



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: ENTRY INTO THE SPECIALIST REGISTER (SR) OF THE MALAYSIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL (MMC)

### 1. Who needs to register with the Specialist Register?

Any Registered Medical Practitioner who wishes to practice as specialist in Malaysia must be registered with the Specialist Register. This is a legal requirement under Section 14A of the Medical Act 1971

### 2. How to apply for specialist registration?

You can submit your application online via the MMC's Specialist Register portal, <https://mmc.gov.my/specialist-registration/>.

Application must comply with the procedures outlined in the Procedures and Guidelines for Specialist Registration of the MMC.

### 3. Who is entitled to be registered as a Specialist?

**To qualify for specialist registration, you must:**

- (i) Hold **Full Registration** with the MMC.
- (ii) hold any of the **specialist qualifications** as specified in the fourth column of the **Fourth Schedule**, for a duration of recognition as may be determined by the Council;
- (iii) have completed **specialized training**;
- (iv) have successfully undergone **supervised work experience**, as determined by the Council; or proven their **work experience** to the satisfaction of the Council; and
- (v) have proven to the satisfaction of the Council that they are **competent and of good character**.

#### 4. What is the Fourth Schedule?

The Fourth Schedule of the Medical Act 1971 [Act 50] refers to the list of **registrable specialist qualifications** for inclusion in the Specialist Register of the Malaysian Medical Council.

The Fourth Schedule is organized into **four columns**, namely, the **first column** lists the **specialty**, the **second column** indicates the **country** where the qualification is awarded, the **third column** specifies the **name of the awarding institution**, and the **fourth column** provides a **description of the qualification**.

#### 5. What is Specialized training?

Specialized training referred to in the Medical Act 1971 [Act 50] refers to: -

(a) **training approved by the Council** in relation to a specialty in the first column of the Fourth Schedule as provided by-

- (i) The Ministry of Health;
- (ii) A local higher educational institution; or
- (iii) Any other institutions within Malaysia as approved by the Council; **or**

(b) any other **training acceptable to the Council** which is provided **outside Malaysia** in relation to a specialty as specified in the first column of the **Fourth Schedule** or subspecialty in the **Fifth Schedule**.

#### 6. Do specialized training programmes conducted in Malaysia require approval by the Council?

Yes, specialized training programmes in Malaysia must be approved by the Malaysian Medical Council to fall within the definition of 'specialized training' under the Medical Act.

Only specialist training programmes approved by the Malaysian Medical Council are eligible under the Medical Act 1971 [Act 50] for registration as a specialist.

#### 7. What are the requirements for the Council to approve specialized medical training programmes?

To obtain approval from the Council, a specialized training programme must:

- (i) Adhere to the Malaysian Standards for Specialist Medical Training, ensuring consistency and quality across all specialties
- (ii) Comply with the Specialty Specific Requirements (SSR) relevant to the specialty

**8. Which specialized training programmes conducted in Malaysia are approved by the Council?**

Up to 30 June 2025, any training in a specialty provided by:

- a. the Ministry of Health;
- b. local higher educational institutions; or
- c. any other institution in Malaysia

for the purposes of registration as a specialist, is deemed approved by the Council

Any new specialist training programmes conducted by:

- (i) the Ministry of Health (via the Parallel Pathway Training Programmes);
- (ii) any local higher educational institution (Public universities); or
- (iii) any other institution in Malaysia that has received Council approval to conduct specialty training

may be approved by the Council upon application by the relevant body and evaluation by the Medical Education Committee for Specialist Medical Qualifications.

**9. Have any of the Parallel Pathway Specialized Training Programmes conducted by local Higher Educational Institutions been approved by the Council?**

Currently, only the 15 Parallel Pathway Specialized Training Programmes provided by the Ministry of Health are deemed approved by the Malaysian Medical Council, following the 2024 amendments to the Medical Act 1971 [Act 50].

**10. Does the Council accept specialized training completed outside Malaysia for specialist registration?**

Yes. The Council may consider specialized training completed in countries such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada, and Belgium, as acceptable if the training meets the Council's established criteria.

**11. What criteria does the Council use to assess the acceptability of overseas specialized training programme?**

Specialized training conducted outside Malaysia, in countries such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada, and Belgium, shall be considered acceptable by the Council if the specialized training meets the following conditions:

- (i) The training is undertaken by the Royal Colleges or any other relevant regulatory authorities of the country;
- (ii) The training leads to the award of a specialist qualification specified in the Fourth Schedule of the Medical Act 1971;
- (iii) There is formal confirmation of completion of the specialized training, such as the award of a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT), Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST – Ireland), American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Board Certification (USA), or Fellowship certification from the relevant Australian/New Zealand Colleges and
- (iv) Completion of the training qualifies the applicant for specialist registration with the medical regulatory authority in the country where the training was undertaken.

