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All Registered Allied Health Professionals
HR Directors/Managers in Healthcare Institutions

CHANGES TO AHPC's ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

This circular informs affected registered allied health professionals (AHP) and institutions and their HR departments on the changes to the English language proficiency (ELP) requirements for registration with the Allied Health Professions Council (AHPC).

BACKGROUND

2 The ability to effectively communicate with patients, caregivers and other healthcare professionals and to document accurately and clearly in the clinical notes is critical to good patient care. Hence registered AHPs are required to be proficient in English as the main medium of communication in Singapore.

CURRENT REQUIREMENTS

3 Registration applicants whose basic professional qualifications are not from Singapore, Australia, Canada (except Quebec), New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States of America, are required to be proficient in English based on the AHPC criteria for each registered profession. The accepted ELP tests are:

- i. the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) UK;
- ii. the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) USA; and
- iii. the Occupational English Test (OET) Australia (test is profession-specific).

4 With the exception of speech-language therapy, currently applicants for diagnostic radiography, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and radiation therapy can take their ELP test during the period of conditional registration. This will change with effect from 1 August 2021 when all new applicants can only be conditionally registered (C-reg) after meeting the ELP requirements.

CHANGES TO THE ELP REQUIREMENTS

(A) Combination of results across sittings will not be accepted (with immediate effect)

5 While there is no limit to the number of attempts an AHP may make to meet the AHPC's ELP requirements, AHPs are reminded that all components of each test must pass the requirements in **a single examination sitting**. Combination of results across **two or more examination sittings will not be accepted**.

(B) Changes for TOEFL Requirements from 1 July 2021

6 As computer-based tests for TOEFL has been discontinued, it will no longer be accepted by AHPC. The paper-based test which does not have the speaking component will also not be accepted. AHPC will only recognise TOEFL's **internet-based test** from **1 July 2021** as this is the only TOEFL test that measures all four components of reading, listening, speaking and writing.

(C) ELP required before Registration from 1 August 2021

7 With effect from **1 August 2021**, all new AHPs seeking registration with the AHPC will be required to meet the ELP requirements **before Conditional registration** can be granted. Applicants for all five registered allied health professions will be required to show proof of proficiency in English language if their basic professional qualification are from countries **other than** the eight countries as listed in para 3.

8 Only results of tests taken within two years preceding the date of application to AHPC for registration will be accepted. The minimum proficiency scores by ELP test for each registered AH profession can be found in this website [link](#).

9 AHPs who are currently on Conditional registration and have not met the ELP requirements, should make an effort to pass the ELP tests while on conditional registration. If they do not meet the AHPC's ELP requirements during the period of conditional registration, their conditional registration may not be renewed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

10 For more information, please write to AHPC@spb.gov.sg.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suraya Talip', with a horizontal line under the name.

MS. SURAYA TALIP
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
for PRESIDENT,
ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL