



16 College Road, #01-01,
College of Medicine Building,
Singapore 169854
Website: www.ahpc.gov.sg
Email: enquiries@ahpc.gov.sg

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To: All Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Speech-Language Therapists

UPDATE ON REGISTRATION WITH THE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL (AHPC)

Registration of occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and speech-language therapists with the Allied Health Professions Council (AHPC) started since 15 April 2013. A grace period of one year was introduced to bring the existing therapists on board the registers. This grace period has come to an end since 14 April 2014. This notice serves to remind therapists the key changes that apply to registration with the AHPC henceforth.

Eligibility Criteria for Registration

2 Applicants applying for registration with the AHPC must have a basic or primary qualification in the relevant profession of Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy or Speech-Language Therapy. If the applicant's basic professional qualification is not found on the AHPC's List of Recognised Qualifications, he or she will be required to pass the Qualifying Examination (QE) in the relevant profession prior to being eligible for conditional registration. A registration application must be submitted for the AHPC to assess eligibility for the relevant QE, and the applicant will not be allowed to apply for the QE if the employer is not able to meet the prevailing supervision requirements for conditional registrants.

3 Therapists who are only eligible for conditional registration include the following:

- a) Therapists with no prior professional practice experience¹ in Singapore; and
- b) Therapists who have not been actively practising the profession in Singapore in the 3 years immediately preceding their application for registration (i.e. returnees to practice).

¹ Work experience as therapist or rehabilitation assistants, or other job roles (e.g. service manager, assistant manager) is not considered professional practice experience.

Such therapists will be required to complete a specific period of supervised practice in an establishment/with an employer whose supervision practices meet the prevailing AHPC's Supervised Practice Guidelines (i.e. completed and met readiness review requirements) whilst under conditional registration.

AHPC's Supervised Practice Requirements for Conditional Registrants

4 Employers of therapists who are only eligible for conditional registration must demonstrate the ability to provide supervision as stipulated in the **AHPC's Supervised Practice Guidelines (2014)** prior to recruiting such therapists. The purchase of supervision services from external providers is no longer allowed.

5 Employers who have not completed the **Readiness Review** with the AHPC should not recruit therapists eligible only for conditional registration. Such employers are advised to complete the self-assessment checklist available on http://www.healthprofessionals.gov.sg/content/hprof/ahpc/en/topnav/forms_downloads.html to determine their readiness to support the supervision required. They may then submit the readiness review application upon putting in place the measures to meet the supervision requirements for conditionally registered therapists.

6 For employers who have already completed the Readiness Review with the AHPC, you would need to demonstrate that the shortfalls identified (if any) during the review are rectified at the time of employment of such therapists.

Documents required for Registration Application

7 The documents required for registration remains unchanged. Registration applications submitted must be accompanied with the complete set of required supporting documents specified in the instructions and registration application fee. The essential supporting documents include the **employment offer** from the prospective employer and the **Undertaking by Supervisor** (Form SF2) from the prospective supervisor(s). Applicants are also advised to arrange with their universities and regulatory bodies to provide the verifications of their qualifications and registration directly to the AHPC before they apply for registration to avoid delays in their application outcomes. All incomplete applications or applications with employers who have not completed the readiness review will be returned to the applicant/prospective employer unprocessed.

Therapists' Registration with the AHPC

8 The AHPC also wishes to remind employers and therapists to ensure that their new recruits are registered with the AHPC and have a valid practising certificate before allowing the new recruit to start therapy practice in their organisations.

For more information

9 For more information and details regarding the matters set out in this notice, please refer to www.ahpc.gov.sg. You may also write to enquiries@ahpc.gov.sg if you require further clarifications after you have reviewed the information available on our website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine Teo', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

MS. ELAINE TEO
REGISTRAR
ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL