June 2025

|   |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <br>Latest Gazette<br><b>30 Jun 2025</b> | <br>Eligible Authors<br><b>1st/2nd/3rd</b> | <br>Article Types<br><b>4 Categories</b> | <br>Approved Indexes<br><b>7 Databases</b> | <br>Assoc. Prof.<br><b>2 Publications</b> | <br>Professor<br><b>4 Publications</b> |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|

## What Is NMC Publication Criteria?

The National Medical Commission (NMC) and its predecessor the Medical Council of India (MCI) have periodically revised the publication requirements for faculty promotions in Indian medical colleges. Understanding the correct NMC criteria for publication is essential for every faculty member to plan their academic career. This guide consolidates all gazette-notified changes from 2009 to the latest 2025 update.

### Key Highlights of Current NMC Publication Rules (2025):

- ★ **Current Rule (2025):** Only the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd authors receive promotion benefit from a publication.
- ★ **Approved Databases:** MEDLINE, PubMed Central, SCIE, Scopus, EMBASE, Citation Index, and DOAJ.
- ★ **Accepted Article Types:** Original research, meta-analysis, systematic reviews, and case series only.
- ★ **BCME & BCBR:** Both are now mandatory for all faculty promotions in medical colleges.
- ★ **Print vs Online:** Online-only journals fully accepted if indexed in an approved database.
- ★ **Impact Factor:** No minimum IF prescribed by NMC — approved indexing is the only criterion.

## Publication Requirements: Rank-Wise Breakdown

| Asst. Professor → Associate Professor   | Important Clarifications  |
|---|---|
| <p>To be promoted to <b>Associate Professor</b>, a faculty needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>2 publications</b> as <b>Assistant Professor</b></li> <li>● In an NMC-approved indexed journal</li> <li>● Must be 1st, 2nd, or 3rd author (2025 rule)</li> </ul> <p><b>Associate Professor → Professor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>2 more publications</b> as <b>Associate Professor</b></li> <li>● Total: <b>4 cumulative publications</b> across both ranks</li> <li>● Rank quotas are separate — cannot be exchanged</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Each rank has its <b>own separate quota</b> — cannot be shared</li> <li>● Govt. Specialists / MOs: may complete within <b>2 years</b> of direct appointment</li> <li>● <b>BCME</b> and <b>BCBR</b> mandatory for all promotions</li> <li>● Only 1st, 2nd, or 3rd authorship counts (2025)</li> <li>● Case reports and narrative reviews: <b>NOT accepted</b></li> <li>● No minimum Impact Factor — only indexing in approved DB matters</li> </ul> |

■ *The 2025 gazette introduces a split requirement — 2 publications at each rank level. Publications from Assistant Professor tenure CANNOT substitute for the Associate Professor quota and vice versa.*

## NMC / MCI PUBLICATION CRITERIA — COMPLETE HISTORICAL TIMELINE (2009–2025)

Every gazette-notified change in NMC/MCI publication criteria — eligible authorship, accepted article types, approved indexing databases, and publication count required per rank.

