



SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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CHANGES TO THE SMC REGISTRATION AND SUPERVISORY FRAMEWORK

1. The Singapore Medical Council (SMC) has recently reviewed the criteria for applications for Full Registration (F-reg), Conditional Registration (C-reg) and Temporary Registration (T-reg), and its Supervisory Framework.
2. Unless otherwise indicated, the changes will take effect from the date of this circular.

CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION

(A) List of Medical Qualifications Eligible for Consideration for Conditional Registration

3. The SMC has renamed its list of registrable postgraduate qualifications to "**List of Medical Qualifications Eligible for Consideration for Conditional Registration**" (**List**). The SMC has also reviewed and updated the medical qualifications in the List. Doctors whose basic qualifications are not in the Second Schedule of the Medical Registration Act may only be considered for C-reg if their postgraduate qualifications are in the List, *subject to their having met other prevailing SMC requirements*. The List can be found at:

http://www.healthprofessionals.gov.sg/content/dam/hprof/smc/docs/becoming_registered_doctor/List%20of%20Registrable%20Postgraduate%20Medical%20Qualifications.pdf

(B) Staff Registrar Scheme Diplomas (conferred by Academy of Medicine Singapore)

4. The Staff Registrar Scheme (SRS) diplomas will no longer be recognised for C-reg. However, *existing T-reg doctors who have enrolled and commenced* in one of the 28 SMC-approved SRS diploma programmes **by 30 June 2018**, and **successfully completed the programme and conferred the SRS diploma at the latest by 30 June 2021**, may be considered for C-reg. Any T-reg doctor who *starts* the SRS diploma programme after 30 June 2018 will not be considered for C-reg.

(C) Aesthetic Practice and General Health Screening Services

5. Doctors who apply for C-reg, change of employer and/or practice place(s), will not be allowed to provide aesthetic services. If they are providing general health screening services, such services should not exceed 20% of their clinical caseload¹. Applications for C-reg must include a declaration of the scope of the doctor's practice in the Employer's Letter of Offer, and the employer and appointed supervisor must provide a Letter of Undertaking (i.e. [SMC SF Annex C](#)) that they will ensure that the supervisee complies with this requirement.

6. For existing C-reg doctors who are *currently* providing aesthetic services or general health screening services², the C-reg period in such practices beginning **1 January 2018** will not be considered as supervised practice qualifying the doctor to apply for F-reg. If they continue to be employed in aesthetic practices and general health screening services, such period will not qualify as supervised practice for the purpose of a F-reg application. For their C-reg period to qualify as supervised practice for the purpose of a F-reg application, they can consider switching to non-aesthetic clinical practice or clinical work comprising not more than 20% health screening services. They will have to submit the new SMC SF Annex C to make the change.

(D) Eligibility Criteria for Conditionally Registered Doctors to Work in Private Practice

7. Approved categories³ of C-reg doctors may apply to work in private practice after they have progressed to **Level 3** supervision, subject to the doctors' performance being consistently satisfactory during their period of C-reg⁴.

FULL REGISTRATION

(A) Doctors Conditionally Registered by Registrable Postgraduate Qualifications

New Conditionally Registered Doctors

8. Newly registered doctors who obtain C-reg by virtue of a *postgraduate qualification registrable with the SMC* (i.e. postgraduate qualification found in the List) may be considered for F-reg if their performance is consistently satisfactory and they:

- a) are accredited as a specialist in a core⁵ specialty by the Specialists Accreditation Board (SAB), and have fulfilled two years of supervised practice under C-reg in the new role as a specialist⁶; or
- b) obtained a *registrable* postgraduate Family Medicine (FM) qualification and accredited as a Family Physician (FP) by the Family Physicians Accreditation Board (FPAB) and have fulfilled two years (for Singapore citizens) or four years (for non-Singapore citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents (SPR)) of supervised practice under C-reg in the new role as a FP.

¹ 20% of **cases** seen by the C-reg doctors

² Practice of general health screening should not exceed 20% of their clinical caseload.

³ Does not apply to those who obtain C-reg through SMC-approved SRS diplomas.