**12. Can work experience be counted towards the completion of specialized training?**

No. Work experience cannot be considered as part of, or a substitute for, structured specialised training.

**13. What constitutes the completion of specialized training?**

Formal confirmation of completion of specialized training will require the following:

- (i) Specialized training must be within a **Council-approved training programme (if conducted in Malaysia); or**

- (ii) Specialized training conducted outside Malaysia must be **deemed acceptable** by the Council.

Completion of specialized training serves as formal evidence of a Registered Medical Practitioners' competence and readiness to practice independently as a specialist in their field. It is a prerequisite for inclusion in the Specialist Register.

#### **14. What evidence is required to demonstrate completion of specialized training?**

To verify satisfactory completion of specialized training, applicants must provide a **Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT)** or an **equivalent official document** issued by one of the following:

- (i) Ministry of Health – for training provided by the Ministry of Health
- (ii) Local Higher Education Institutions – for university-based specialist programmes.
- (iii) Other Approved Institutions – any Malaysian institution approved by the Malaysian Medical Council

For applicants who are **trained outside Malaysia**, the following are examples of international certifications that Council may accept as valid evidence of completion of an acceptable specialist training programme:

- (i) Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) – United Kingdom
- (ii) Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) – Ireland
- (iii) Board Certification by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) – United States
- (iv) Fellowship Certificate from a recognized Australian or New Zealand Specialist Medical College

#### **15. What is Supervised Work Experience (SWE)**

SWE refers to a period of structured, work-based clinical practice undertaken by Registered Medical Practitioners, under the direct supervision of a senior specialist, following the completion of specialized training approved or accepted by the Council. SWE is also referred to previously as the post-qualification work experience (PQWE) and the specialist gazettement period under the Public Sector in Malaysia.

In accordance with Section 14B (1) (d)(i) of the Act, supervised work experience is a mandatory requirement for registration as a specialist.

**16. What is the purpose of the Supervised Work Experience (SWE) requirement?**

Supervised Work Experience (SWE) aims to ensure that medical practitioners who have completed specialist training are adequately **prepared, clinically competent, and safe to practise independently** as specialists within their chosen field.

SWE verifies readiness of medical practitioners for autonomous specialist practice through supervised clinical engagement.

**17. What are the key features of Supervised Work Experience (SWE)?**

SWE is conducted in a relevant clinical setting under the direct supervision of a senior specialist. The supervision is to ensure patient safety, and guidance enabling the practitioner to increasingly take on an autonomous role.

Throughout SWE, clinical, professional, and behavioural competencies are continuously observed, assessed, and documented by the supervisor.

Supervisors provide regular, constructive feedback, supporting practitioners in strengthening their competencies and addressing areas for improvement.

Upon successful completion, the institution will issue a certification of completion of SWE, affirming the practitioner's readiness for independent specialist practice.

SWE serves as a transitional phase between the completion of specialist training and entry into independent specialist practice.

SWE must not be used to compensate for deficiencies in core specialist training. Its sole purpose is to verify readiness for independent practice.

Using SWE to "top up" incomplete or substandard training undermines the integrity of the specialist training pathway.

**18. Who are required to complete the Supervised Work Experience (SWE)?**

SWE applies to Registered Medical Practitioners who have completed a Council-approved or acceptable specialized training programme in Malaysia, including:

- (i) Medical practitioners who have completed the University -based medical post graduate Programmes offered by local universities
- (ii) Medical practitioners who have completed the Parallel Pathway specialized training provided by the Ministry of Health.

- (iii) Medical practitioners who have completed specialized training outside Malaysia, which is acceptable to the Council, but who do not have the required work experience.

**19. Where should Supervised Work Experience (SWE) be undertaken to meet registration requirements?**

SWE must be completed in facilities with supervisors who are registered in the MMC Specialist Register in the relevant specialty, which include:

- (i) Ministry of Health hospitals or at Klinik Kesihatan (for Family Medicine) or Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah or State Health Department or the Ministry of Health Headquarters
- (ii) University teaching hospitals

**20. What evidence is required to demonstrate satisfactory completion of Supervised Work Experience (SWE)?**

Upon successful completion of SWE, a formal Certificate or an equivalent documentation of certification of completion of SWE shall be issued as evidence that the practitioner is ready for independent specialist practice.

