

Registration Status of Private Health Care Institutes in Western Province for the Years 2024 and 2025

Prathapasinghe I. D.¹; Jayalath D.²; Gajanayaka C.²

¹Department of Health Services, RDHS Office, Matale, Sri Lanka.

²Department of Health Services, Western Province, Sri Lanka.

Publication Date: 2026/05/08

Abstract: Effective regulation of the private health sector is essential to ensure quality, safety, and accountability in service delivery. This study examines the registration status of private healthcare institutions in the Western Province for the years 2024 and 2025. Using administrative registration records, a descriptive analysis was conducted to assess the number, distribution, renewal patterns, and compliance levels of registered institutions across key service categories.

Findings highlight trends in new registrations, renewals, and lapses in registration, providing insight into regulatory adherence and sector growth over the two-year period. The analysis also identifies gaps in compliance and areas requiring strengthened monitoring and enforcement. Overall, the results offer an evidence base to support policy planning, regulatory improvements, and strategic engagement with the private health sector to enhance governance and service quality.

Keywords: Private Health Services Regulatory Council (PHSRC); Director General of Health (DGHS); Provincial Director of Health Services (PDHS); Deputy Provincial Director of Health Services (DPDHS); Plan do Study Act (PDSA).

How to Cite: Prathapasinghe I. D.; Jayalath D.; Gajanayaka C. (2026) Registration Status of Private Health Care Institutes in Western Province for the Years 2024 and 2025. *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology*, 11(4), 3752-3754. <https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/26apr1030>

I. INTRODUCTION

Private health services regulatory council (PHSRC) is the authorized body chaired by the head of the department of health services; Director General of health (DGHS). Senior Medical administrator is appointed as the secretary of the council. Regulation of private healthcare services has become necessary for the Government, in the interest of providing a safe and efficient medical service to the public, to set out a National Policy in relation to the provision of medical services through private medical institutions and to identify the manner in which such services are to be so provided in order to achieve its objectives.

Annual registration and renewal of registration of institutes within the province is a crucial point in this aspect, because the Provincial director of health services (PDHS) and Deputy provincial director of health services (DPDHS) are the authorized officers according to the act 2006. On receipt of the applications from private health care institutes, the PHSRC shall inspect the private medical institution and premises to which the relevant application relates satisfies the criteria as may be prescribed, PHSRC inform the Provincial Director of Health Services of the respective Province that the Council has

no objection to the registration of such Institution and premises and direct the respective Provincial Director of Health Services to register the private medical institution and its premises with the council and register the applicant as the person registered to maintain such Institution; and forward to the applicant the certificate of registration in the prescribed form. A certificate of registration granted shall be valid for a period of one year. It will be renewed on application being made in that prior to one month of the date of expiry of such registration, and on payment of the prescribed renewal fee. Fifty percent of the fees collected by each provincial director of health services under this section shall be remitted to the respective provincial council (Act, no 21 of 2006).

The provincial director of health services of the province shall in carrying out the duties, act in compliance with such guidelines as are prescribed under the Act, relating to the registration of private medical institutions, where any private medical institution is being operated or maintained by any person on any premises without being registered as required regulatory.

II. JUSTIFICATION

The Western provincial (WP) health department is responsible for healthcare service delivery in the aspects of both preventive and curative sector to entire province where one third of the Sri Lankan population living. Majority of private health care institutes located within WP. Colombo Municipal council area is not directly coming under the preview of the PDHS WP. But it is observed majority of General practitioners and Quacks practicing there. Therefore, continuous monitoring process is ensured the expected service delivery towards the community.

III. OBJECTIVES

- To explore the progress of registration and renewal of registration of private healthcare institutes within the western provinces

- To conduct a pilot project in two selected MOH divisions to identify the un registered private health care institutes in order to inspire the registration process.

IV. METHOD

A validated check list was used to collect the registration data retrospectively for the years 2024 and 2025 up to 31st December. Registration data for different eleven categories of healthcare institutes were recorded and compared graphically.

A pilot was conducted over two MOH areas within Colombo district, Nugegoda and Rathmalana. Two WhatsApp groups were created among the MOH staff who were voluntarily helping the project by way of providing the relevant data on the institutes where registration has not obtained.

