



**MALAYSIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL**

**SPECIALTY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (SSR)**

**(FORENSIC PATHOLOGY)**

Prepared By:

Specialty Education Subcommittee (SEC)  
of the Medical Education Committee (MEC),  
Malaysian Medical Council

Approved by the Malaysian Medical Council:

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## Preface

1. The Specialty-Specific Requirements (SSR) pertain to requirements within each specialty and specify the minimum requirements pertaining to the training curriculum, trainers, educational resources and head of programme.
2. The Specialty-Specific Requirements (SSR) are intricately linked to the MMC Malaysian Standards for Medical Specialist Training 2019, and the Standards and SSR must be read and applied together.

<b>Specialty-Specific Minimum Requirements for Training Curriculum (Based on Area 1.2.4 of Malaysian Standards for Medical Specialist Training) - Forensic Pathology</b>	
<b>Specialty-Specific Requirements</b> (Reference Standard)	<b>Criteria</b>
1) Minimum entry requirements for postgraduate training  (Standard 3.1)	1. Fully registered with the Malaysian Medical Council with a current annual practicing certificate.  2. Successful entry evaluation to programme.
2) Minimum duration of training programme  (Standard 1.2.4 - Table 2)	Completion of a minimum of 48 months of specialised training in the specialty programme.
3) Structure of training (rotation/modules)  (Standard 1.2.4 - Table 3 & Table 4)  Training overview	The programme should have a clear pathway encompassing phases of training which shall include the basic and advanced components in Forensic Pathology.

Training rotation and case mix	<b>Areas</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Minimum Duration (weeks)</b>
	Stage I: Foundation Pathology	Forensic Pathology and Anatomical Pathology	36
		Relevant training in areas that may enhance Forensic Pathology practice, such as, but not limited to Chemical Pathology, Haematology, Medical Microbiology, Molecular Pathology and Laboratory Medicine	12
	Stage II: Specialised training in Forensic Pathology	Autopsy of cases of various nature and manner of death	144
		Forensic histology practice involving grossing, staining, reviewing and reporting	
		Scene of death attendance and assessment	
Court attendance			
Practice of other relevant subspecialties in Forensic Pathology			

		<p>Relevant exposure in Forensic Odontology and Radiology</p>	
		<p>Relevant exposure in Forensic Science Techniques (Toxicology, DNA, Fingerprinting, Ballistics, Physical Evidence)</p>	
<p>*Duration of training per year is 48 weeks</p>			
<p>4) Assessments  (Standard 2.2.1)</p>	<p>Assessments should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Employ appropriate methods and levels that are well-aligned with learning outcomes. These include a variety of methods and tools such as written assessments, clinical assessments, supervisor’s report, logbook, attendance, training attended, practice diary and research report.</li> <li>ii. Include methods appropriate to assess communication skills, ethics and professionalism.</li> <li>iii. Include formative and summative assessments throughout each rotation, semester, or year of study.</li> <li>iv. Include clear criteria for progression to next year of study.</li> <li>v. Include an exit evaluation/assessment.</li> </ul>		
<p>5) Additional requirements for completion of training  (Standard 1.2.4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Completion of graduate-level research or clinical audit project.</li> </ul>		

<p>6) List of competencies to be acquired upon completion of training</p> <p>(Standard 1.1.4)</p>	<p><b>Generic competencies</b></p> <p>Able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Diagnose, investigate and manage common Forensic Pathology cases.</li> <li>ii. Anticipate and manage complications in Forensic Pathology cases.</li> <li>iii. Work independently and in teams competently and professionally.</li> <li>iv. Practice good ethical conduct.</li> <li>v. Practice good communication skills.</li> <li>vi. Perform critical review, plan and conduct scientific research.</li> <li>vii. Exemplify self-advancement through continuous academic and/or professional development.</li> <li>viii. Apply evidence-based medicine in the field of Forensic Pathology.</li> <li>ix. Demonstrate exemplary leadership qualities in the multi-disciplinary team management of Forensic Pathology cases.</li> <li>x. Demonstrate a creative problem-solving and resilience.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specialty Specific Competencies</b></p> <p>Able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Perform forensic autopsies on medicolegal cases.</li> <li>ii) Perform examination at crime scenes / exhumation sites.</li> <li>iii) Managing medicolegal specimens during autopsy process and maintaining the chain of custody.</li> <li>iv) Perform microscopic analysis of autopsy slides.</li> <li>v) Compilation of ancillary test results and autopsy findings and forming an expert opinion into a detailed postmortem report.</li> <li>vi) Perform autopsy safely in high risk/ infectious cases.</li> </ul> <p>Able to perform 400 autopsies competently and these cases must encompass various categories, including natural, accidental, suicide, suspicious, homicide, maternal, paediatric, advanced putrefaction, skeletal remains, etc.</p>
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**Note : These criteria represent the minimum standards. Each educational programme provider may exercise their autonomy to state criteria above and beyond these minimum standards.**

Specialty-Specific Minimum Requirements for Training Centres and Head of Programme (Based on Areas 3-6 of Malaysian Standards for Medical Specialist Training) - Forensic Pathology		
Item No	Specialty-Specific Requirements (Reference Standard)	Criteria
4	Trainer-to-trainee ratio  (Standard 3.1.3)	1:4
5	Minimum qualifications and experience of trainers  (Standard 4.1.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Registered with National Specialist Register.</li> <li>ii. Completed Training-of-Trainer course/equivalent.</li> </ul>
6	Minimum requirements for educational resources  (Standard 5.1.1)	<p>The diagnostic facilities and equipment requirement of the programme training centres must <b>collectively</b> be able to accommodate the following minimum requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Physical facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) List of Physical Facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Seminar/tutorial room</li> <li>b) Trainee workspace</li> <li>c) Computer rooms with internet facilities</li> <li>d) Library of reference books or journals (physical and/or virtual)</li> <li>e) Office area</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. Service Areas: <p>The laboratory(ies) must be accepted or approved by relevant body(ies) for diagnostic Forensic Pathology laboratory or equivalent services.</p> </li> </ul>

Service Areas	Personnel
Mortuary services	At least one clinical specialist in Forensic Pathology
Autopsy suites	
Identification area	
Bereavement area	
Microscopic viewing area	
Biohazard screening area	

The above service areas have to be equipped with adequate air-conditioning, lighting, ventilation and drainage.

iii. Equipment:

Equipment
Autopsy tables with water supply
Body freezers
Autopsy dissection sets and accessories
Electric skull saw
Crime scene investigation equipment
Evidence collection equipment
Magnifying glass
Digital camera
Personal protective equipment (PPE)

iv. Case Load and Case Mix:

The case load of the programme training centre(s) must **collectively** be able to accommodate the following minimum requirements:

Areas	Minimum Quantity
Autopsies	A collective total of 400 cases per trainee over four (4) years  Stage I: A minimum of 20 cases/trainee/year



		These cases must encompass various categories, including natural, accidental, suicide, suspicious, homicide, maternal, paediatric, advanced putrefaction, skeletal remains, etc.
7	Minimum qualifications and experience of Head of Programme  (Standard 6.2.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 5 years or more of working experience after national specialist registration</li> <li>ii. Experience in administration and/or academic management</li> </ul>

**Note : These criteria represent the minimum standards. Each educational programme provider (ETP) may exercise their autonomy to state criteria above and beyond these standards.**

#### **Glossary for Lab Based**

\*Relevant body(ies) refers to Department of Standards Malaysia, SIRIM and etc.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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