

**DHP's new approved specialty
qualifications list for physicians in the
State of Qatar**



Policy Statements

- Listed below are the current approved physician`s specialty qualifications in the state of Qatar.
- Physicians with Qualifications/Certificates not included in the list or from countries other than the below mentioned table will be considered under Category 3.
- For Qatari and family sponsored physicians, please refer to circular number **(20/2020, 21/2020 and 15/2022)**.
- For currently licensed physicians by Department of Healthcare Professions (DHP), please refer to appendix 1.

❖ Definition:

In determining the eligibility of an applicant for registration with the DHP as specialty, the following definitions for each category to be considered (Table 1):

Category 1:

- Physicians holding specialization degree under this category will be eligible for registration and licensing in the State of Qatar as **Specialty** providing completion of **one-year** * clinical experience after post-graduate degree.
- DHP licensing qualifying exam is not required.

Category 2:

- Physicians holding specialization degree under this category will be eligible for registration and licensing in the State of Qatar as **Specialty** providing completion of **two-years** * clinical experience after post-graduate degree.
- DHP licensing qualifying exam is not required.

Category 3:

- Physicians holding specialization degree not listed in Category 1 or 2, will be eligible for registration and licensing in the State of Qatar as **Specialty** after providing the following:
 - 1- Certificate of completion of Structured Post graduate training (continuous training for minimum 3 years).
 - 2- Completion of **three years** * clinical experience after post-graduate degree
 - 3- Passing DHP licensing qualifying exam. (Please check the [Qualifying Examination page](#) on DHP website.)

Table 1:

Category	Minimum required Years of post-graduate training	Minimum Required years of Experience after post-graduate degree *	DHP licensing qualifying exam
Category 1	Not specified	1 year	Not required
Category 2	Not specified	2 years	Not required
Category 3	3 years	3 years	Required

***The required years of clinical work experience for all the categories must be from one of the following Institutions: (It is not mandatory for the required years of experience to be the most recent experience provided that there is no break of practice):**

- a) Governmental and semi-governmental institutions/hospitals.
- b) Hospitals that provide Post graduate Training programs (Governmental or Private)



Fellowship certified applicants:

- Oversees physicians holding fellowship certificate will be eligible for registration and licensing in the State of Qatar as specialty after providing the following:
 - a) Certificate of completion of Structured Fellowship Training (continuous training for minimum 1 year).
 - b) Completion of specified period of clinical experience after fellowship degree which will be determined as per the main specialty Category.
 - c) Passing DHP licensing qualifying exam if required as per the main specialty Category.

Example to determine the required years of experience and passing DHP qualifying exam for physicians holding fellowship certificate:

- Physician holding Internal medicine degree (main specialty) from Category 3 followed by Fellowship in cardiology from Category 1 or 2: the required years of clinical experience after fellowship certificate, will be 3 years, as per category 3 but DHP qualifying exam is not required.
- Physician holding Internal medicine degree (main specialty) from Category 3 followed by Fellowship in cardiology from Category 3: the required years of clinical experience after fellowship certificate, will be 3 years, as per category 3 and DHP qualifying exam is required.

Fellowship program in the State of Qatar:

- Oversees Physicians joining a fellowship program in the state of Qatar shall have a post-graduate degree in main specialty from category 1,2 or 3 to be eligible for registration and licensing as a fellow in training institutions in the state of Qatar (for Category 3, passing DHP licensing qualifying exam certificate shall be provided in evaluation request).

General notes:

- 1- For Qatari and family sponsored QID holders' physicians who don't have the required clinical experience as specified above in each category will be eligible for registration and licensing in the State of Qatar as "Assistant Specialty" to complete the required clinical experience. (Please refer to circular number 21/2020 and 15/2022.)
- 2- Oversees physicians from all the categories, will not be eligible for registration in the State of Qatar if they have less than the required years of clinical experience post qualification degree or the clinical experience is not from Governmental Institutions/Hospitals or training hospitals.
- 3- Physicians from the below categories are exempted from the required experience after post-graduate degree and DHP qualifying exam to obtain the Specialty title:
 - a) Who completed (residency training program and fellowship program) in training hospitals in the state of Qatar and passed the board exam of main specialty in the state of Qatar.
 - b) Qatari physicians and Offspring of Qatari women who were sponsored by the state of Qatar for their post graduate studies.



