



Display of Qualifications, Titles and Designations, and Standards Required of Advertising

*T*he SMC issued a circular on 10 June 2022 on the display of qualifications, titles and designations, and the standards required of advertising information. Medical practitioners can refer to the circular and guidelines through [this link](#).

All registered medical practitioners must comply strictly with Sections 64 and 65 of the Medical Registration Act (MRA) when displaying qualifications, titles and designations.

Sections 64 and 65 of the Medical Registration Act

Medical practitioner to use only qualifications entered in register and approved title, etc.

64. – (1) A registered medical practitioner must not –

- (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 qualification 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.

False assumption of title of specialist or family physician

65. – (1) A registered medical practitioner who is not registered under section 22 as a specialist in a branch of medicine must 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.

(1A) A registered medical practitioner who is not registered under section 22A as a family physician must not –

- (a) practise under any name, title, addition or description implying that he is registered under that section as a family physician or has any degree, qualification or experience that could make him eligible for such registration; or
- (b) advertise or hold himself out as being registered as a family physician.

(2) A registered medical practitioner who contravenes subsection (1) or (1A) may be subject to disciplinary proceedings under this Act.

Display of Qualifications

Medical practitioners will only be allowed to display qualifications that are:

- a. entered under their registration details in the Register of Medical Practitioners, the Register of Specialists, or the Register of Family Physicians; **and**,
- b. additional qualifications (AQs) approved by SMC to be entered in a register.

Standards Required of Advertising Information

The circular also drew attention to section G2 of the SMC Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines (2016 Edition), on the standards required of advertising information for compliance. Medical practitioners are to ensure that their qualifications, titles and designations and advertising information if any, are approved or correctly displayed so that they do not mislead patients and members of the public.

