

Minimum criteria for Accreditation of Medical Oncology in Malaysia

Introduction:

- Broad based clinical specialty
- Recognised in 1973 as a sub specialty of Internal Medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine
- Strong roots in clinical and laboratory research

Definition of Medical Oncologist : (Royal College of Physicians, UK)

- **A Medical Oncologist:** Is a physician trained in the assessment and investigation of cancer patients and in the delivery and evaluation of systemic treatments including chemotherapy, endocrine manipulation, the use of biological therapies and supportive and palliative care.
- The safe and effective use of systemic treatments demands a thorough understanding of the interaction between drugs and the patient in order to predict, modulate and monitor both the beneficial and adverse effects of these drugs.
- All Medical Oncologists will have a comprehensive post graduate general professional training in hospital medicine according to criteria laid down by the Royal College of Physicians (UK).

Pre Requisite for Medical Oncology Training :

All trainees must be physicians (internists) with a recognized post graduate qualification such as the MRCP (UK), Board Certification in Internal Medicine (USA) or equivalent post graduate diploma.

Duration of Training :

- Recommendations for Medical Oncology Training based upon the United Kingdom JCHMT and the Joint ASCO/ESMO recommendation state that a
 1. minimum of 6 years training which includes 2 years in Internal Medicine and
 2. that the training program in Medical Oncology should be for 3 to 4 years.
- It is therefore mandatory that a period of not less than 3 years training in Medical Oncology (not including the previous years post graduate training in Internal Medicine).
- This period must be in full time clinical training and at least 80% of professional time and effort in patient care activities.

Centres For Training and Supervision of Training :

- A minimum of 3 years training in full time clinical training in Medical Oncology, post MRCP or equivalent.
- Training must be at an internationally accredited and recognized Cancer centre, Cancer Institute or University Medical Centre with comprehensive Treatment facilities such as leading cancer centres in The United States and in United Kingdom and in other major European centres.

Pre-requisites for accreditation in medical oncology :Mandatory requirements

- Internationally accredited postgraduate training in Internal medicine AND 2 years supervised training in medical oncology at an internationally accredited cancer centre/university medical centre in the USA, UK and other major European cancer centres.
- Certification of the supervised training by 2 separate consultant Medical oncologist at the above training cancer centres. One of the consultants must be the head (or Chair) of the department of medical oncology or the director of postgraduate training in medical oncology at the same centre.
- Supervised training experience must be **full-time** in medical Oncology. Those who practice in another specialty eg in respiratory medicine, gastroenterology, general surgery or gynecology and who have experience in chemotherapy treatment **DO NOT** qualify for Medical oncology accreditation.
- Minimal criteria also includes a higher qualification either the Board certification in medical oncology (the American Medical Boards) OR the certification (written examination) by the European Society Of Medical oncology (the ESMO exam) for competency in medical oncology.

- Original Clinical research should be performed during the training period.
- This work should result in publication of at least one paper in a peer-reviewed internationally indexed medical journal.
- There should be evidence of clinical research in medical Oncology with presentation of papers, poster and abstract presentation in national, regional or international meetings.

- Medical Oncology, the frontier discipline is continually seeking new advances in systemic treatment and supportive care to improve on disease control rates and improve quality of life as well as survival for people with cancer.
- Clinical research is therefore an important component of training.

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