⁴ Based on SMC's assessment reports and/or multi-rater reports.

⁵ Refers to the 35 core specialties recognised by the SAB.

⁶ Refers to a specialist without restricted scope and condition(s) imposed on his specialist registration.

Existing Conditionally Registered Doctors

9. Existing doctors who have obtained C-reg by virtue of a postgraduate qualification which is registrable with the SMC and fulfilled the specified period of supervised practice before 1 July 2018 may be considered for F-reg, subject to the following criteria:

- a) The doctor's performance during the entire C-reg is considered satisfactory by the SMC;
- b) The doctor is on Level 2 supervision for at least 6 months;
- c) The doctor has taken the SMC's Physician's Pledge;
- d) The doctor's application is supported by the Head of Department, and Chairman Medical Board or the Medical Director of his current practice place; and
- e) The doctor's C-reg is not subjected to a restricted scope of practice.

10. For existing doctors who have obtained C-reg by virtue of a postgraduate qualification which is registrable with the SMC, and have not met the specified period of supervised practice before 1 July 2018, the SMC will review their applications based on prevailing criteria as stated in their SMC C-reg approval letter.

(B) Doctors Conditionally Registered by SMC-approved SRS Diplomas

11. Doctors who have obtained C-reg by virtue of an SMC-approved SRS diploma for registration and have restricted scope of practice will not be considered for F-reg unless they:

- a) are accredited as a specialist in a core specialty by the SAB, and have fulfilled two years of supervised practice under C-reg in the new role as a specialist; or
- b) have *obtained a registrable postgraduate FM qualification* and be accredited as a FP by the FPAB, and have fulfilled two years (for Singapore citizens) or four years (for non-Singapore citizens and SPR) of supervised practice under C-reg in the new role as a FP.

(C) Period of Supervised Practice under Conditional Registration

12. With effect from 1 January 2018, the period of supervised practice under C-reg required for an application for F-reg as a specialist will be two years for both Singapore citizens, and non-Singapore citizens and SPR. There are no changes to the current period of supervised practice towards consideration for F-reg for a non-specialist (i.e. two years for Singapore citizens and four years for non-Singapore citizens and SPR).

13. Specialists who obtain C-reg on or after 1 January 2018 will have to satisfy the revised requirements for supervised practice to be considered for F-reg, along with any other prevailing requirements.

(D) Non-clinical or Administrative Postings

14. For C-reg doctors who have entered into a non-clinical or administrative posting on or after 1 July 2018, the period of such posting will not be considered as supervised practice for the purpose of a F-reg application.

15. C-reg doctors who are in predominantly non-clinical residency programmes⁷ may be considered for F-reg if they fulfil the required period of clinical practice during training, or are accredited and registered as a specialist.

REVISED SUPERVISORY FRAMEWORK

16. The SMC has revised the criteria for supervisors under its Supervisory Framework to enhance supervision.

REVISED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SUPERVISORS

For Hospitals/Specialty Centres, supervisors must be:

- (i) Fully registered with SMC; and
- (ii) Designated Registrar*/ Senior Resident and above or registered specialist

Designated Registrars*/ Senior Residents can only supervise conditionally/temporarily registered Medical Officers (or equivalent) who are in their first or second year in the local healthcare system

* Designated Registrars must have a postgraduate qualification which is considered as an intermediate qualification relevant to the specialty/department.

For General Practices (Polyclinics, GP clinics), supervisors must:

- (i) be fully registered with SMC; and
- (ii) have at least 5 years of experience in general practice in Singapore; OR
- (iii) be a registered Family Physician in Singapore.

For Step-down Care (VWOs, Community Hospitals, Hospices), supervisors must:

- (i) be fully registered with SMC; and
- (ii) have at least 5 years of experience in relevant hospital/ community services (VWOs, community hospitals, hospices) in Singapore; OR
- (iii) be an on-site registered Family Physician or Specialist (e.g. Geriatrician, Palliative Medicine Physician, Rehabilitation Physician, General Physician) in Singapore.

The supervisor[#] must work on a full-time basis in the same department or practice place as the supervisee and provide timely and direct supervision.

