



THE PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR SPECIALIST REGISTRATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A credible and transparent specialist registration framework is essential to uphold the high standards of specialist medical practice in Malaysia. This framework ensures that only appropriately trained and qualified registered medical practitioners (RMP) are eligible for inclusion in the Specialist Register, thereby reinforcing public trust in the healthcare system. With the enforcement of the Medical (Amendment) Act 2024 and the Medical (Amendment) Regulations 2025 on 1 July 2025, significant reforms have been implemented to strengthen the governance, transparency, and regulatory oversight of the Specialist Register.

The amended Act grants the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) full authority to recognize specialist qualifications and training for the purpose of specialist registration, thereby removing the previous requirement to cross-reference with the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) Act. Section 14B (1) of the Medical Act 1971, as amended, provides the statutory foundation for specialist registration. The provision outlines five mandatory conditions under paragraphs (a) to (e), all of which must be fulfilled by any medical practitioner seeking inclusion in the Specialist Register.

As part of these reforms, supervised work experience (SWE) and work experience (WE) have become mandatory regulatory requirements. To further enhance clarity and transparency, the Fourth Schedule of the Act prescribes the specialist qualifications eligible for registration, while the Fifth Schedule lists the recognized subspecialties. These measures collectively reinforce the integrity of the registration process and support consistent standards in specialist medical practice.

This document, The Procedures and Guidelines for Specialist Registration is developed by the MMC, to assist medical practitioners in navigating the registration process. It outlines the legal framework governing specialist registration, describes the organizational structure, and clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of the various committees involved. It also provides a step-by-step guidance on the application process, details the available registration pathways, and aims to ensure clarity, transparency, and consistency in the assessment and processing of applications.

2.0 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The following Sections of the revised Medical Act are relevant and reproduced here for reference.

Section 14A: Registered Medical Practitioner Practising as Specialist

- (1) No person whose name has not been entered into the Register shall practise as a specialist in that specialty.
- (2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Council.

Section 14B: Person Entitled to Registration as a Specialist

14B(1) A person is entitled to be registered as a specialist under this Act if:

- (a) they have been fully registered under Section 14;
- (b) they 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;
- (c) they have **completed specialized training**;
- (d) they have:
 - (i) successfully undergone **supervised work experience**, as determined by the Council; or
 - (ii) proven their **work experience** to the satisfaction of the Council; and
- (e) they have proven to the satisfaction of the Council that they are **competent and of good character**.

14B(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(b) or (1)(c), a person may be entitled to be registered as a specialist under Section 14C if the Minister, upon the recommendation of the Council, is satisfied that the person possesses **any comparable specialist qualification or comparable specialized training** which is of **special value to the country**, subject to such **restrictions and conditions** as the Minister deems fit.

14B(3) The **specialized training referred to in this Act** shall be construed as a reference to:

- (a) **Training approved by the Council** in relation to a specialty specified in the first column of the Fourth Schedule, and provided by:
 - (i) the Ministry of Health;
 - (ii) a local higher educational institution; or
 - (iii) any other institution within Malaysia as approved by the Council;**or**
- (b) **Any other training acceptable to the Council** conducted **outside Malaysia**, in relation to a **specialty specified** in the **Fourth Schedule** or a subspecialty specified in the Fifth Schedule.

14B(4) The Minister may, from time to time and after consulting the Council, ***add to, delete from, or amend the Fourth Schedule and Fifth Schedule*** by an order published in the Gazette.

Section 14C: Specialist Registration Process

- (1) Where the requirements under ***section 14B have been fulfilled***, the Council shall consider the application made under subsection 18(1) and may require the applicant to ***produce further information or documents*** in support of the application.
- (2) Where the Council decides to ***approve the application***, the Council shall direct the Registrar to enter the applicant's name in the Register.
- (3) The Council ***may refuse to register*** any person who is not entitled to be registered as a Specialist under section 14B and shall immediately serve a notice of refusal by stating the reasons of such refusal to the applicant.”.