In the Ministry of Health, a certification of completion of SWE shall be issued confirming satisfactory completion of a minimum of six (6) months of supervised work experience.

In Public Universities a Certificate or an equivalent documentation of certification of completion of SWE shall be issued by the relevant authority confirming successful fulfilment of SWE requirements.

**21. Is it possible for the Supervised Work Experience (SWE) to be extended beyond the minimum 6 months?**

Yes. An extension of SWE may be considered under specific circumstances, such as performance concerns or other valid reasons. The following conditions apply:

- (i) The decision to extend SWE must be made by the **institutional SWE committee** of the hosting institution, based on documented issues related to competency, safety, or professional behaviour.
- (ii) The practitioner must be **formally notified** in writing of the outcome, including clear justification for non-completion and the conditions of the extension.

- (iii) The extension period shall typically **be six (6) months**, with placement under a new supervisor.
- (iv) The maximum cumulative duration of SWE, including extensions, **shall not exceed 18 months**. The institutional SWE committee shall discuss and decide on cases that require maximum extension period. Additional extensions can be considered based on appropriate reasons.

## **22. What is Work Experience?**

Work Experience (WE) refers to a period of **independent clinical practice** undertaken by a medical practitioner after **completing specialized training**, typically in **settings outside the jurisdiction** of the **Council**.

## **23. Why is Work Experience assessed?**

Work Experience (WE) is assessed to ensure that medical practitioners who have completed specialized training — **particularly outside Malaysia** — are clinically active, professionally competent, and ready for independent specialist practice.

The assessment helps the Council determine whether the practitioner:

- (i) Has maintained ongoing clinical involvement in their specialty.
- (ii) Demonstrates sound clinical judgement, professional maturity, and ethical conduct.
- (iii) Can deliver safe, effective, and autonomous care without the need for further supervision or remedial training.

## **24. What proof must applicants provide to demonstrate satisfactory work experience?**

To fulfil the requirement under Section 14B(1)(d)(ii) of the Medical Act, applicant must provide any report or certificate as proof of work experience that satisfies the Council. For purpose of this Section, the following will be considered:

- (i) Applicant has had broad work experience in his specialty for a sufficient duration:

The applicant must have extensive work experience in their medical specialty.

(Council has determined that the experience should span over a minimum of 3-years, indicating depth and continuity in the field.)

**AND**

- (ii) Has proven that such work experience in his specialty is recognised at international level:

(The applicant can provide credible, verifiable evidence showing his professional experience in the specialty is acknowledged and respected across countries — not just locally or nationally.)

**OR**

- (iii) He has produced any proof of work experience in his specialty

(Applicant provides verifiable documentation that confirms the medical practitioner's engagement in professional practice in the relevant specialty)

**25. Is Supervised Work Experience (SWE) or Work Experience (WE) required for applicants who have undergone acceptable specialist training outside Malaysia and hold a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT)?**

Section 14B(1)(d) of the Medical Act 1971 stipulates that a person entitled to be registered as a Specialist must, in addition to other requirements:

- (i) undergo Supervised Work Experience (SWE) as determined by the Council; or
- (ii) has proven work experience to the satisfaction of the Council.

Accordingly, it is mandatory for all applicants to either have undergone SWE or have Work Experience to be eligible for Specialist registration, depending on the evaluation of the applicant's submission for specialist registration.

**26. Is Work Experience obtained after completion of Council-acceptable overseas specialist training considered for specialist registration?**

Yes, the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) has determined that applicants who hold a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) issued by a regulatory authority recognized by the Council (e.g., GMC) and who have **completed at least one year of satisfactory post-training work experience overseas** are—considered eligible for specialist registration.

**27. Can applicants who do not meet the requirements of Section 14B(1)(b) or (1)(c) of the Medical Act 1971 [Act 50], apply to be registered as a Specialist?**

Yes. They may be considered for specialist registration if they can satisfy the Council that they have any other comparable specialist qualification or comparable specialist

training, and the specialty of the fully registered medical practitioner is deemed to be of special value to Malaysia.

