



Circular No. (20/2020)

From	The Department of Healthcare Professions (DHP)
To	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All Healthcare Practitioners in the state of Qatar (Governmental & Private sector)All Healthcare Facilities/ focal points in the state of Qatar (Governmental & Private sector)
Subject	Cancellation of "Associate" title
Date	27 December 2020

"The Department of Healthcare Professions presents to you its compliments".

In the alignment with the DHP's mission and values to upgrade the healthcare sector in the state of Qatar, DHP Continues to update all approved policies to meet with the latest international standards with ensuring competency of healthcare practitioners to maintain patient's safety, accordingly Registration section in DHP has announced the following:

- 1- Stop granting "associate" title starting from December 3, 2020.
- 2- Overseas physician who doesn't have a post-graduate degree from DHP approved qualification list or doesn't meet the registration / licensing requirements (experience required) for specialty title (refer to circular 23/2020) will not be eligible for registration / licensing in the state of Qatar.
- 3- For Qatari physicians and applicants who are holding a QID under family sponsorship (Qatar residents' offspring / spouses) and physicians who are currently registered as "associate", please refer to the attached (appendix 1).

Note: Circular Number 7/2018 and its attached policy will be inactive from the issue date of this circular.

For more information please contact:

- **Jowaher Al Ali:** Jalali@moph.gov.qa

**Thank you for your cooperation,
Registration section/ Department of Healthcare Professions**

Prepared by:

Physician and Dentist Team in Registration section-DHP



Appendix 1:

Overseas physicians will not be eligible for registration / licensing in the state of Qatar

if:

- I. He/she has a post-graduate degree not included in the DHP's approved specialty qualifications list.
- II. He/she has a post-graduate degree from the DHP approved specialty qualification list but still didn't complete the required post-graduate years of clinical experience.
- III. He/she completed residency program but didn't pass the exam and was not granted the post-graduate degree.
- IV. He/she has a primary medical degree (Bachelor) and completed the required 5 years clinical experience but his/her practice was exclusively in a specific medical specialty for the last 3 years, however, he/she doesn't have post-graduate certificate in that specialty.
- V. Overseas physician who doesn't have a post-graduate degree from DHP's approved qualification list or doesn't meet the registration / licensing requirements for specialty title (refer to circular 23/2020) will not be eligible for registration / licensing in the state of Qatar.

For Qataris and applicants who have a QID with family sponsorship (offspring's and spouse, of residents of Qatar) the following will be applied:

- I. A physician who has a post-graduate degree from the DHP approved specialty qualification list but still didn't complete the required post-graduate years of clinical experience, will be eligible for registration / licensing as "Assistant Specialty", until he/she completes the required years of experience, then he/she can change scope of practice to "specialty".
- II. A physician who has a post-graduate degree from the DHP approved specialty qualification list and completed the required post-graduate years of clinical experience but has a break from practice for more than 2 years will be eligible for registration / licensing as "Assistant Specialty", until he/she completes the required clinical experience as per break from practice policy, then he/she can change scope of practice to "specialty".

(Please refer to circular number (21/2020) for all the information regarding "Assistant Specialty" title)

- III. A physician who falls under one of the following conditions, will be eligible for registration / licensing in the state of Qatar as "general practitioner (supervised)" for one year then he/she will be eligible to change scope of practice only to General Practitioner (GP):



1. Has a post-graduate degree which is not from the DHP approved specialty qualifications list
 2. Completed residency program but didn't pass the exam and was not granted the post-graduate degree
 3. Has a primary medical degree (Bachelor) and completed the required 5 years clinical experience but his/her practice was exclusively in a specific medical specialty for the last 3 years, however, he/she doesn't have post-graduate certificate in that specialty.
- IV. A physician who has a primary medical degree (Bachelor) and completed the required 5 years clinical experience, but he/she have a break of practice for more than 2 years will be eligible for registration / licensing in the state of Qatar as "general practitioner (supervised)" until he/she completes the required clinical experience as per break from practice policy, then he/she can change scope of practice only to General Practitioner (GP).
- (Please refer to circular number (22/2020) for all the information regarding "general practitioner (supervised)" title)

For currently Registered/licensed "Associate" physician the following will be applied:

- I. A physician who is already licensed or evaluated (holding valid evaluation from DHP) and has a post-graduate degree from the DHP approved specialty qualification list but still didn't complete the required post-graduate years of clinical experience, can apply for core privileges only, will be able to complete the licensing step as associate and will be eligible for changing scope of practice after completion of the required years of experience but will not be granted the core privileges automatically with the "specialty" title and he/she will have to submit a new privilege request with all the requirement mentioned in circular number (circular 21/2020).
- II. 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.
- III. A physician who is already Registered/licensed and has a post-graduate degree which is not from the DHP approved specialty qualification list or completed residency program but didn't pass the exam and was not granted the post-graduate degree will be kept in the system as "Associate", he/she can proceed to licensing step as associate, and will be able to apply for core privileges only.



Overseas applicants

1- Who has post-graduate degree from DHP's Approved qualification list for specialty and completed all the required years of clinical experience

Eligible for Registration/
licensing as a specialist in the
state of Qatar

- 1- Who has post-graduate degree not included in the DHP approved qualification list for specialty. OR
- 2- Who has post-graduate degree from the DHP approved specialty qualification list but still didn't complete the required post graduate years of clinical experience. OR
- 3- Who completed residency program but didn't pass the exam and was not granted the post-graduate degree. OR
- 4- Who has a primary medical degree (Bachelor) and completed the required 5 years clinical experience, but his/her practice was exclusively in a specific medical specialty for the last 3 years, however, he/she doesn't have post-graduate certificate in that specialty.

Not eligible for Registration/
licensing as a specialist in the
state of Qatar



New applicants: Qataris and applicants who have a QID with family sponsorship

1- Who has a post-graduate degree from the DHP approved specialty qualification list but still didn't complete the required post graduate years of clinical experience
 2- Who has a post-graduate degree from the DHP approved specialty qualification list and completed the required post-graduate years of clinical experience but has a break from practice for more than 2 years

1- Eligible for registration / licensing as **"Specialty (Assistant)"**, until completion of the required clinical experience (circular 21/2020).
 2- then he/she will be eligible to change scope of practice to **specility**.

1- Who has a post-graduate degree which is not from the DHP approved specialty qualification list.
 2- Completed residency program but didn't pass the exam and was not granted the post-graduate degree.
 3- Has a primary medical degree (Bachelor) and completed the required 5 years clinical experience but his/her practice was exclusively in a specific medical specialty for the last 3 years, however, he/she doesn't have post-graduate certificate in that specialty.

1- Eligible for registration / licensing as **"general practitioner (supervised)"** for **one year (circular 22/2020)**.
 2- then he/she will be eligible to change scope of practice **only to General Practitioner (GP)**

1- Who has a primary medical degree (Bachelor) and completed the required 5 years clinical experience, but he/she have a break of practice for more than 2 years

1- Eligible for registration / licensing as **"general practitioner (supervised)"** until he/she completes the required clinical experience as per break from practice policy.circular 22/2020
 2- then he/she can change scope of practice only to **General Practitioner (GP)**.

- Please refer to the approved specialty qualifications list in the physicians' guidelines.



**Currently Registered/Licensed
"Associate" Physicians**

