



SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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Circular No.1/2012

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To All Doctors Registered with Singapore Medical Council as of 31st December 2012

Dear Doctor

1. The Singapore Medical Council will be introducing a new IT system to deliver better e-services to our medical professionals. The Council has taken this opportunity to improve several of its processes, and to align the Practising Certificate (PC) validity period to the current CME qualifying period.
2. Currently, to renew the PC, doctors must accumulate 50 CME points in the CME **qualifying period**. This is a period of 2 calendar years ending on 31 December in the year preceding the year in which the PC expires.
3. As the validity period of the PC follows the date of issue of the PC and not the calendar years for getting requisite CME points, there can be in some instances up to a year of validity left in the PC even when the CME requirements have not been met. With this mismatch between the CME qualifying period and the validity period of the PC, doctors can continue to practice when they have not kept up with the required continuing medical education.
4. To avoid this undesirable mismatch in the system we need to realign the renewal date of PCs to be immediately after the CME qualifying period. As such the validity period of all PCs should also end on 31st December so that regardless of when a doctor has registered or registers with SMC, his next PC will be renewed on the next 1st January (for a 1 year PC), or the following 1st January (for a 2 year PC). If a doctor's PC does not start on 1st January, a PC with a shorter duration will be issued so that the next renewal will fall on a 1st January.
5. To manage this transition from the old to the new system there will be a transitional year when CME points will not be counted. If your PC expires in the years 2013 or 2014, your PC will be renewed regardless of the number of CME points obtained in the preceding qualifying period.
6. All PCs issued, starting from 2013, will be aligned to end on 31 December. The CME qualifying period will be synchronised with the validity periods of PCs for PCs issued from 1 January 2014. Please refer to the Appendix for examples.

7. PC fees will be prorated for those whose PC validity periods are shortened upon renewal under this exercise.
8. The waiver of CME points as well as the proration of PC renewal fees, as described above, applies to doctors who are fully or conditionally registered and have a valid PC. Doctors on the SMC's register who are applying for a new PC after their PC has lapsed, in contrast to those renewing their PCs, will be required to meet the full CME requirements to be accrued within 2 years preceding the date of the PC application. They will also need to pay the full PC application fees.
9. **We trust that despite the waiver of CME requirements for renewal of PCs, doctors will continue to avail themselves of the many opportunities for upgrading and updating their knowledge and skills during this period. We will inform all doctors once the new IT system is functioning. Doctors may then use the system to monitor their CME activities even during the period when it is not mandatory.**
10. If you have queries or suggestions relevant to this notice, please contact us at enquiries@smc.gov.sg.
11. Thank you.



PROFESSOR TAN SER KIAT
PRESIDENT
SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

Example 1 (for a PC that has been issued before or on 1st January 2013):

Current PC issue date	= 2 nd June 2012
Expiry date	= 1 st June 2014 (CME will be waived for the renewal of the next PC)
Next PC validity duration	= 2 nd June 2014 to 31 Dec 2015 (CME Qualifying Period (QP) will run concurrently and doctor's CME requirement will be prorated accordingly for PC renewal on 1 st January 2016 and PC application fees will be prorated)

Example 2 (for the renewal of PC that will be issued after 1st January 2013):

Current PC expiry date	= 31 st January 2013
New PC issue date	= 1 st February 2013 (CME will be waived for the issue of this PC and PC application fees will be prorated)
New PC Expiry date	= 31 st December 2014 (CME will be waived for the renewal of the next PC)
Next PC validity period	= 1 st January 2015 to 31 st December 2016 (CME QP will run concurrently and doctor will need 50 CME points to renew PC on 1 st January 2017 and full fees for PC application)