



SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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ALL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

LATEST GUIDELINES ON DISPLAY OF TITLES AND DESIGNATIONS

1. The Singapore Medical Council (SMC) notes that an increasing number of medical practitioners are displaying their titles and designations inappropriately, with the potential to mislead patients and members of the public.

2. Designations used should reflect a doctor's official appointment in a Hospital, Institution or Clinic. In addition, while one may use titles such as Professor, Associate Professor, Adjunct Professor and Honorary Professor as part of their salutation, medical practitioners should only display such titles if:

- (a) The title is currently valid and not a past appointment.
- (b) The title represents a substantive appointment. For overseas universities, there must be a letter of verification.
- (c) Only professorial titles associated with accredited Medical Faculties of accredited Universities in Singapore may be placed before the name of the doctors.
- (d) All other titles must be stated underneath the doctor's name only.

3. Council would also like to remind all registered medical practitioners to comply with the standards set in Sections 64¹ and 65² of the Medical Registration Act (MRA) when they display their qualifications, titles and designations for publicity purposes. Attention is also drawn to sections 4.4.2³ and 4.4.5.1 of the SMC Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines

¹ No registered medical practitioner shall: -

- a. use or exhibit or publish in any card, letter, stationery, nameplate, signboard, placard, circular, handbill or any notice displayed at the premises used by him for the practice of medicine any qualifications other than the qualifications which are entered in any register kept under this Act or which has been approved by the Medical Council; or
- b. use any title, addition or designation other than the title, addition or designation which has been approved by the Medical Council.

² (1) A registered medical practitioner who is not registered under section 22 as a specialist in a branch of medicine shall not -

- a. practise medicine or that branch of medicine under the style or title of a specialist in that branch of medicine, or under any name, title, addition or description implying that he is such a specialist or has any degree, qualification or experience in that branch of medicine; or
- b. advertise or hold himself out as a specialist in that branch of medicine.

³ In general, doctors may provide information about their qualifications, areas of practice, practice arrangements and contact details. Such information, where permitted, shall have the following standards: Factual, Accurate, Verifiable, Not Extravagant claims, Not misleading, Not Sensational, Not Persuasive, Not Laudatory, Not Comparative and Not Disparaging.

with reference to the SMC circular on rules on the display of titles and designations by medical practitioners dated 21 April 2008, which is available on the SMC website www.smc.gov.sg.

4. Doctors are reminded that the addition of a title: Practitioner, Consultant, Expert, Physician, Therapist, or other descriptive (either as a prefix or a suffix) cannot be used in conjunction with their specialty, scope of practice or area of interest. Only specialist titles approved by the Specialist Accreditation Board, Ministry of Health can be used or displayed. For example, the description "*Expert in Interventional Neuroradiology*", Professor in Neurosurgery or "*Senior Consultant Rehabilitation Physician*" will not be allowed. Please refer to Annex A for examples of titles and designations approved for display by the Council.

5. Medical practitioners found contravening these rules will be subjected to disciplinary proceedings.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Satku', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

PROF K SATKU
REGISTRAR
SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

Examples of Display of Titles and Designations approved by SMC

(I) Appointments in Public or Private Institutions

1. Dr <<Name of Doctor>>
Cardiologist
Senior Consultant
Dept of Cardiology
<<Name of Hospital>>
Singapore
Clinical Interest – Electrophysiology

2. Dr <<Name of Doctor>>
Specialist in General Surgery or Specialty: General Surgery or General Surgeon
Senior Consultant
<<Name of Clinic>>
Singapore
Scope of Practice – Laparoscopic surgery

(II) Professorship Titles

3. Professor <<Name of Doctor>>
Obstetrician & Gynaecologist or Specialty: O&G or Specialist in O&G
Professor and Senior Consultant
Division of Maternal and Fetal Medicine
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
National University of Singapore
National University Hospital

4. Dr <<Name of Doctor>>
Anaesthesiologist or Specialty: Anaesthesiology
<<Name of Clinic>>
Singapore
Clinical Professor
Department of Anaesthesiology
<<Name of College and University>>
<<State and Country of Origin of University>>