

CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION AS A SPECIALIST IN PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

Preamble

Palliative medicine became recognised in the Ministry of Health as a medical subspecialty in 2005 and at the time of this development, the route of training was mainly through a period of fellowship training after having completed basic specialist training in internal medicine. This training structure is very similar to that seen in many countries where palliative medicine is a well developed specialty such as in the United Kingdom, Australia and Singapore. The Ministry of Health had therefore adopted the structure of palliative medicine as a medical subspecialty as it appears to be the clearest pathway to ensuring the development of highly skilled, knowledgeable and competent palliative medicine physicians. In the United Kingdom, Australia and Singapore however, there is also an alternative route to training in palliative medicine and this is through the route of family medicine and occasionally candidates from other basic specialties such as surgery, oncology or anaesthesia may also be accepted into the training programme. Hence, although the conventional route of training is considered through the pathway of fellowship after internal medicine training, candidates who have obtained training in palliative medicine after obtaining specialist qualification in other fields may be considered for registration.

Criteria for registration

1. Must be Fully Registered with the Malaysian Medical Council with current Annual Practicing Certificate (APC), AND

2. Must possess a postgraduate qualification in internal medicine as recognised by the National Specialist Register.

2.1 MRCP or FRCP (London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, UK, Ireland)

2.2 Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP)

2.3 M.Med Internal Medicine (UM,UKM,USM or any other recognised local university)

2.4 Any other postgraduate qualification in Internal Medicine deemed to be equivalent to any of the above qualifications by the National Credentialing Committee

3. Has completed subspecialty training in Palliative Medicine with the Ministry of Health Fellowship training programme and is gazetted under the MOH as a palliative medicine physician.

OR

Has completed supervised training in Palliative Medicine in an accredited centre (local or abroad) with a duration not less than 36 months and a structure similar to that of the MOH Fellowship programme. Evidence of training structure, supervisor's reports and assessments must be provided.

OR

Specialists who have qualified in their basic specialty and have been practising palliative medicine before the year 2007 with evidence of supervised training in an accredited centre of at least 12 months and significant experience in palliative medicine amounting to more than 36 months of full time clinical practice in community or hospital based palliative care which is recognised by peers in the subspecialist committee.

4. Overseas trained specialists in palliative medicine who possess the following qualifications:
- ***CCT in palliative medicine or equivalent qualification from the United Kingdom***
 - ***Fellowship of Royal Australasian College of Physicians Chapter of Palliative Medicine (FRACHPM)***
 - ***Certification by American Board of Hospice Palliative Medicine with completion of fellowship training (FAAHPM)***
 - ***Completion of Subspecialist Training in Palliative Medicine, Singapore***
- Other qualifications may be presented to the fellowship committee to be considered as specialist training qualifications in palliative medicine but evidence must be produced to show an equivalent duration of training and competency level as required by local training standards.
 - All overseas trained specialists must also provide proof of recent clinical practice at a specialist level in their country of training for at least 1 year with satisfactory references by senior consultants in palliative medicine.
5. Alternative routes to training (doctors with basic specialties other than Internal Medicine)
- Doctors with basic specialties other than internal medicine may be considered for specialist registration in palliative medicine if they have completed subspecialty training in palliative medicine either with the MOH fellowship programme or other supervised training equivalent to the MOH fellowship programme.

Important Note:

Postgraduate certificates, diplomas and masters degrees in Palliative Medicine / Palliative Care are currently not recognised as being equivalent to specialist training as they lack the supervised training and clinical practice which is the essence of specialist training. Such qualifications however are supportive evidence of having academic knowledge and research skills in palliative medicine and are useful as additional qualifications.

Summary

An individual may therefore be registered as a palliative medicine specialist having fulfilled the following requirements:

- A. Criteria 1, 2 and 3 or
- B. Criteria 1 and 4 or
- C. Criteria 1, 3 and 5

Notwithstanding the above, the SSC may stipulate any conditions, including additional training or work experience, on the applicant if deemed necessary.