



SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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CEOs, Chairmen of Medical Boards and Directors of Healthcare Institutions
HR Directors and Directors of Medical Manpower

Dear Sirs

REVISED FRAMEWORK FOR POSTGRADUATE TRAINING OF TEMPORARY REGISTERED DOCTORS FROM MEDICAL SCHOOLS NOT LISTED IN THE SCHEDULE

- 1 On 1 Jan 2008, the Singapore Medical Council ("the SMC") implemented a framework to allow doctors with qualifications from non-scheduled medical schools, to obtain temporary registration ("T-reg") and receive postgraduate training in Singapore ("the Framework").
2. This circular serves to remind you of the Framework, as well to provide an update on revisions to medical registration for doctors under the Framework.
3. **Training Programmes**
 - (a) Departments with training programmes accredited by the SMC ("SMC-Approved Programmes") are allowed to host T-reg doctors for postgraduate training under specific clinical fellowship programmes, as either clinical fellows or clinical observers.
 - (b) SMC-Approved Programmes are accredited for up to five (5) years, following which, the institutions offering such training will have to re-apply for accreditation.
 - (c) Please note that notwithstanding paragraph 3(b) above, the SMC reserves the right to withdraw its accreditation for any of the SMC-Approved Programmes at any time if there are reasonable grounds, in the opinion of the SMC, for such cancellation.

4. Duration of Training Programmes

The SMC has recently concluded a review of the Framework, and revised the standard period of time granted for all training programmes. The maximum period allowed for such training programmes will be revised as follows:

- For Clinical Fellowships - 12 months only
- For Clinical Observer-ships - 3 months only.

5. **Medical Registration**

Further, the maximum period allowed for successful T-reg applications will be revised as follows:

- For clinical fellows - 12 months only
- For clinical observers - 3 months only.

6. The revisions in paragraphs 4 and 5 above shall come into effect from the date of this circular.

7. Notwithstanding paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the SMC may consider requests, in exceptional cases, for extensions of the maximum periods stated therein. Clinical fellows / observers and institutions are required to justify their applications for extension of registration.

8. As a result of this revised framework, Program Directors of SMC-Approved Programmes are requested to submit a fresh training programme with the revised curriculum in order to cater for the revised maximum durations, for re-accreditation by the SMC.

9. To avoid delays in applications for re-accreditation and accreditation (of new training programmes), training institutions are advised to provide the following information to the SMC:

- Name of Programme Director
- Minimum entry requirements for application
- Duration of programme
- Objective(s) of the programme
- Components of training (clinical and/or non-clinical)
- Frequency of training
- Method of training delivery
- Hospitals and Clinical Departments in which trainees will be rotated through;
- Method(s) of trainee supervision
- Method(s) of trainee assessment;
- Criteria for early termination of programme
- Feedback and Counselling procedures (between supervisors and trainees)

10. Please also note that under this revised framework:

- (a) clinical observers and clinical fellows cannot switch between SMC-Approved Programmes; and
- (b) the SMC will not grant extensions of T-reg, or approve other forms of medical registration, after a doctor's T-reg has lapsed.

11. Kindly advise relevant staff in your organisation of the contents of this circular, for their necessary attention.

12. Please contact either Guessie Chan (Guessie_Chan@smc.gov.sg) or Huang Huiwen (Huang_Huiwen@smc.gov.sg) should you require further clarification.

Yours faithfully



DR TAN CHOR HIANG
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
(ADMINISTRATION, REGISTRATION, ACCREDITATION & SURVEILLANCE)

SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

c.c: Group CEO, Singapore Health Services
CEO, National Healthcare Group

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