**28. What evidence must an applicant provide to be eligible for specialist registration under Section 14(2) of the Medical Act (comparability assessment)?**

To be eligible for specialist registration under this provision, applicants must provide the following evidence:

**a) Formal Documentation of Specialized Training**

- (i) Certificates or official letters or any form of certification confirming that the applicant has completed a structured postgraduate specialized training programme.
- (ii) Evidence that the training was approved by the regulatory authority in the country where it was conducted (e.g., a medical council, health ministry, or recognized university).

**b) Hold a Specialist Qualification** - that confers eligibility for specialist registration in the country where the training took place. Evidence that can be submitted include, among others, letter from regulatory authority, certification on specialist registration in the country of practice, and others.

**c) Demonstrate Eligibility for Specialist Practice Abroad** - applicant must be able to register or practice as a specialist in the country of training. Evidence that can be submitted include, among others, letter from regulatory authority, certification on specialist registration in the country of practice, letter of appointment or employment as specialist or consultant, letter to certify experience practicing as specialist and others.

**29. How does the Council determine whether a specialty is of special value?**

For purpose of making recommendations under section 14B(2) of the Act, the special value to this country is determined based on:

- (i) The specialty of the Registered Medical Practitioner which is needed in Malaysia; (This refers to areas of medical expertise that are currently in shortage or high demand within the country.)
- (ii) The specialty of the Registered Medical Practitioner which is recognised at international level – (This implies that the RMP has qualifications, experience, or recognition that are globally acknowledged, adding prestige or advanced capabilities to Malaysia's healthcare system)

Or

- (iii) The specialty of the RMP which is needed to be expanded in Malaysia - This focuses on fields that are emerging or underdeveloped locally, where growth is encouraged to meet future healthcare needs

**30. What evidence must be provided to verify competency for applicants who have completed Council-approved specialist training?**

Please refer to section 3.1 of the [Procedures and Guidelines for Specialist Registration](#)

**31. What evidence must applicants who have completed specialized training outside Malaysia submit to demonstrate competency?**

Please refer to section 3.2 of the [Procedures and Guidelines for Specialist Registration](#)

**32. What Is Evidence of Good Standing?**

Evidence of Good Standing refers to documentation that demonstrates a medical practitioner's professional credibility and ethical conduct. This includes holding a **valid practicing medical license**, having **no outstanding disciplinary actions** or ethical violations, and possessing a Certificate of Good Standing (CGS) issued by the relevant medical council or licensing authority in the country where the practitioner is or was registered. The CGS should be issued within the last six months to ensure its validity.

**33. How does the Council determine if a subspecialty is eligible for specialist registration?**

The Fifth Schedule sets out a list of subspecialties. The first column enumerates the recognized specialties, and the second column specifies the corresponding or related subspecialties.

The inclusion of the Fifth Schedule in the Medical Act 1971 enables the formal recognition of subspecialties and registration of subspecialists.

**34. What are the eligibility Criteria for Registration in a subspecialty?**

To be eligible for registration in a medical subspecialty, an applicant must fulfil the following requirements:

- (i) **Specialist Registration:** The applicant must already be registered as a medical specialist under the Medical Act 1971 [Act 50] in the Specialist Register of the Malaysian Medical Council.
- (ii) **Relevant Subspecialty:** Registration in a subspecialty shall be granted only if it is directly related to the parent specialty, as defined in the Fifth Schedule
- (iii) **Subspecialty Training Requirements:** The applicant must provide evidence of having satisfactorily completed one of the following:
  - A three (3)-year Fellowship Programme or training programme that that meets the subspecialty requirements of the Council.
  - Satisfactory completion of subspecialty training must be supported by a formal report from the supervising consultant. The report must affirm that the applicant has successfully completed the training and demonstrated competency in the subspecialty, in accordance with the subspecialty requirements set by the Council.

Please note - The Council shall have the right to impose any restrictions or conditions it deems necessary when considering and approving an application.

**35. Is Supervised Working Experience (SWE) or Working Experience (WE) required after completing subspecialty training for specialist registration?**

No further work experience under supervision is required on satisfactory completion of subspecialty training.

**36. Is there an exit examination at the end of subspecialty training?**

There is no formal exit examination in subspecialty training. Successful completion is based on the supervisor's evaluation which must confirm that the trainee has demonstrated sufficient competency to practice independently as a subspecialist.

**Please Note: Additional Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will be uploaded to the website from time to time.**

*Frequently Asked Questions: Entry into the Specialist Register (SR) of the Malaysian Medical Council*

| Date            | Changes/ presentation / other comment     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 3 November 2025 | Endorsed by the Malaysian Medical Council |
|                 |                                           |