



SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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CEOs, Directors, General Managers and Clinic Managers
(Please see distribution list)

VERIFICATION OF VISITING EXPERTS' STATUS FOR MEDICAL REGISTRATION WITH THE SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

The Singapore Medical Council (SMC) grants temporary medical registration under the Medical Registration Act to cover the short period of time for visiting experts to perform clinical procedures, demonstrations at workshops or to perform surgical operations on selected patients in approved healthcare institutions. Many of these were HMDP experts or experts who came to demonstrate at international conferences held in Singapore. Such experts have been admitted under temporary registration using the Medical Registration S23 (1)(b)

Temporary registration

23. – (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, any person –

(b) who possesses medical knowledge, experience and skill which the Medical Council considers to be of international standing or are such as to have special value to the people of Singapore.....

may be registered temporarily as a medical practitioner in the Register of Temporarily Registered Medical Practitioners for so long as he continues to engage himself exclusively in teaching, research.....

2. Increasingly SMC have noted that visiting experts are also invited by the private sector institutions or by individual specialist clinics in the private sector. It was also noted that a number of such experts were brought in at short notice. There was very little time for SMC to check the veracity and recognition of their expertise, their special value to the people of Singapore or whether they were brought in despite it being known that there were already such medical experts available in Singapore.

3. SMC thus may be unable to verify whether such experts are recognized by their peers in Singapore to be truly experts unlike many of eminent HMDP experts or those who are internationally recognized. Hence to safeguard medical standards and ensure that patients managed by such experts are assured of their credentials, *with immediate effect*, the SMC will require the sponsoring hospital or institution for such visiting experts, to submit the following with the application for temporary medical registration:

- (i) A letter of verification that the visiting expert is truly an expert in his/her field of practice and
- (ii) Written confirmation that the expertise of such experts are not available in Singapore at that point in time.

4. Letters of verification (i) and written confirmations (ii) must be from the Heads of Departments and Chairman Medical Board for restructured institutions or Statutory Boards or the President/ Chapter Chairmen¹ of relevant Colleges or Chapters of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore if the host institutions are voluntary welfare organizations (VWO) or private medical practices.

5. Please bring this notice to the attention of all doctors in your institution, hospital or organisation for compliance. For clarification for individual cases currently being processed, please contact the SMC Secretariat at Tel: 6372-3073/74. Thank you.

Yours sincerely



DR LAU HONG CHOON
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

cc: Master, Academy of Singapore

Presidents of College, Chairmen of Chapters, Academy of Singapore

Academy and College Secretariats

¹ If the President or Chapter Chairman are not available, vice Presidents or deputies can sign on their behalf.