Section 14D: Registration in Subspecialty

Any specialist who has been registered under this Act may make an application to be **registered in a subspecialty** as specified in the **Fifth Schedule** in the form and manner as may be determined by the Council and **subject to such restrictions and conditions** as the Council thinks fit.

3.0 SPECIALIST REGISTRATION PATHWAYS

Applicants for specialist registration may qualify through one of three distinct pathways.

Specialized training pathways vary significantly across and within countries. Consequently, the routes to specialist registration may vary accordingly. Regardless of the pathway, all the routes must comply with the requirements of the Medical Act 1971. This ensures that only RMPs with appropriate training, qualifications, and competence are granted specialist registration.

3.1 Route 1: Applicants who have completed Council-Approved Local Specialist Training

This route applies to RMPs who have completed specialized training approved by the Council under Section 14B(3)(a) of the Act
Applicants must have completed the specialized training conducted by one of the following institutions within Malaysia:

- (i) The Ministry of Health (MOH);
- (ii) A local higher education institution; or
- (iii) Any other institution approved by the Council.

Documents Required for Route 1 Applications:

- (a) **Proof of Full Registration:** Evidence of full registration under Section 14 of the Act.
- (b) **Specialist Qualification Certificate:** A certified copy of the Certificate of Specialist Qualification, as specified in the fourth column of the Fourth Schedule of the Act.
- (c) **Completion of Specialized Training:** A Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT), or other formal documentation that confirms successful completion of a specialized training programme approved by the Council.
- (d) **Supervised Work Experience (SWE) (within Malaysia):** A certificate confirming satisfactory completion of SWE at the Ministry of Health (KKM), or Formal documentation confirming completion of SWE at another institution approved by the Council.
- (e) **Evidence of Competency and Good Character:** Supporting documentation attesting to the applicant's professional competency and good character.

3.2 Route 2: Applicants who have completed specialized training acceptable to the Council.

This pathway applies to RMPs who have completed **specialized trainings outside Malaysia** that are **deemed acceptable by the Council**.

The key requirements under this route are as follows:

- (a) **Proof of Full Registration:** Evidence of full registration under Section 14 of the Act.
- (b) **Specialist Qualification Certificate:** A certified copy of the Certificate of Specialist Qualification, as specified in the fourth column of the Fourth Schedule of the Act.
- (c) **Completion of Specialized Training:** A formal certificate or documentation of completion of the specialized training from a relevant regulatory authority where training occurred, such as the award of a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT-UK), 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.
- (d) **Supervised Work Experience or Work Experience:** Applicants must fulfil the statutory requirements of Supervised Work Experience (SWE) (within Malaysia) or Work Experience (WE) (outside Malaysia) as stipulated under Section 14B(1)(d) of the Act. Those in this category must have Work Experience (outside Malaysia) of at least 1 year. However, if you have no Work Experience overseas, you may complete your SWE locally.

- (e) **Eligibility for specialist registration:** Documentation that the specialist training qualifies the RMP for specialist registration with the medical regulatory authority in the country where the training was undertaken
- (f) **Evidence of Competency and Good Character:** Supporting documentations attesting to the applicant's professional competency and good character.

3.3 Route 3: Alternate Pathway under Section 14B (2) of the Medical Act 1971

This pathway applies to RMPs who do not meet the requirements of Section 14B(1)(b) or (1)(c) of the Act but possess comparable specialist qualification or specialized training, which is of special value to the country.

Under Section 14B (2) of the Act, the Minister of Health, on the recommendation of the Council, may approve an application for Specialist Registration if the Minister is satisfied that the applicant possesses qualifications or training that are of special value to the country, subject to such conditions or restrictions as the Minister deems fit.

To be eligible for evaluation under this Section, an applicant must have:

- (a) a specialist qualification – such as a certificate, diploma, fellowship, board certification, or any other formal document issued by a recognised training institution or competent authority confirming the award of a specialist qualification; and
- (b) evidence of completion of structured specialized training issued by the relevant training institution, accredited body, or competent authority, confirming that the applicant has successfully completed a recognised and structured programme of specialized training in the relevant specialty.

These applications shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Key Requirements under Section 14B (2) of the Act.