- 4- Physicians who completed a training program in the State of Qatar but did not pass the board exam can be licensed as “Assistant Specialty” providing the following:
- Certificate of completion of training from training hospital in the state of Qatar
 - Passing DHP licensing qualifying exam certificate
 - Recommendation letter from head of department where he/she completed the training program.
- They can change to specialty after providing a post-graduate degree and completing the required years of experience as per the provided post-graduate degree category (Assistant Specialty experience will be counted from the required years of experience).
- 5- In case of any Governmental agreements with any country that are not included in the list, specialization degree/ certificates can be assessed based on the agreement.
- 6- Physicians holding post-graduate degree from category 1 or 2, but it was granted based on equivalency of post-graduate degree not from category 1 or 2, then their post-graduate degree will be considered under category 3 and must fulfill all the requirements of category 3 to be registered /licensed in the state of Qatar.

Table 2: Update on the policy of Physicians' Approved Specialty Qualifications in the State of Qatar

No.	Country (region) of conferring institution	Category 1	Category 2
1.	Arab countries	Arab Board for Medical Specialties from GCC countries	Arab Board for Medical Specialties from Arab Countries other than GCC
2.	Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facharzt Diplom (Diploma of medical specialist) issued by Österreichische Ärztekammer ▪ ArztfürAllgemeinmedizin (Diploma of general medicine) 	
3.	Australia	Membership/ Fellowship of the Royal College. (All the approved specialist training programs by Australian Medical Council).	



No.	Country (region) of conferring institution	Category 1	Category 2
4.	Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bijzondereberoepstitel van geneesheerspecialist/ Titre professionnel particulier de médecin spécialiste awarded by the Minister bevoegdvoor Volksgezondheid/ Ministre de la Santé Publique (Formal evidence of having qualified as a medical specialist issued by the Minister of Public Health) 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bijzondereberoepstitel van huisarts/ Titre professionnel particulier de médecin généraliste (Certificate of specific training for general medical practice) 	
5.	Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialization Certificate of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialty Certificate from the College of Family Physician of Canada (CFPC) 	
6.	Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bevis for tilladelsetil at betegne sig somspeciallaege (Certificate concerning the title of Specialist -Issued by Authority of Health Services) (Sundhedsstyrelsen). 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tilladelsetil at anvendebetegnelsenalmentpraktiserendelæg/ Speciallæge i almenmedicin (Certificate of specific training for general medical practice) 	
7.	Egypt		Doctor of Medicine (MD)
8.	Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erikoislääkarin tutkinto/ Special läkarexamen (Certificate of degree of specialist in medicine awarded by a Finnish University). 	



No.	Country (region) of conferring institution	Category 1	Category 2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Todistus yleislääketieteen erityiskoulutuksesta/ Bevis om särskild allmänläkarutbildning (Certificate of specific training for general medical practice) 	
9.	France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificat d'études spécialisées de médecine (CES) (Certificate of Specialized Studies in Medicine issued by French University) Diplôme d'études spécialisées/ Diplôme d'études spécialisées complémentaires qualifiant de médecine (DESC) (Diploma of complementary specialized studies) issued by French University) Diplôme Interuniversitaire de Spécialité (DIS) (Interuniversity Diploma of medical specialty) 	
10.	Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fachärztliche Anerkennung/ Fachärztliche Urkunde (Certificate of medical specialist issued by State's Medical Council (The Landesärztekammer)) A Zeugnis über die spezifische Ausbildung in der Allgemeinmedizi (Certificate of specialist training in general medicine) issued by The Landesärztekammer 	
11.	Greece		<p>Τίτλος ΙατρικήςΕιδικότητας (Certificate of medical specialization - awarded by Greek region of medical specialization)</p> <p>Τίτλος ιατρικήςειδικότητας γενικής ιατρικής</p>