| Time Period                          | Gazette Reference                             | Eligible Authorship                    | Accepted Article Types   | Approved Index Databases   | Assoc. Prof. Requirement                       | Professor Requirement     | Key Remarks  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Before 24 Jul 2009</b>            | —   | Any Author                             | • Research Paper • Case Series • Case Reports • Review Article         | No indexing requirement (National / Indexed)                                     | Not Mandatory                                  | Not Mandatory             | Publications desirable but not compulsory                                |
| <b>24 Jul 2009 – 02 Nov 2010</b>     | MCI-12(2)/2009-MED-22654 (21 Jul 2009)        | First Author Only                      | • Research Paper • Case Series • Case Reports • Review Article         | Indexed / National (No specific agency named)                                    | 2 Publications                                 | 4 Publications            | Transitory: 5 yrs for Assoc. Prof.; 4 yrs for Professor                  |
| <b>03 Nov 2010 – 02 Sep 2015</b>     | MCI-12(2)/2010-Med.-Misc./33038               | First / Second Author                  | • Research Paper • Case Series • Case Reports • Review Article         | • Scopus • PubMed • MEDLINE • EMBASE/Excerpta • Index Medicus • Index Copernicus | 2 Publications                                 | 4 Publications            | Named indexing agencies introduced for the first time                    |
| <b>03 Sep 2015 – 07 Jun 2017</b>     | MCI-12(1)/2015-TEQ/131880                     | First / Second Author                  | • Research Paper / Article ONLY (Case Reports removed)                 | • Scopus • PubMed • MEDLINE • EMBASE/Excerpta • Index Medicus • Index Copernicus | 2 Publications                                 | 4 Publications            | Case reports no longer accepted  |
| <b>08 Jun 2017 – 11 Feb 2020</b>     | MCI-12(1)/2017-Med.Misc./115698               | First / Corresponding Author           | • Research Paper / Article   | • Scopus • PubMed • MEDLINE • EMBASE/Excerpta • Index Medicus • Index Copernicus | 2 Publications                                 | 4 Publications            | Corresponding Author added; 2-yr transition period                       |
| <b>12 Feb 2020 – 21 Feb 2022</b>     | MCI-12(2)/2019-Med.Misc./189334 (12 Feb 2020) | 1st / 2nd / 3rd / Corresponding Author | • Original Research • Meta-Analysis • Systematic Reviews • Case Series | • MEDLINE • PMC • Citation Index • SCIE • EMBASE • Scopus • DOAJ                 | 2 Publications                                 | 4 Publications            | DOAJ & SCIE added; broader authorship                                    |
| <b>22 Feb 2022 – 29 Jun 2025</b>     | NMC/MCI23(I)/2021-MED (14 Feb 2022)           | Not specified in gazette               | • Original Research • Meta-Analysis • Systematic Reviews • Case Series | • MEDLINE • PMC • Citation Index • SCIE • EMBASE • Scopus • DOAJ                 | 2 Publications                                 | 4 Publications            | BCME & BCBR mandatory; exemption till 31 Dec 2022                        |
| <b>30 Jun 2025 ONWARDS ★ CURRENT</b> | N-P051(12)/18/2024-PGMEB NMC (30 Jun 2025)    | 1st, 2nd & 3rd Authors ONLY            | • Original Research • Meta-Analysis • Systematic Reviews • Case Series | • MEDLINE • PMC • Citation Index • SCIE • EMBASE • Scopus • DOAJ                 | 2 as Asst. Prof. + 2 as Assoc. Prof. = 4 total | 4 cumulative publications | BCME & BCBR mandatory. Govt. Specialists: may complete in 2 yrs of appt. |

■ Row highlighted in orange = CURRENT NMC criteria (30 June 2025). Always verify with the latest official NMC gazette before your promotion application.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## NMC Publication Criteria — Everything Medical Faculty Needs to Know

These FAQs address the most common questions about NMC publication criteria and NMC criteria for publication, based on official MCI/NMC gazette notifications compiled up to 30 June 2025.

### Q1. What is the NMC publication criteria for faculty promotion in medical colleges?

The NMC (National Medical Commission) publication criteria mandate that medical faculty must publish research in NMC-approved indexed journals to qualify for academic promotions. As per the latest gazette (30 June 2025), a faculty member needs 2 publications as Assistant Professor plus 2 publications as Associate Professor (4 cumulative) for promotion to Professor. Publications must be original research, meta-analysis, systematic reviews, or case series, indexed in one of 7 approved databases.

### Q2. What are the separate publication requirements for Associate Professor promotion under NMC?

For promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor: **2 publications** during Assistant Professor tenure are required. For further promotion from Associate Professor to Professor: an additional **2 publications** during Associate Professor tenure are needed (total 4 cumulative). The 2025 gazette explicitly separates the quota by rank — publications from one rank **cannot** substitute for the other rank's requirement. Only 1st, 2nd, or 3rd authorship counts under the current rule.

### Q3. Which indexing databases are approved by NMC for promotion publications?

The 7 NMC-approved indexing databases are: **MEDLINE**, **PubMed Central (PMC)**, **Citation Index**, **Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)**, **EMBASE**, **Scopus**, and **DOAJ** (Directory of Open Access Journals). A journal must be indexed in at least one of these databases to qualify under NMC publication criteria for faculty promotion.

