

**THE NATIONAL SPECIALIST REGISTER
REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

1. Introduction

The Medical Act 1971 (Amendment 2012) came into force on 1st July 2017 when the Medical Regulations 2017 was adopted. The amended Act provides that for a doctor to practice as a specialist, he must be registered under this Act. For this purposes, the Malaysian Medical Council has established the National Specialist Register, the database of specialist medical practitioners in the country. Only medical practitioners on the Specialist Register can practice in the registered specialty.

The Regulatory requirement for entry in the Specialist Register shall be as follows:

Section 14A: Registered Medical Practitioner Practicing As Specialist

- (1) No person whose name has not been entered into the Register shall practice as a specialist in that specialty.
- (2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be subjected to disciplinary jurisdiction of the Council.

Section 14B: Person entitled to registration as a specialist

A person is entitled to be registered as a specialist under this Act if –

- (a) he has been fully registered under section 14;
- (b) he has attended specialized training in that specialty in a recognized training institution;
- (c) he holds a recognized specialist qualification; and
- (d) he has proven to the satisfaction of the MMC that he is fit and is of good character.

Section 14C: Registration as Specialist

- (1) The Council may consider the application made under subsection 18(1) and may require the applicant to produce information or documents in support of the application.
- (2) Where the Council decides to approve the application, the Council directs the Registrar to enter the applicant's name in the Register;
- (3) The Council may refuse to register any such person as it thinks fit;
- (4) Where the Council refuses to register the applicant under subsection (3), the Council shall immediately serve a notice of refusal to the applicant, together with reasons thereof."

2. Evaluation Committee for Specialist Medical Qualifications (ECSMQ)

2.1 The Evaluation Committee for Specialist Medical Qualifications has been established by the Malaysian Medical Council to consider all applications for specialist registration. Specialty Subcommittees (SSCs) have been established for the respective specialties to assist the Evaluation Committee in their evaluation. All applications for registration shall be evaluated for consideration by the relevant SSCs which will then make recommendations to the Evaluation Committee.

2.2 The function of the ECSMQ shall include:

2.2.1 Making recommendations to the Council, including such conditions and restriction as it deems necessary, for registration as a specialist under Section 14C of the Act.

2.2.2 Considering applications for specialist registration and make appropriate recommendations to the Council.

2.2.3 Requesting applicants to produce further information or documents where necessary to support the applications.

3. Procedures for Specialist Registration

3.1 Medical practitioners who seek to be registered with the NSR shall apply in the prescribed form accompanied with relevant certified documents and the registration fee to the NSR Secretariat.

3.2 The onus is on the applicant to approach the sources to send the relevant certificates and letter of good standing to the NSR Secretariat.

3.3 The applicant may request to be registered in a specialty that is recognized by the Council.

3.4 The NSR Secretariat shall validate all documents submitted by the applicants with the sources e.g. medical regulatory authority, universities, referees, etc, and is at liberty to make all the necessary inquiries with the said sources.

3.5 The NSR secretariat shall process all applications and those which are complete shall be forwarded to the respective SSCs.

- 3.6 The SSCs shall evaluate the applications against the stipulated criteria for registration in the specialty applied for and submit its recommendation to the ECSMQ.
- 3.7 The recommendations of the SSCs shall be reviewed by the ECSMQ and will then make their recommendations to the Council for approval.
- 3.8 The names of medical practitioners approved by the Council shall be entered in the Specialist Register.
- 3.9 Where an application is refused by Council, the applicant shall be informed of the reasons for refusal. The applicant may re-apply to be registered with the NSR with relevant certified documents and the registration fees to the NSR Secretariat after six (6) months of the date of the refusal.
- 3.10 All decisions of the Council are subject to judicial process.

