



SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL

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SDC Circular No. 5/2020

Ref: SDC 13.1

7 April 2020

TO: ALL REGISTERED DENTAL PRACTITIONERS

FULFILLING CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CPE) POINTS REQUIREMENT VIA ONLINE PLATFORM

Arising from the evolving COVID-19 situation, the DORSCON level was raised from Yellow to Orange on 7 February 2020. Event organisers have also been advised to defer or cancel their events to minimise social interactions.

2 The Singapore Dental Council (Council) noted that several CPE events have since been cancelled or postponed. At the same time, some CPE providers have taken good initiative to explore online learning such as live streaming or webinar as an alternative platform to conduct their CPE events.

3 Council has also received feedback from some dental practitioners expressing concerns that they may not be able to fulfil their CPE points requirement with the continued cancellation or postponement of local CPE events under Category 1B, should the COVID-19 situation persists.

4 Council has issued a Circular dated 20 March 2020 (Circular No. 4/2020) to all accredited CPE providers to encourage them to expand their scope of continuing education curriculum and explore online learning in place of face-to-face events. Council would like to reassure our dental practitioners that CPE points would be accorded to all accredited online CPE events as well as re-telecast recorded lectures for dental practitioners who have missed or were unable to attend the initial live streaming of the online CPE event. Please check on the availability of these re-telecast recorded lectures with the respective CPE providers directly.

5 Council would also like to clarify that there is no cap to the number of CPE points which dental practitioners can attain under Category 1B (local events). Dental practitioners can fulfil their CPE requirements by solely attending online CPE events.

6 The safety, health and wellbeing of our dental practitioners are of Council's utmost concerns. Council understands the challenges that you face to search for and attend CPE events during such times. In view of this, Council would grant a one-month extension of the current Qualifying Period (QP). The extended Dentist QP would be from 1 October 2019 – 31 October 2021 and the extended Oral Health Therapist (OHT) QP would be from 1 October 2018 – 31 October 2020.

7 In addition, Council would also grant a special consideration and allow for an increase of cap for Category 3A (self-study) and Category 3B (distance learning) from the current 20 points to 40 points till the end of the extended QP as stated in Paragraph 6. With this increase, dental practitioners can accumulate up to 40 points each from these two online categories towards meeting the requirements for Practising Certificate (PC) renewal in 2020 and 2021. Please note that the current CPE points requirement of 70 points (with at least 14 core points) for dentists and 35 points (with at least 7 core points) for OHTs remains unchanged.

8 The extended QP would also apply to the Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) requirement. Council would make a ONE-OFF special exemption to allow all dentists to only fulfil the BCLS (theory) component for this extended QP. However, dentists can do both the theory and practical if they wish to do so. Dentists have up till 31 October 2021 to submit their BCLS (theory)¹ and OHTs have up till 31 October 2020 to submit their BCLS (theory)². Do note that BCLS (theory) certification can be attained online. 6 CPE points would be accorded for BCLS (practical + theory) and 4 CPE points for BCLS (theory). The list of providers can be found on the Singapore Resuscitation and First Aid Council (SRFAC) website, <http://srfac.sg>. The BCLS certification should be submitted via the Professional Registration System (PRS) under

- “Submit CPE Claims” -> Category 1C -> Certification.

9 Finally, Council would like to urge all dental practitioners to make full use of the online platform to fulfil their CPE points requirement and continue to stay updated on the latest dentistry management and practices from home or office using computers, tablets or smartphones. Council would continue to monitor the situation closely and evaluate the need for additional measures, if required at the end of 2020, so as to assist and support our dental practitioners during this challenging time.

10 If you have further enquiries, please contact Council at SDC@spb.gov.sg.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



A/PROF CHNG CHAI KIAT
REGISTRAR
SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL

¹ **BCLS requirement for dentists**

Fulfillment of BCLS (practical & theory) is a mandatory requirement for renewal of dentist PC biennially. Dentists who are 60 years old and above are only required to fulfil BCLS (theory). Council would make a ONE-OFF special exemption to allow all dentists to only fulfil the BCLS (theory) component for QP 01/10/2019 – 31/10/2021.

² **BCLS requirement for OHTs**

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