[#] The supervisor should be equivalent or of a higher designation than the supervisee. Where the supervisee is a specialist, the supervisor must be of higher seniority. SMC may also consider other criteria when assessing the suitability of the supervisor.

In cases where the doctor works in an approved secondary practice place(s), the SMC-approved primary supervisor is required to solicit feedback from the secondary supervisor(s) in completing the doctor's periodic assessment reports.

17. The updated Supervisory Framework ([Annex A](#)), Letter of Confirmation by Healthcare Institution / Medical Practice ([Annex B](#)), and Letter of Undertaking by Prospective Supervisor ([Annex C](#)) are enclosed for reference and use. Please ensure that the Heads of Department and supervisors for the C-reg and T-reg doctors are fully aware of the updated documents which can be downloaded from the SMC website for use when required.

⁷ For example, the Preventive Medicine (Public Health) residency programme.

18. This circular should be brought to the attention of all relevant staff and doctors in your institution or organisation.

19. The following SMC email addresses are to be used for any queries on:

- a) Registration matters - SMC_registration_alert@smc.gov.sg
- b) Supervision matters - SMC_surveillance_alert@smc.gov.sg

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



MRS JOANNA TAN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
for PRESIDENT
SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

List of Approved Diplomas under the Staff Registrar Scheme

S/N	Name of Qualification	Approved Display of Qualification
1.	Diploma in Anaesthesiology	Dip (Anaesthesiology) (AMS)
2.	Diploma in Cardiology	Dip (Cardiology) (AMS)
3.	Diploma in Cardiothoracic Surgery	Dip (Cardiothoracic Surgery) (AMS)
4.	Diploma in Clinical Haematology (Adult)	Dip (Clinical Haematology Adult) (AMS)
5.	Diploma in Endocrinology	Dip (Endocrinology) (AMS)
6.	Diploma in Emergency Medicine	Dip (Emergency Medicine) (AMS)
7.	Diploma in Geriatric Medicine in Hospital and ILTC (Intermediate & Long Term Care)	Dip (Geriatric Medicine & ILTC) (AMS)
8.	Diploma in Haematology (Transfusion Medicine)	Dip (Haematology-Transfusion Medicine) (AMS)
9.	Diploma in Hand Surgery	Dip (Hand Surgery) (AMS)
10.	Diploma in Infectious Diseases	Dip (Infectious Diseases) (AMS)
11.	Diploma in Internal Medicine (with focus on Hospital Medicine)	Dip (Internal Medicine) (AMS)
12.	Diploma in Medical Oncology in Hospital	Dip (Medical Oncology) (AMS)
13.	Diploma in Neonatology	Dip (Neonatology) (AMS)
14.	Diploma in Neurology	Dip (Neurology) (AMS)
15.	Diploma in Neurosurgery	Dip (Neurosurgery) (AMS)
16.	Diploma in Nuclear Medicine	Dip (Nuclear Med) (AMS)
17.	Diploma in Obstetrics & Gynaecology	Dip (O&G) (AMS)
18.	Diploma in Orthopaedic Surgery	Dip (Orthopaedic Surgery) (AMS)
19.	Diploma in Paediatric Cancer <u>Care</u>	Dip (Paed Cancer Care) (AMS)
20.	Diploma in Paediatrics and Child Health	Dip (Paeds & Child Health) (AMS)
21.	Diploma in Palliative Medicine	Dip (Palliative Medicine) (AMS)
22.	Diploma in Pathology	Dip (Pathology) (AMS)
23.	Diploma in Psychiatry	Dip (Psychiatry) (AMS)
24.	Diploma in Radiation Oncology	Dip (Radiation Oncology) (AMS)
25.	Diploma in Rehabilitation Medicine	Dip (Rehab Med) (AMS)
26.	Diploma in Respiratory Medicine	Dip (Respiratory Med) (AMS)
27.	Diploma in Respiratory Medicine (Clinical & Public Health - TB)	Dip (Respiratory Med) (AMS)
28.	Diploma in Urology	Dip (Urology) (AMS)