- A) **Proof of Full Registration:** Evidence of Full Registration under Section 14 of the Act.
- B) **Evidence of a specialist qualification or status that may be used for comparability.** This should include:
 - (i) A certified copy of a Certificate of Specialist qualification, and
 - (ii) Evidences of specialist status.
 - (a) Any official documentation confirming the applicant is eligible for specialist registration, or is registered as one, with the relevant licensing authority or regulatory body in the country where the training was completed, or

- (b) Any proof that the specialist qualification entitles the applicant to an independent specialist practice, or to a formal recognition as a consultant or specialist in the country where the training was completed, or
- (c) Any evidence that the specialist qualification is accepted for registration or employment as a specialist in any other jurisdiction, or
- (d) In jurisdictions where there is no national or regional regulatory certification of specialist status, any evidences that the applicant is legally allowed to practice as a specialist in that country.

C) Evidence of having undergone specialized training that can be used for comparability. This should include the following:

- (i) **Documentary evidence of the applicant's *completion of specialist training* by a relevant Institution/organisation where training occurred, and**
- (ii) **Evidence that the specialist training programme is accredited/recognized by the medical regulatory authority or accreditation body in the country of training, and**
- (iii) **Documents demonstrating the Curriculum and Training Structure including:**
 - **Duration of training** - Proof of at least **4 years of formal, structured, supervised, postgraduate specialist training.** This may include:
 - (a) A training certificate with start and end dates, or
 - (b) A letter from the training body or supervisor confirming duration and structure of training, and
 - **Official curriculum documentation including learning objectives, competencies, clinical exposure and rotations** – to demonstrate comparability to Malaysian Standards for Specialist Training and the Specialty Specific Requirements (SSR) of the specialty, and
 - **Evidence of structured assessments** throughout and at completion of the specialty training

D) Evidence of Special Value to Malaysia

To support eligibility under Section 14B (2), applicants must be evaluated on whether the qualifications or training are of **special value to the country**.

This may be shown by:

- (i) The specialty being needed in this country;
- (ii) The specialty being recognized at the international level; or
- (iii) The specialty is one that needs to be expanded in this country

E) Proven Work Experience.

In accordance with **Section 14B(1)(d)(ii)** of the Medical Act, applicants must submit **formal documentations or reports** to demonstrate relevant Work Experience in their specialty. This Work Experience must meet one or more of the following criteria:

(i) Evidence of broad Work Experience in the specialty for a minimum of 3 years;

AND

(ii) Evidence that such Work Experience in the specialty is recognized at international level;

OR

(iii) Proof of any other verifiable evidence of Work Experience in that specialty

F) Evidence of Competency and Good Character: Supporting documentation attesting to the applicant's professional competency and good character

4.0 PROCEDURES FOR SPECIALIST REGISTRATION

4.1 Process of application for Specialist Registration

An applicant may apply for registration in a Specialty listed in the Fourth Schedule and a Subspecialty listed in the Fifth Schedule. Medical practitioners must adhere to a structured application process as outlined below. The application must comply with the requirements of the Medical Act 1971 and the Medical Regulations 2017. The process involves the following steps:

Step 1: Determine Eligibility

Applicants must ensure they comply with **eligibility requirements as stipulated in the Medical Act 1971**. This includes the following:

- (i) Full registration with the Malaysian Medical Council;
- (ii) Possession of a registrable or comparable specialist qualification;
- (iii) Completion of specialist training that is approved/acceptable/comparable to the standards of the Malaysian Medical Council;
- (iv) Relevant supervised or independent work experience in the specialty;
- (v) Demonstration of evidence of competency, along with proof of good professional standing and character.

Step 2: Create an account on the Specialist Registration platform

Applicants must register for a personal account on the MMC's specialist registration portal of the Malaysian Medical Council. Once registered, applicants must complete the online application form for registration under the relevant specialty/subspecialty. This platform

enables digital submission of applications, document uploads, and real-time status tracking.

