



SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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See Distribution List

SUPPORTING TESTIMONIAL FOR APPLICATION FOR FULL REGISTRATION

The Singapore Medical Council (SMC) may grant Full registration (F-reg) to a Conditionally registered (C-reg) doctor if the doctor is assessed to have met SMC's prevailing requirements for registration. One of the requirements is a supporting testimonial from the Head of Department (HOD) and Chairman Medical Board (CMB) / Medical Director (MD) from the institution that the C-reg doctor is/was working in.

2. Healthcare institutions should not deny the C-reg doctor the supporting testimonial if the minimum period of supervised practice as a C-reg doctor for all his/her postings has been attained, and his/her performance has been satisfactory in the institution providing the testimonial.

3. The supporting testimonial should be based on the period that the C-reg doctor is/was with the department and hospital, and not take into account earlier postings in other institutions. The period of assessment must be stated in the testimonial to indicate that the evaluation is based on the said period.

4. As SMC looks at the performance of the doctor for the entire period of his/her supervised practice, the testimonial only forms one facet of its consideration and institutions should not make the requirement for the testimonial (and for F-reg) more onerous than that required by SMC.

5. The purpose of the supporting testimonial is for the HOD and CMB/MD to confirm that the C-reg doctor is competent and safe to be a F-reg doctor in Singapore based on his/her performance in the institution. If the HOD and CMB/ MD are unable to provide the supporting testimonial, the reason(s) should be communicated to the C-reg doctor.

6. SMC's guidance to the HOD and CMB/ MD is that the supporting testimonial should include:

- a) the period of the assessment and the name of the department and institution; and
- b) whether the C-reg doctor's observed performance during the period of posting indicate that he/she is a competent and safe doctor.

7. The guidance to the C-reg doctor when obtaining a supporting testimonial is that the testimonial can be obtained from any department and institution that he/she had practised within the one year from the date of application of F-reg. The C-reg doctor should have spent at least 3 working months in the department for a proper assessment (for example, he/she should not take no-pay leave or long leave in the three months). The testimonial should be recent and written within 6 months from the date of application for F-reg.

8. This Circular takes immediate effect. Please circulate to all relevant staff and C-reg doctors in your institution or organisation. A copy of the Circular can be found in this [link](#) in SMC's website.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



MR PETER LEE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
for REGISTRAR, SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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