4. General Criteria for Registration.

- 4.1. An applicant may apply for registration in a Specialty and a Subspecialty that is recognized by the Council ([Link-- To List of Specialties](#))
- 4.2. The applicant shall be fully registered under section 14 of the Act. The SSC may, however evaluate applications under the following circumstances:
 - 4.2.1. Application whose full registration is being processed by Council on the condition that the basic qualification is registrable.
 - 4.2.2. Applicants (Non-Malaysian) with Temporary Practicing Certificate (TPC)
- 4.3. The applicant shall have postgraduate qualifications recognized by, or acceptable to the Council. ([Link-- To List of Recognized Postgraduate Qualifications](#))
- 4.4. The applicant shall prove to the satisfaction of the ECSMQ that he is fit and is of good character.
- 4.5. The applicant shall provide documentary evidence of his specialist training in the country of qualification and his registration with the medical regulatory authority in the country in which he obtained specialty training.

- 4.6. Training in a basic specialty shall be at least four (4) years.
- 4.7. For registration in the main specialty, the applicant shall undergo, or should have undergone, supervised post qualification work experiences of not less than one (1) year.
- 4.8. Applicant who possess recognized specialty qualification and have further training in the related subspecialty may seek registration in the specialty and subspecialty simultaneously.

For a person to be eligible for registration in a recognized field of practice (subspecialty) he shall:

- 4.8.1. Possess a recognized postgraduate qualification and training in the relevant Basic Specialty;
- 4.8.2. Has satisfactorily completed the three (3) years “Fellowship” programme of the Ministry of Health in the subspecialty; OR
- 4.8.3. Has undergone training in a recognized field of practice that meets the standards required by the Evaluation Committee. The training programme shall be benchmarked against the local “Fellowship” programme or acceptable International Standards;

5. Practitioner with Specialty Qualifications not Recognized by the Council

A practitioner who has specialty qualifications not recognized by the Council may be considered under special circumstances for registration based on his experience and standing and national needs, and on the following conditions:

- 5.1. The specialty training programme he has undergone meets the standards required by the Council. In evaluating the programme, it shall be benchmarked against the local recognized postgraduate programmes in terms of entry qualifications, duration and standards of training, and examination system.
Where there is no local programme, it shall be benchmarked against foreign programmes as determined by the Evaluation Committee for Specialist Medical Qualifications. Such programmes are usually those in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United States and Singapore;
- 5.2. He has met the professional requirements for the relevant specialty supported by portfolios, log books, certificates of completion of training etc;

- 5.3. He has provided reports from supervisors attesting to the training he has undergone including content, cases managed, procedures performed etc;
- 5.4. He has at least five (5) years of experience in the specialty after obtaining his specialty qualification, out of which at least four (4) years must be in hospitals of adequate size and standing.
- 5.5. Where appropriate, he may be subjected to assessments by the ECSMQs. Assessments may be in the form of interviews.
- 5.6. Where interview is required, there shall be a formal interview panel consisting of members from the relevant Specialty Subcommittees. The interview shall be structured to meet its objective which shall include: [\(Link—Interview Guidelines\)](#)
 - (i) establish if the applicant has attended a postgraduate training programme which is equivalent to the local recognized postgraduate programme;
 - (ii) ascertaining if has the necessary knowledge, competence and experience to practice as an independent specialist in Malaysia;
 - (iii) ascertaining if he has acceptable referees and recommendation.

6. Documents to be submitted.

All applications shall be accompanied by the following documents:

- 6.1. Certified true copies of primary and specialist medical qualifications.
- 6.2. Certified true copy of full registration from medical regulatory authority in which the applicant last practiced.
- 6.3. Letter of good standing from medical regulatory authority in which the applicant last practiced.
- 6.4. Fitness to practice declaration.
- 6.5. Updated curriculum vitae which include:
 - i. summary of hospitals/institutions worked in,
 - ii. summary and evidence of training received in the specialty and competencies attained,
 - iii. professional work experience in the specialty (clinical, research and/or academic where available),

- 6.6. Reports from two referees who are professionally acquainted with the applicant. Except in unavoidable circumstances, the referees shall not be the applicant's subordinates or relatives.
- 6.7. **Referees should be** NSR Registered with the exception of those from overseas. Referee must have qualified as specialist in the specialty for at least five years.
- 6.8. Certified true copy of passport, where applicable.

Updated 4 April 2019, presented at JKP2 11 April 2019