Step 3: Prepare and upload Supporting Documents

Applicants must upload relevant, accurate and complete documentation, including but not limited to:

- (i) Certificate of Registration with MMC
- (ii) Certified copy of specialist qualifications
- (iii) Records of training and experience
- (iv) Certificates of completion of specialized training
- (v) Certificates of completion of supervised work experience or work experience
- (vi) Documentary evidence of competence in the specialty
- (vii) Letters of good standing
- (viii) Logbooks or case summaries (where applicable)
- (ix) Referee reports
- (x) Proof of identity

All documents must be certified, translated (if not in English), and submitted in the prescribed format.

Step 4: Submit the Application

Once the application form has been fully completed and all required documents have been uploaded, applicants may proceed to submit the application through the online registration system. An application processing fee is required at this stage. Applications will only be processed after the required payment has been received.

Step 5: Processing of the Application by the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall process all applications, including checking for completeness of documents submitted.

Applications with missing or insufficient documentation may be deferred, and the applicant will be requested to submit the required additional documents.

Applications that are complete shall be forwarded to the respective Specialty Subcommittee (SSC) for Evaluation.

Step 6: Evaluation by the Specialty Subcommittee (SSC)

- The SSC shall verify that the application is complete and supported by all required documentation, including certified copies of qualifications, training records, work experience, and any other necessary evidence.
- The SSC shall assess whether the applicant meets the statutory requirements as stipulated under Section 14B(1)(a) to (e) of the Medical Act 1971.
- In cases where an applicant does not fully meet the criteria under Section 14B(1)(b) and/or 14B(1)(c), the SSC shall determine whether the applicant possesses

comparable specialist qualifications or has undergone specialised training deemed to be of special value to the country.

- Where necessary, the SSC may request additional information or supporting documents from the applicant to ensure a thorough and comprehensive evaluation.
- Upon completion of its assessment, the SSC shall submit a formal recommendation to the Evaluation Committee for Specialist Medical Qualifications (ECSMQ) regarding the applicant's suitability for registration as a specialist in the respective field.

Step 7: Evaluation by the Evaluation Committee for Specialist Medical Qualifications (ECSMQ)

- The ECSMQ shall review the recommendation submitted by the Specialty Subcommittee (SSC).
- The ECSMQ may accept and endorse the SSC's recommendation and forward it to the Malaysian Medical Council for final decision.
- The ECSMQ shall have the discretion to reject the recommendation made by the SSC.
- The ECSMQ shall forward its recommendation as well as reasons for rejection of the SSC's recommendation to the Malaysian Medical Council for final decision.
- The ECSMQ may also defer the application pending receipt of further clarification or additional documentation from the applicant.

Step 8: Decision by the Council

- The Malaysian Medical Council shall make the final decision regarding the application.
- The Council may approve the application and instruct the Registrar to enter the applicant's name into the Specialist Register.
- The Council may refuse the application if, in the opinion of the Council, the applicant does not meet the requirements of section 14B of the Medical Act 1971
- Where the Council decides not to approve the application, it shall immediately serve as a notice of refusal by stating the reasons for such refusal to the applicant.

5.0 PROCEDURE FOR SUBSPECIALTY REGISTRATION

Section 14D Medical Act 1971 states:

"Any Specialist who has been registered under this Act may make an application to be registered in a subspecialty as specified in the Fifth Schedule in the form and manner as may be determined by the Council and subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Council thinks fit."

Under this Section, specialists in Malaysia who are already registered may apply for subspecialty registration in subspecialties as specified in the **Fifth Schedule**.

The application process and requirements are determined by the **Malaysian Medical Council (MMC)** and may include specific **restrictions and conditions**.

5.1 Eligibility Criteria for Subspecialty Registration

To be eligible for registration in a subspecialty, an applicant must fulfill all the following criteria:

- (i) The applicant must already be registered as a specialist in the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) Specialist Register.
- (ii) The chosen subspecialty must be as specified in the Fifth Schedule of the Medical Act 1971 and under a related parent specialty
- (iii) The applicant must have satisfactorily completed a minimum of three (3) years of training in the subspecialty, the requirements of which are set by the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC).

Endorsed by the Malaysian Medical Council on 28 October 2025