



SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL

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TO: ALL REGISTERED DENTAL PRACTITIONERS

MANDATORY ETHICS SELF-ASSESSMENT EXERCISE (ESAE) FOR RENEWAL OF PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (PC) FROM 2025 / 2026

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Health (MOH) Healthcare Ethics Capability Committee (HECC), the Singapore Dental Council will be implementing a mandatory on-line Ethics Self-Assessment Exercise (ESAE) as a requirement for the renewal of Practising Certificates (PC) for all dental practitioners.

2 The intent of ESAE is to raise the awareness and understanding of SDC's Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines 2018 (ECEG) and ensure that all dental practitioners are kept abreast of the applicable standards of ethical practice required in the discharge of their professional duties and responsibilities.

3 Currently, Dentists and Oral Health Therapists (OHTs) must fulfil the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) and Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) requirements to renew their PC biennially. For dentist PC validity that starts from 1 January 2026, Table 1 shows the additional requirement for the Qualifying Period (QP) 01/10/2023 – 30/09/2025 to be fulfilled when dentists apply for PC renewal from 1 October 2025. For OHT PC validity that starts from 1 January 2027, Table 1 shows the additional requirement for the QP 01/10/2024 – 30/09/2026 to be fulfilled when OHTs apply for PC renewal from 1 October 2026.

Table 1. Requirements for PC Renewal from Dentists' PC Renewal 2025 (QP 01/10/2023 – 30/09/2025) & OHTs' PC Renewal 2026 (QP 01/10/2024 – 30/09/2026)

Register Type		CPE	BCLS	ESAE [Additional requirement]
Dentists	Division I	70 points	Practical & theory ¹ (6 points)	80% passing mark (5 points)
	Division II	35 points		
OHTs	–	35 points	Theory ² (4 points)	

¹ Fulfillment of BCLS (practical & theory) is a mandatory requirement for renewal of Dentist PC biennially. Dentists who are 55 years old and above are only required to fulfil BCLS (theory).

² Fulfillment of BCLS (theory) is a mandatory requirement for renewal of OHT PC biennially. BCLS (practical) is optional for OHTs.

4 The on-line ESAE will be administered initially by the College of Dental Surgeons Singapore (CDSS) of the Academy of Medicine Singapore (AMS) in the form of on-line self-learning module. Dental practitioners must complete the module and pass a quiz with a passing mark of 80%. Dental practitioners will be informed at least 1 month ahead of the start of ESAE registration and participation period and given unlimited attempts to pass the quiz during the 3-month period.

5 Dental practitioners need not submit their quiz result to the SDC as their result will be recorded by the on-line ESAE system automatically. It may take up to 1 month for your ESAE participation (only applicable to dental practitioners who have passed the quiz) to be updated and reflected in your Professional Registration System (PRS) record.

6 SDC wishes to advise that the on-line ESAE is not restricted to AMS fellows/ members. **All dental practitioners** who are not fellows/ members of CDSS, AMS will be able to take part in the ESAE. Dentists and OHTs may approach CDSS, AMS directly to register for the ESAE from 1 January 2024 and 1 January 2025 respectively.

7 More details on the registration period and link, fees payable and payment modes etc. will be made available on CDSS, AMS's website at a later date.

8 If you have further enquiries, please contact:

- i. Singapore Dental Council at SDC@spb.gov.sg [for implementation/ policy related enquiries], or
- ii. CDSS, AMS at mdec@ams.edu.sg [for registration and fee payment/ technical related enquiries].

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



A/PROF PATRICK TSENG
PRESIDENT
SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) ON MANDATORY ETHICS SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE (ESAE) FOR DENTAL PRACTITIONERS

Q1	Why was ESAE implemented as a mandatory requirement for practising certificate (PC) renewal?
A1	<p>The National Medical Ethics Committee (NMEC) was tasked to look into avenues and modes to increase the awareness of ethics in the clinical professions and espousal of the principles and ethos underpinning the Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines (ECEG).</p> <p>The Ministry of Health (MOH) Healthcare Ethics Capability Committee (HECC) was also set up to make recommendations to prepare and support healthcare practitioners to be better acquainted with the ECEG to enable them to practise ethically and safely.</p>
Q2	When will the ESAE become a mandatory requirement for PC renewal?
A2	<p>Dentists will need to fulfil the on-line ESAE as part of the requirement for PC renewal from October 2025 (Qualifying Period (QP) 01/10/2023 – 30/09/2025). Dentists can start to register for ESAE starting 01/01/2024.</p> <p>Dentists do not need to fulfil the on-line ESAE requirement for the upcoming PC renewal in October 2023 (QP 01/10/2021 – 30/09/2023).</p> <p>Oral Health Therapists (OHTs) will need to fulfil the on-line ESAE as part of the requirement for PC renewal from October 2026 (QP 01/10/2024 – 30/09/2026). OHTs can start to register for ESAE starting 01/01/2025.</p> <p>OHTs do not need to fulfil the on-line ESAE requirement for the upcoming PC renewal in October 2024 (QP 01/10/2022 – 30/09/2024).</p>
Q3	Can I request for exemption from the on-line ESAE?
A3	<p>The on-line ESAE is a mandatory requirement for all dentists starting from PC renewal 2025 and all OHTs starting from PC renewal 2026. All dental practitioners regardless of age group must pass the ESAE to renew their PC. There will be no exemption from the ESAE.</p>
Q4	How and when do I access the ESAE?
A4	<p>Dental practitioners may approach the College of Dental Surgeons Singapore (CDSS) of the Academy of Medicine Singapore (AMS) to register for the on-line ESAE starting from 1 January 2024 (for dentists) and 1 January 2025 (for OHTs). Please visit CDSS, AMS's website for more information on the registration period and link, fees payable and payment modes etc. closer to date.</p>

Q5	I am not a member of CDSS, AMS, can I participate in the ESAE?
A5	Currently, CDSS, AMS is the only provider for SDC's mandatory ethics requirement. The on-line ESAE is not restricted to AMS fellows/ members only. All dental practitioners will be able to take part in the on-line ESAE by CDSS, AMS.
Q6	What is the passing requirement for the ESAE?
A6	Dental practitioners must complete all modules and attain at least 80% in the quiz to pass the on-line ESAE. There will be unlimited attempts within a 3-month period from the start of your ESAE registration.
Q7	Do I need to submit my ESAE results on the Professional Registration System (PRS)?
A7	The ESAE results will be recorded by the on-line ESAE system. For dental practitioners who have passed the quiz, their results will be updated on the PRS directly (it may take up to 1 month for your ESAE participation to be updated and reflected in your PRS record).
Q8	How many points will I receive from the ESAE?
A8	Dental practitioners will be required to complete compulsory self-learning modules and attain at least 80% passing mark in the quiz. Please refer to Q10 for the common themes. Dental practitioners will receive 5 core CPE points from completion of all modules and passing the ESAE quiz. These 5 core points will be counted towards the 70 CPE points requirement (of which 14 must be core points).
Q9	What happens if I fail the on-line ESAE?
A9	Dental practitioners will have unlimited attempts within a 3-month period from the start of their ESAE registration to attain a passing mark of at least 80%. Dental practitioners will not be able to renew their PC if they fail to pass the on-line ESAE.
Q10	What is the content covered in the ESAE?
A10	<p>A randomised set of 20 questions will be generated for each attempt, which includes the following common themes in complaints. Please refer to the ECEG 2018 for guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient Management/ Treatment • Patient Consent • Communication • Interpersonal Behaviour • Record Keeping • Professional Negligence • Supervision • Patient Confidentiality • Honesty (i.e. concerns over cheating and fraud)