No.	Country (region) of conferring institution	Category 1	Category 2
			(Certificate of specific training for general medical practice)
12.	Hong Kong		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Specialist training from a recognized post-graduate training program in Hong Kong ▪ Fellowship of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM)
13.	India		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DM ▪ M.ch ▪ FNB
14.	Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership / Fellowship of the Royal Colleges and Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist training (CSCST) from Ireland ▪ Certificate of Specialist Doctor issued by the Medical Council of Ireland and Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist training (CSCST) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership/ Fellowship of the Royal Colleges before 1996
15.	Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Diploma di (medico) Specialista, Rilasciati dal rettore di Unauniversita (Diploma of specialized doctor granted by a rector of an Italian university) ▪ An Attesto di formazioneparticolarizzata in medicina generale (Certificate of specific training for general medical practice issued by the Ministry of Health) 	
16.	Japan		PhD



No.	Country (region) of conferring institution	Category 1	Category 2
17.	Korea		Certificate of specialization awarded by the Ministry of Health and Welfare
18.	Kuwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arab board for Medical Specialties and Certificate of completion of residency program from teaching institutions in Kuwait ▪ Board Certification by the Kuwait Board under the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization/ Ministry of Health 	
19.	Malaysia		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Doctorate Degree ▪ Master's degree
20.	Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bewijis van inschrijving in een Specialistenregister (Certificate of recognition and Registration/ Certificate of entry in the Specialist Register) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medisch Specialisten Registratie Commissie (MRSC) ○ Sociaal-Geneskundigen Registratie Commissie ○ Huisarts en Verpleeghuisarts Registratie Commissie (HVRC) van de Koninklike Nederlandsche Maatschappij tot Bevordering der Geneeskunst ○ Note that only certificates issued before 19 July 2007 are accepted from this awarding body: Registratie Commissie Geneeskundig Specialisten (RGS) ▪ Certificaat van inschrijving in een specialistenregister van huisartsen awarded by any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Huisarts en Verpleeghuisarts 	



No.	Country (region) of conferring institution	Category 1	Category 2
		Registratie Commissie (HVRC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Registratie Commissie Geneeskundig Specialisten (RGS) 	
21.	New Zealand	Fellowship of the Royal College	
22.	Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spesialistgodkjenning issued by the Den Norske Legeforening (Medical Association of Norway or Norwegian Directorate of Health) 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bevis for kompetanse som allmennpraktiserende lege/ Godkjenning som allmennpraktiserende lege (Certificate of specific training for general medical practice) issued by Norwegian Registration Authority for Health Personnel -SAK) 	
23.	Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arab board for Medical Specialties and Certificate of completion of residency program from teaching institutions in Oman ▪ Omani Board 	
24.	Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Título de Especialista (Professional award of specialist) issued by the Ordem dos Medicos 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Título de especialista em medicina geral e familiar (Certificate of specific training for general medical practice) issued by Ministerio da Saude or Ordem dos Medicos 	



No.	Country (region) of conferring institution	Category 1	Category 2
25.	Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arab board for Medical Specialties and Certificate of completion of residency program from teaching institutions in Saudi Arabia ▪ Saudi Specialty Certificate (Saudi Board) issued by Saudi commission for Health Specialties 	
26.	Singapore		Exit Certificate from Joint Committee on Specialist Training (JCST) and Certificate of Specialist Accreditation from the Specialist Accreditation Board
27.	South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master of Medicine (M. Med) ▪ Degree or Fellowship Certificate approved by the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA) 	
28.	Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Título de Especialista (Professional qualification of a specialist) issued by the Spanish Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs or the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Título de Especialista en medicina familiar y comunitaria (Specialist certificate in family and community medicine) issued by the Spanish Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs or the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture 	



No.	Country (region) of conferring institution	Category 1	Category 2
29.	Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diplôme de médecin spécialiste ▪ Diplom als Facharzt ▪ Diploma di medico specialista (Specialist qualification) issued by the Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master of Advanced Studies of Clinical Medicine 	
30.	Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bevis om specialistkompetens som läkare (Certificate of the right to use the title of specialist) issued by the Socialstyrelsen (National Board of Health and Welfare of Sweden) ▪ Bevis om kompetens som allmänpraktiserande läkare (Europaläkare) (Certificate of specific training for general practice) issued by the Socialstyrelsen (National Board of Health and Welfare of Sweden) 	
31.	Turkey		Uzmanlık Belgesi issued by Sağlık Bakanlığı (Certificate of Medical Specialty issued by Ministry of Health)
32.	United Arab Emirates	Arab board for Medical Specialties and Certificate of completion of residency program from teaching institutions in U.A.E.	
33.	United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership/Fellowship from Royal Colleges + Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) or equivalent in U.K. ▪ Membership/ Fellowship from Royal College of General Practitioners + Certificate of Completion of Training in General Practice (GP) awarded by PMETB and Registration with the GMC as a GP in U.K. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership/Fellowship of the Royal Colleges before 1996



