SMC CIRCULAR NO. 5/2020

Ref SMC 13.1.5

30 December 2020

See Distribution List

REVISION TO THE CRITERIA FOR FULL REGISTRATION

1. We refer to the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) Circular No. 2/2018 of 12 December 2018 on the refinements to the criteria for full registration (F-reg) and supervisory framework (Annex).

2. The SMC has reviewed the criteria for F-reg for doctors registered under conditional registration (C-reg) who have not done their Postgraduate Year 1 under provisional registration in Singapore (“PGY1 in Singapore”). For such doctors, SMC will now include Community Hospitals as a practice place for fulfilling the broad-based practice requirement to be eligible for consideration for F-reg.

New Conditionally Registered Doctors

3. With effect from 1 January 2021, non-specialist doctors granted C-reg by virtue of a basic medical qualification listed in the Second Schedule and who have not done PGY1 in Singapore can only apply for F-reg after:

   a) completion of at least 12 months of broad-based practice in General Medicine or Family Medicine; 

   or

   b) completion of 6 months in General Medicine (or Family Medicine) and another 6 months in Internal Medicine related specialties; 

   or

   c) completion of 6 months in General Medicine (or Family Medicine) and another 6 months posting in any of the following specialties: Emergency Medicine,

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1 Family Medicine postings must be in Family Medicine departments or Family Medicine practices recognised under the Family Physicians Accreditation Board for training or specifically recognised by SMC (for example the Accredited Learning Institutions) for conditions under paras 3(a), 3(b) and 3(c). The primary supervisor must be a registered Family Physician approved by SMC.

2 Cardiology, dermatology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, geriatric medicine, haematology, infectious diseases, medical oncology, neurology, rehabilitation medicine, renal medicine, respiratory medicine, rheumatology.
Obstetrics & Gynaecology, General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery and
Paediatric Medicine;

or

d) completion of 6 months of clinical posting in a Community Hospital\(^3\) and
another 6 months in General Medicine\(^4\) or Family Medicine in an acute
hospital\(^5\). [New Condition]

These postings must be done in Singapore prospective to their registration with SMC. The performance in all the broad-based postings stated above must also be considered to be satisfactory by SMC.

C-reg doctors who intend to work in Community Hospitals

4. C-reg doctors who intend to work in Community Hospitals must complete the broad-based requirement first. For example, C-reg doctors can be employed by the Community Hospital (or deployed by MOH Holdings Pte Ltd) for the first 6 months but they must progress in the next 6 months to practise in General Medicine or Family Medicine in an acute hospital and obtain a satisfactory performance before they can return to work in the Community Hospital. If their performance is not satisfactory while practising in the acute hospital, they cannot return to the Community Hospital as they would not be deemed to have fulfilled the broad-based requirement.

Existing C-reg Non-Specialist Doctors

5. Existing C-reg non-specialist doctors currently employed by the Community Hospital should refer to their SMC C-reg approval letter on the criteria for F-reg. If they wish to be considered for the new condition in para 3(d) above, they should inform their hospital’s Human Resource Department to apply to the SMC. If the application is approved, the revised C-reg approval letter will indicate the new condition in para 3(d) for F-reg. The period of Community Hospital practice recognised for fulfilling the requirement for broad-based practice for F-reg will only be recognised if it is from 1 January 2021 ie all Community Hospital postings before 1 January 2021 will not be recognised.

6. Community Hospitals may employ existing C-reg non-specialist doctors who have completed their PGY1 in Singapore or completed their 12 months of broad-based practice requirement for F-reg and are at L2 or L3 supervision with satisfactory performance.

7. C-reg non-specialist doctors who have already completed 6 months practice in General Medicine or Family Medicine in an acute hospital with satisfactory performance and are at L2 or L3 supervision may also be employed by the Community Hospital. The Community Hospital must submit an application to SMC on behalf of the C-reg doctor they wish to employ for the change of practice place and employer. The performance

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\(^3\) Ang Mo Kio-Thye Hua Kwan Hospital, Bright Vision Hospital, Jurong Community Hospital, Outram Community Hospital, Ren Ci Community Hospital, Sengkang Community Hospital, St Andrew’s Community Hospital, St Luke’s Hospital or Yishun Community Hospital.

\(^4\) Must be in General Medicine and not Internal Medicine related specialties such as cardiology, gastroenterology etc.

\(^5\) Unlike options 3(a), 3(b) and 3(c), the Family Medicine posting in 3(d) is restricted to those in the acute hospital only. For example, Polyclinic posting will not be considered as Family Medicine posting in an acute hospital.
criteria to be fulfilled before a change of practice place can be approved will continue to apply.

8. This circular should be brought to the attention of all relevant staff and C-reg doctors in your institution or organisation. Please email your queries to SMC@spb.gov.sg should you require further clarification.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

MR PETER LEE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
for REGISTRAR
SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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