SMC CIRCULAR NO. 1/2014

[SMC 13.1.5]

10 February 2014

All Registered Doctors on Conditional Registration

Dear Doctor

LOCUM PRACTICE

1. As there have been previous instances of doctors who were on conditional medical registration working as locums outside their approved designated practice place in contravention of the restrictions imposed on their registration, I am writing to remind you that the grant of conditional medical registration by the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) under section 21 of the Medical Registration Act (MRA) would generally allow such an individual to practise only in a designated healthcare establishment under a supervisor¹ approved by SMC for the duration of a valid employment contract with the employer and on any other conditions² that may be imposed on such medical registration.

2. Typically, this would mean that conditional registrants would be prohibited from working as locums outside of their approved designated practice place, i.e. the department they have been approved to practice in as a medical practitioner as stipulated in the letter of approval.

3. With that in mind, any conditional registrant who wishes to work as a locum should first seek, and obtain, SMC’s approval before embarking on such work. Please note that SMC is empowered to cancel a doctor’s conditional registration in the event of non-compliance of any of the conditions or restrictions imposed on such registration.

4. Please do not hesitate to contact the SMC Secretariat at enquiries@smc.gov.sg should you require further clarifications.

Yours faithfully

A/PROF CHEW SUOK KAI
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
(ADMINISTRATION, REGISTRATION, ACCREDITATION & SURVEILLANCE)
SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

¹ An approved supervisor means a fully registered medical practitioner who meets SMC’s Supervisory Framework to act as a supervisor for conditional/temporary registered doctors.
² Conditions imposed on conditional registration may include but not limited to the following:
   (i) The conditional registrant (C-reg) continues to be employed by the said employer and practises as a medical practitioner in the said department of the designated healthcare institutions only;
   (ii) The C-reg works under Level 1/2/3 supervision of the approved supervisor;
   (iii) The C-reg will be subjected to close supervision in the first 3 months of conditional registration;
   (iv) The C-reg’s performance, based on the assessment and reviews by supervisors and/or other healthcare professionals, is considered by SMC to be satisfactory;
   (v) SMC prior approval is required if the C-reg wishes to go on extended No Pay Leave (NPL) for periods exceeding 3 months in a 12-month period, or for any variation to the doctor’s conditional registration (e.g. change to part-time practice or scope of practice, etc.)