### Q4. Is EMBASE and Expanded EMBASE the same for NMC publication criteria?

Yes. For NMC purposes, EMBASE and Expanded EMBASE (listed in earlier gazettes as EMBASE/Excerpta Medica) refer to the same Elsevier biomedical bibliographic database. Both terms represent the same approved indexing source. Publications in EMBASE-indexed journals are fully valid for NMC faculty promotion applications under current and previous gazette rules.

### Q5. Are subject-specific journals mandatory as per NMC publication rules?

No. NMC gazette notifications do not require publications to be in specialty-specific journals. The requirement is that the journal must be indexed in one of the 7 approved databases (MEDLINE, Scopus, EMBASE, SCIE, PMC, Citation Index, or DOAJ) and the article must be peer-reviewed and fall under an accepted article type. While publishing in specialty-relevant journals is professionally advisable, it is not a formal NMC criterion for promotion.

### Q6. How many authors get promotion benefit from a single NMC publication?

As per the current NMC gazette (30 June 2025), only the **1st, 2nd, and 3rd authors** benefit from a publication for promotion purposes. This changed from the 2020–2025 period, when 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Corresponding Authors were eligible. Before 2020, only the 1st or Corresponding Author was counted. Faculty must carefully verify their authorship position before claiming a publication for NMC promotion credit.

### Q7. Is an accepted paper sufficient, or is actual publication compulsory for NMC promotion?

Actual publication — formally published and verifiably indexed — is required for NMC promotion. A mere acceptance letter or 'in-press' status is generally not accepted by promotion committees. Faculty should confirm that the paper is live, indexed in an approved database, and accessible before submitting it for appraisal. This is especially important because indexing can take weeks to months after publication.

### Q8. Are print journals necessary, or are online journals acceptable under NMC rules?

Print journals are not mandatory under NMC publication criteria. Online-only peer-reviewed journals are fully acceptable, provided they are indexed in one of the 7 approved databases (Scopus, PubMed Central, DOAJ, etc.). The NMC does not distinguish between print and online modes of publication — indexing status and article type are the operative criteria for promotion eligibility.

### Q9. What is Expanded EMBASE and is it accepted by NMC?

Expanded EMBASE is Elsevier's comprehensive biomedical database covering 8,500+ active journals with strong emphasis on pharmacology, clinical medicine, and drug research. For NMC publication criteria, EMBASE and Expanded EMBASE are treated as the same approved indexing source. Publications in EMBASE-indexed journals are completely valid for faculty promotion applications under all gazette periods from 2010 onwards.

### Q10. Is Central Science Citation Index and Science Citation Index Expanded the same for NMC?

No, they are not the same — but both are accepted by NMC. **Science Citation Index (SCI / Central SCI)** is the most selective Web of Science database. **Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)** covers a broader set of journals. The NMC gazette specifically lists SCIE as an approved database. Both SCI and SCIE indexed journals are valid for NMC publication criteria. Note: **PubMed Central (PMC)** is a separate approved database — it is not the same as Citation Index.

### Q11. What is the minimum impact factor for a medical journal under NMC criteria?

The NMC does not prescribe any minimum Impact Factor (IF) for qualifying journals. The sole NMC requirement is indexing in one of the 7 approved databases. However, individual universities or medical institutions may impose their own minimum IF thresholds in internal promotion policies. Faculty should check both NMC guidelines and their institution's internal rules before selecting a target journal for publication.

## Q12. What article types are currently accepted under NMC publication criteria?

Under the current 2025 NMC gazette, only 4 article types are accepted: **Original Research Papers**, **Meta-Analysis**, **Systematic Reviews**, and **Case Series**. Individual **case reports** and **narrative/review articles** are NOT accepted under current rules. This is a significant change from pre-2015 guidelines when case reports and review articles were permitted. Faculty should ensure their article type matches the current approved list.

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Compiled from official MCI/NMC Gazette Notifications (2009–2025) | For academic reference only | Verify with the latest NMC circular before use.  
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