



CIRCULAR NO (7) OF 2023 (DHP)

From	Department of Healthcare Professions / Ministry of Public Health
To	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Physicians in the state of Qatar (Governmental & Private sector)• All Healthcare Facilities/ focal points in the state of Qatar (Governmental & Private sector)
Subject	Update on Circular (21-2020) regarding “Assistant Specialty” category among the approved categories list for physicians in the State of Qatar
Date	3 April 2023

Greetings from the department of Healthcare Professions,

In reference to Circular no. (21/2020) regarding developing category “Assistant Specialty” among the approved categories list for physicians in the State of Qatar and to support the medical cadre from Qataris, offspring of Qatari women, offspring of residents and family sponsored physicians without compromising patient safety and quality of healthcare services. DHP has decided to update the list of healthcare facilities that “Assistant Specialty” physicians are permitted to work in as follows:

- Physicians applying for non-surgical scopes of practice (ex: Dermatology, Pediatrics.... etc.) are permitted to practice in governmental/ semi-governmental institutions or private hospital settings or polyclinics, that have licensed specialist in the same specialty.
- Physicians applying for surgical scopes of practice (ex: Plastic Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology...etc.) are permitted to practice in governmental/ semi-governmental institutions, private hospital settings or private polyclinics that have a licensed operating theatre or day care unit, and licensed specialist in the same specialty.

Attachments:

The Registration/licensing requirements for “Assistant Specialty” category along with the “Supervision Framework”
For further information, contact: dhpreistration@moph.gov.qa

Thank you for your cooperation, Department of Healthcare Professions

**Attachment: The Registration/licensing requirements for
“Assistant Specialty” category along with the “Supervision
Framework”**



The registration/licensing requirements for the “Assistant Specialty” Category

Background:

As per the DHP approved policies, a specialty physician shall hold a post-graduate degree from the DHP approved specialty qualifications list for physicians and complete the required years of work experience in addition to the other requirements.

Definition:

“Assistant Specialty” is a category that will be granted to Qataris, offspring of Qatari women, offspring of residents and family sponsored physicians who have a post-graduate degree from the DHP approved specialty qualifications list for physicians, however, they didn’t compete the required period of experience to get “Specialty” title.

Qataris, offspring of Qatari women, offspring of residents and family sponsored physicians can be granted “Assistant Specialty” in the following cases:

- I. Holding a post-graduate degree that is included in the DHP approved specialty qualifications list for physicians; however, he/she did not complete the required years of work experience to get “Specialty” title.
- II. Holding a post-graduate degree that is included in the DHP approved specialty qualifications list for physicians and completed the required years of work experience to get specialty title; however, he/she has a break from practice and should complete a supervised practice period based on the “Break from Practice” policy.

Registration/licensing requirements as “Assistant Specialty”:

All physicians under “Assistant Specialty” category can apply for evaluation and licensing through the electronic system with all the Registration/ licensing requirements as per the DHP approved policies and procedures in addition to the following: -

1. QID with family sponsorship. (For offspring of residents who changed their sponsorship to a healthcare facility or husband, Valid QID of the father shall be submitted in the evaluation application)
2. Supervision letter signed and stamped by the medical director and the supervisor showing the supervisor’s name, scope of practice and license number. (Please refer to the supervision framework)
3. Undertaking letter signed and stamped by the medical director and the supervisor stating that the supervisor shall hold full responsibility of supervising the supervisee as well as ensure not to supervise more than one supervisee at one time.



Change scope of practice requirements

Once the physician under “Assistant Specialty” category completes the required supervised practice period, he/she shall submit a “change scope of practice” application to change from “Assistant Specialty” into “Specialty” along with all the requirements as per the DHP approved policies and procedures in addition to the following: -

1. The assessment reports that shall be done every 6 months signed and stamped by the medical director and the supervisor. (Please refer to the supervision framework)
2. Logbook signed and stamped by the medical director and supervisor that includes the clinical cases seen/ surgical procedures assisted by the assistant specialist. (Please refer to the supervision framework)
3. Recommendation letter from the supervisor.
4. Physicians holding post-graduate degree from category “3” must pass DHP qualifying exam in their specialty upon changing their scope from Assistant Specialty to Specialty, please refer to the DHP approved specialty qualifications list for physicians in the physicians Guidelines

Surgical Privileges requirements

Once the “assistant specialist” physician changes to “Specialty”, he/she is entitled to the Core Privileges as per his/her scope of practice. Additionally, he/she can submit a request for Advanced Privileges that will be assessed by the specialized committee after fulfilling all the requirements as per the DHP approved policies and procedures in addition to the following: -

1. Logbook signed and stamped by the medical director and supervisor that includes the surgical procedures assisted by the “assistant specialty” physician.
2. Recommendation letter from the supervisor.

Supervision Framework:

Introduction:

DHP has a duty to ensure that patients’ safety is always safeguarded, and this is achieved through its implementation of a supervisory framework which is a tool used to monitor “Specialty (assistant)”. The objective of “assistant specialty” supervisory framework is to ensure that there is indirect supervision while they are at work, so that patient’s safety is not compromised.

Guidelines:

1. Supervisee is a licensed “**Assistant Specialty**” and supervisor is a licensed “**Specialty**” Physician in the same scope of practice.
2. “Assistant specialty” will be subjected to practice under supervision as follows:



- ✓ Physicians applying for **non-surgical scopes of practice** (ex: Dermatology, Pediatrics.... etc.) are permitted to practice in governmental/ semi-governmental institutions or private hospital settings or polyclinics that have licensed specialist in the same specialty.
 - ✓ Physicians applying for **surgical scopes of practice** (ex: Plastic Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology...etc.) are permitted to practice in governmental/ semi-governmental institutions, private hospital settings or polyclinics that have a licensed operating theatre or day care unit.
3. The Supervisors must be working as a full time.
 4. The level of supervision will be Indirect Supervision.
 5. A Supervisory physician may not supervise more than one “assistant specialty “at one time.
 6. Supervision letter -signed and stamped by the medical director and the supervisor showing the supervisor’s name, scope of practice and license number- shall be submitted in the evaluation, temporary license, licensing, renewal and change place of work applications.
 7. “Assistant specialty” physician must maintain a logbook signed and stamped by the supervisor and medical director that includes the clinical cases seen/ procedures assisted. The logbook shall be submitted in change scope of practice application.
 8. There must be a proper system of assessment, monitoring and feedback regarding the performance of “assistant specialty” physician. He/she will be assessed every 6 months and the assessment reports shall be signed and stamped by the medical director and the supervisor. Assessment reports shall be ready for submission upon request and in change scope of practice application.
 9. In case the supervisor physician has been changed, DHP shall be notified through update profile application and the former supervisor shall write his/her final report.
 10. Depending on circumstances, “Assistant Specialty” may be subjected to multi-rate assessment report (Physicians, nurses, and other healthcare practitioners) to provide with a holistic view of the supervisee’s performance whilst practicing under supervision.

Related Policies and circulars

1. Circular no. (03/2023) regarding DHP approved specialty qualifications list for physicians.
2. Break from practice policy.
3. Core and advanced privileges policy.
4. Circular number (20/2020) regarding cancelation of associate category.