No.	Country (region) of conferring institution	Category 1	Category 2
34.	United States of America	American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Certificates and Subspecialty Certificates	

General Remarks

- ❖ It is to be noted that the above table is not exclusive, and the Department of Healthcare Professions (DHP) reserves the right to amend and update the requirements at different intervals without prior notice.
- ❖ Holder of a Qualification Degree which is higher than the degrees mentioned in the above table will be considered accordingly.
- ❖ In case the post-graduate certificate is limited to certain duration of time according to its issuing Authority (such as The American Board certificates), it will not be mandatory to be valid on applying for Registration/licensing in Qatar in case the certificate was valid at the time of leaving the country of issuing this certificate.
- ❖ The Department of Healthcare Professions reserves the right to ask for recommendation letters if required.
- ❖ The Department of Healthcare Professions reserves the right to conduct interviews as part of the evaluation process if required.
- ❖ The Department of Healthcare Professions reserves the right to ask for additional supporting documents whenever needed.
- ❖ Holders of specialty certificates in the main specialty while their work experience in the subspecialty, can be granted a scope of practice as per the sub-specialty only if the university/issuing institution does not have the subspecialty degree at the time he/she got the degree. The Registration Section may request for an official proof (if necessary).
- ❖ Physicians cannot be registered with double specialties unless they are related.
- ❖ Healthcare facilities are given the right to grant the title of specialist or consultant to their physicians, according to the Guidelines and standards approved by the Department of Healthcare Professions. (Appendix 2)
- ❖ Please ensure to check the below mentioned websites for any updates:

<http://dhp.moph.gov.qa> www.moph.gov.qa



APPENDIX (1): For currently licensed/ holding valid evaluation Physicians

1. Currently licensed Associate Physicians based on post-graduate degree that falls now under category 3, can change their scope of practice to specialty providing the following:
 - a) Certificate of completion of Structured training (continuous training for minimum 3 years).
 - b) Completion of **three years** clinical experience after post-graduate degree
 - c) Passing DHP licensing qualifying exam
2. Currently licensed physicians as Associate/Assistant Specialty based on post-graduate degree from the previous category 2 or 2*, can change their scope of practice to specialty providing the following:
Completion of **the required years of** clinical experience after post-graduate degree which will be determined based on circulars 20/2020 and 21/2020.
3. Currently licensed physicians as “GP supervised” but has post-graduate degree from category 3, can choose one of the following:
 - a) Continue as “GP supervised”
 - b) Apply for change scope of practice from “GP supervised” to “Assistant specialty” to complete the required years of experience as per circular 21/2020 and Break from practice policy (passing DHP licensing qualifying exam will be required to change their scope to speciality after completion of the required years of experience)
4. A physician who is registered / evaluated but holding expired evaluation from DHP, will be subject to the Guidelines mentioned in this circular when applying for re-evaluation/restoration.

APPENDIX (2):

Health care facilities have the right to promote their Physicians to consultant according to the below guidelines and criteria:

- 1- Physicians should be licensed in a specialty area by DHP.
- 2- Holders of certificates from Category 1, can be promoted to Consultant title providing completion of two years of clinical experience after post-graduate degree.
- 3- Holders of certificates from Category 2, can be promoted to Consultant title providing completion of four years of clinical experience after post-graduate degree.
- 4- Holders of certificates from Category 3, can be promoted to Consultant title providing completion of six years of clinical experience after post-graduate degree.



- 5- The physician should be the first or second author for at least 2 articles published in peer-reviewed journals, only one of the articles can be a case report.
- 6- The physician should have at least two recommendation letters and satisfactory performance reports from his current place of work.
- 7- Promotion to consultant title should be through a committee from the medical director, Quality improvement member and a member from Human Resources department.
- 8- All mentioned documents should be available on request from DHP for Auditing purposes.