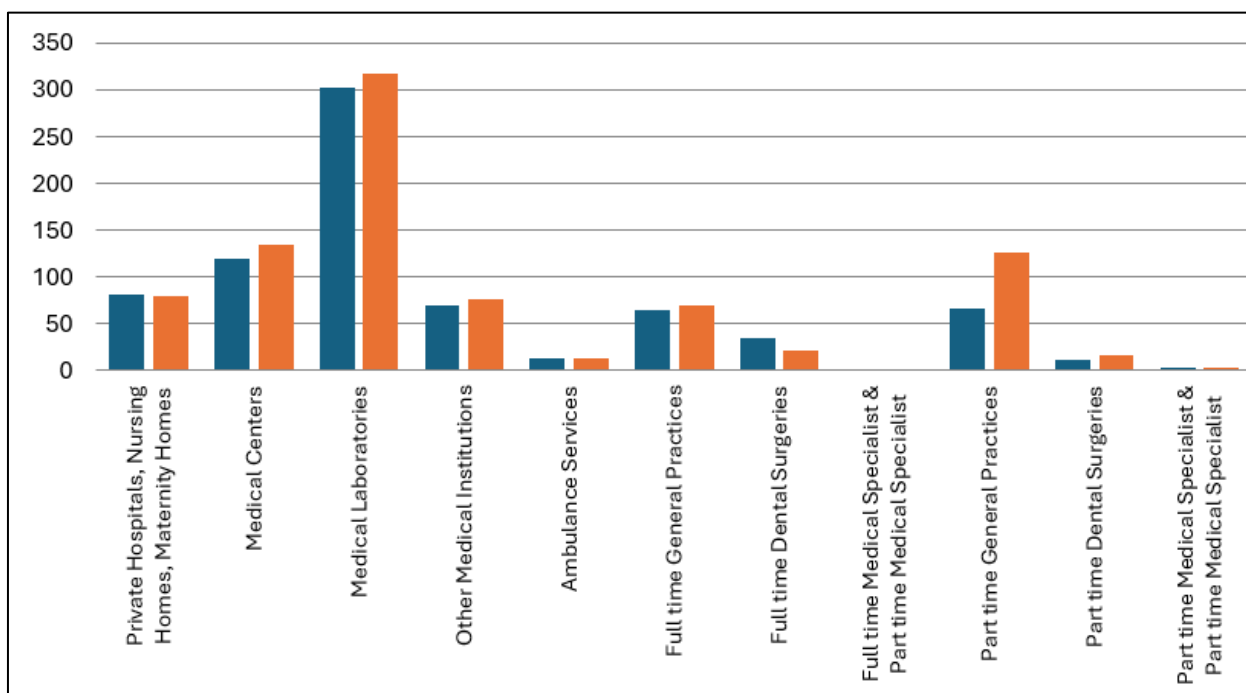


Fig 1: The Registration of Private Healthcare Institutes.

V. RESULTS

According to the calculations, it is observed a progress of registration in the first seven months of the year 2025 comparative to the entire twelve months of the year 2024. In the year 2024, the 768 institutes of all the categories were registered while 861 institutes were registers in the year 2025 up to the date 31st December 2025.

Table 1 Number of Registered Institute

No	Category	Year 2024	Year 2025
1	Private Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Maternity Homes	81	79
2	Medical Centers	120	134
3	Medical Laboratories	302	317
4	Other Medical Institutions	70	77
5	Ambulance Services	14	13
6	Full time General Practices	64	70
7	Full time Dental Surgeries	35	22
8	Full time Medical Specialist & Part time Medical Specialist	1	2
9	Part time General Practices	66	126
10	Part time Dental Surgeries	12	17
11	Part time Medical Specialist & Part time Medical Specialist	3	4

According to the Table 1 and Figure 1, it is observed out of the eleven categories of institutes, Hospitals, Ambulance services and fulltime dental surgeries show a comparative reduction in number of institutes registered. But all other eight categories expressed a significant improvement in registration. Part time medical practices and laboratories has a comparatively remarkable improvement.

https://www.phsrc.lk/pages_e.php?id=3 Accessed April 24, 2026

In pilot study, staff of Rathmalana MOH office identified as un registered institutes.

VI. DISCUSSION

Time and staff constraint affect the registration process. Pilot project was not 100% successful because of the trade union pressure. Some Trade unions, adversely interfered their members to involve with this identification process. The number of registered part time General practices run by Government Medical Officers, increased from 66 to 126. This can be improved further after having a proper negotiation with the Government Medical Officers Association.

Number of Medical centers registered, were improved from 120 to 134 while two hospitals were missing in registration and their number has come down from 81 to 79 due to closure of the institutes. Currently only one retired medical officer who has been appointed on contract basis is involved with PHSRC activities under supervision of the PDHS and DPDHS.

VII. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Appointing one responsible medical officer for each district under the supervision of relevant RDHS from Medical Officers annual list, may helpful to enhance the registration process and better regulation of the private health care services.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Private Health Services Regulatory Council, Guidelines
- [2]. Available at: <https://www.phsrc.lk/> Accessed April 24, 2026
- [3]. Enforcement of Private Medical Institutions (Registration) Act 21 of 2006 Available at: