



# SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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CEOs, Chairman of Medical Boards, Directors &  
General Managers of Healthcare Institutions  
(Please see distribution list)

## REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES (IMGs) FROM THE USA, CANADA AND TWINNING PROGRAMMES

Currently many medical schools in USA and Canada as well as medical schools with off-site campuses (twinning programmes) are included in the List of Registrable Basic Medical Qualifications in the Schedule (attached) under the Medical Registration Act.

2. SMC has decided that for medical schools in the Schedule, Singapore's registration and accreditation requirements for medical schools from these source countries must be the same as those in the source countries before their doctors are licensed to practise. Hence,

### i) International Medical Graduates (IMGs) from recognized medical schools in the USA and Canada

- Must pass the relevant final national licensing examinations, namely the United States Medical Licensing Examination Step 3 (USMLE Step 3) or the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination Part II (MCCEE Part II) in the respective countries before they can be eligible for conditional or full registration in Singapore. Such national licensing examinations are an integral part of the graduate's total training and assessment before he/she can practise as a doctor.
- Provisional or conditional registration will not be allowed for medical graduates who have not passed such licensing exams in the country where they obtained their basic medical qualifications, even if they have completed housemanship or are registered in another country. The curriculum and training in such medical schools can differ from countries without licensing exams e.g. UK, Australia and Singapore. However, the SMC would review on a case-by-case basis, if such medical graduates have attained specialist registration and acquired registrable postgraduate qualifications recognised in Singapore.

- Provisionally registered doctors from the US and Canadian schools who have not taken their licensing exams and who were recently employed by Singapore hospitals prior to this notification, will be allowed to do housemanship in Singapore. However, the SMC will not grant them conditional or full registration until they passed USMLE Step 3 or MCCEE Part II besides having acceptable housemanship assessment reports.
- ii) **Twinning Programmes - IMGs from recognized medical schools with off-site campuses in the preclinical years**
- Such doctors must pass their final medical examinations in the primary medical school (as listed in the Schedule) of the country of origin after completing the **clinical years** in the medical school of the country of origin before they can be considered for provisional, conditional or full registration in Singapore.
  - Additionally where there is a national licensing examination as in (i) above, the IMGs will be expected to pass such licensing examination before SMC considers their applications for medical registration.
- iii) **Twinning Programmes - IMGs from schools with off-site campuses for the entire course or for the clinical years**
- Medical schools off-site from the main campus e.g. in another city or country either for the whole course or for the clinical years will not be recognised by SMC with immediate effect. Where invited, the SMC may reassess the programme for accreditation in future or if there is a change in training arrangements for such medical schools.
  - For doctors from such schools currently admitted into our register and granted provisional registration by SMC, conversion to conditional registration will only be contingent on good assessment reports and an offer of employment by one of the healthcare clusters.
  - Singaporean medical undergraduates who have been admitted to such medical colleges **prior to this announcement** would also be given consideration for provisional medical registration in future in order not to penalize them.

3. Please bring this notice to the attention of relevant staff in your organizations for compliance. For clarification, please contact the SMC Secretariat at Tel: 6372-3073/74. Thank you.



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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL