



Circular No. (23/2020)

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| 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 | Amendment of Circular 04-2019 regarding Professional Titles granted by DHP for Physician |
| Date | 28 December 2020 |

“The Department of Healthcare Professions presents to you its compliments”

In the Department of Healthcare Professions’ pursuit to unify the policies and procedures that maintain consistency and objectivity of the registration/licensing process; and with the aim of ensuring safety and competency of healthcare practitioners working in the state of Qatar; DHP has announced the following:

- All overseas physicians who are willing to be licensed in the State of Qatar in a specific scope of practice must fulfill the requirements for getting Specialty title as per attached policy to be eligible for registration and Licensing in the state of Qatar.
- Updating the policy of DHP’s approved Specialty Qualification List for Physicians. (Attachment 1)
- The healthcare facilities will continue to be authorized to grant the title of specialist or consultant to their physicians according to the guidelines and standards approved by DHP. (Appendix 1)
- This circular and its policy will repeal circular number (04-2019) and its attached policy.

Attachment 1: Policy of DHP’s approved Specialty Qualification List for Physicians.

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Thank you for your cooperation

Prepared by:

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



No. 1 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 didn't have the required experience, or have a break from practice, or from countries other than the below mentioned will not be eligible for registration in the State of Qatar.
- For Qatari and family sponsored physicians please refer to circular number **(20 and 21/2020)**.

Definition:

In determining the eligibility of an applicant for registration with DHP the following definitions for each category to be considered:

Category 1: Holders of these certificates can:

- a. Get the **Specialty scope** without obtaining clinical experience post qualification degree.

Category 2: Holders of these certificates can:

- a. Get the **Specialty scope** after completion of one year clinical experience post qualification degree then he/she will be eligible for registration and licensing in the State of Qatar as Specialty.

Note: the required one year clinical work experience must be outside Qatar and only from one of the following Institutions:

- a. Governmental and semi-governmental institutions/hospitals.
- b. Teaching hospitals.

For Candidates holding the certificates with asterisk **

- Get the Specialty scope after completion of three years clinical experience post qualification degree then he/she will be eligible for registration and licensing in the State of Qatar as Specialty.
- For Qatari and family sponsored physicians two years clinical experience required post qualification degree to get Specialty title.

Note: the required three years (or two years as specified above) clinical work experience must be outside Qatar (except Qatari) and only from one of the following Institutions:

- c. Governmental and semi-governmental institutions/hospitals.
- d. Teaching hospitals.



Note: For Category 2 and Certificates with ** if the applicant has less than the required years of clinical experience post qualification degree or his/her clinical experience is not from Governmental Institutions/Hospitals or teaching hospitals, he/ she will not be eligible for registration in the State of Qatar.

- **Note:** The Health care facility has the right to give consultant title to the physician/s according to the policy guidelines mentioned in Appendix (1).

Board Eligible Category (Only for HMC, PHCC and Sidra Medical & Research Center)

- 1- Board eligible physicians are defined as - “Physicians who:
 - Are Qatari nationals or permanent residents of Qatar.
 - Graduated from any of the medical school(s) approved by/ in the State of Qatar.
 - Completed a structured training program in the United States or Canada (North America) that is accredited by DHP.
- 2- Board Eligible candidates will be registered & licensed as “**Board Eligible physicians**”.
- 3- The physicians in this category will benefit from the above-mentioned category after providing the DHP with a justification letter clarifying the reason of the delay in getting the Board certification.
- 4- Physicians will be eligible to be licensed in their area of specialty, whenever they pass the certifying exam.
- 5- Candidates, who didn’t get Board certification and willing to change place of work from (HMC, PHCC and Sidra Medical & Research Center) to any other facility their scope of practice will be changed according to circular number **(20/2020)**.
- 6- Board Eligible physicians will be working under supervision.

Note:

- Qatari Physicians and Physicians who completed a training program that is accredited by DHP in the State of Qatar and are Board Certified; are exempted from post qualification experience to obtain the Specialty.
- Physicians shall have a post graduate degree from DHP’s approved qualification list to be eligible for registration and licensing as a fellow in HMC and Sidra medicine.
- 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.



No. 2: Update on the policy of Physicians' Approved Specialty Qualifications in the State of Qatar

| Country (region) of conferring institution | Category 1 | Category 2 |
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| Arab countries (except Qatar and GCC countries) | | Arab board for medical specialties |
| Algeria | | Higher medical studies (diploma) issued by Algerian ministry of higher education. |
| Argentina | | Specialization Certificate issued by the Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Salud |
| Austria | | Facharzt Diplom (Diploma of medical specialist) issued by Österreichische Ärztekammer Or An Arztfür Allgemeinmedizin (Diploma of general medicine) |
| Australia | Membership/ Fellowship of the Royal College. (All the approved specialist training programs by Australian Medical Council). | |
| Bangladesh | | Master of Surgery (MS)**, Doctor of Medicine (MD)** or Fellow of the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons** Note: fellowship should be by Exam and not by endorsement or election |



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| Belgium | | 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) |
| | | Bijzondereberoepstitel van huisarts/Titre professional particulier de médecin généraliste (certificate of specific training for general medical practice) |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | | Certificate of successful completion of specialist exam ** |
| Brazil | | "Titulo De Especialista" Issued by Brazilian Medical Association and the Brazilian College of Surgeons And Registered with the Regional Councils or Federal Medical Council as a Specialists |
| Bulgaria | | Свидетелство за призната Специалност (Evidence of Recognized Specialty) awarded by the Университет (University) ** |
| Canada | Specialization Certificate of the Royal College of Physicians and surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) | |
| | Specialty Certificate from the College of Family Physician of Canada (CFPC) | |
| China | | Master's Degree with Evidence of clinical training (minimum two (2) years) program accredited by the National Committee of Academic Degree ** |
| Cuba | | First Degree of Specialization** |



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| Czech Republic | | Diploma Specializaci (specialist medical degree) awarded by the Czech Ministry of Health** |
| Denmark | Bevis for tilladelse til at betegne sig som speciallæge (Certificate concerning the title of Specialist - Issued by Authority of health services (Sundhedsstyrelsen). Tilladelse til at anvende betegnelsen alment praktiserende læge/ Speciallæge i almen medicin (certificate of specific training for general medical practice) | |
| Egypt | | Doctor of Medicine (MD) Fellowship of Egyptian Board** |
| Finland | Erikoislääkäarin tutkinto/ Special läkarexamen (Certificate of degree of specialist in medicine awarded by a Finnish University). Todistus yleislääketieteen erityiskoulutuksesta/ Bevis om särskild allmänläkarutbildning (Certificate of specific training for general medical practice) | |
| France | Certificat d'études spécialisées de médecine (CES) (Certificate of Specialized Studies in Medicine issued by French University with Full license issued by Conseil National de l'ordre des médecins) 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) | |



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| Germany | Fachärztliche Anerkennung/ Fachärztliche Urkunde (Certificate of medical specialist issued by State's Medical Council (The Landesärztekammer) | |
| | A Zeugnis über die spezifische Ausbildung in der Allgemeinmedizin (Certificate of specialist training in general medicine) issued by The Landesärztekammer | |
| Greece | | Τίτλος ΙατρικήςΕιδικότητας (Certificate of medical specialization -awarded by Greek region of medical specialization) |
| | | Τίτλος ιατρικήςειδικότητας γενικής ιατρικής (certificate of specific training for general medical practice) |
| Hong Kong | | Specialist training from a recognized post-graduate training program in Hong Kong And Fellowship of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM) |
| Hungary | | Háziorvostan Szakorvosi bizonyítvány issued by <i>Nemzeti Vizsgabizottság</i> (Hungarian specialist certificate awarded by National Board of Examination or National Qualification Board Before 28 August 2004 awarded by the Hungarian Ministry of Health) ** |
| India | | MD** or MS** from recognized Medical school or DNB** from National Board of Examination |
| | | DM/M.ch |
| Iraq | | Fellowship of Iraqi Board issued by the Iraqi Commission of Medical Specialties Or Fellowship of Kurdistan Board issued by Kurdistan Board of Medical Specialties (FKBMS) with certificate of completion of minimum 4 years structured training program |
| Iran | | The Degree of Medical specialty/subspecialty (دانشنامه تخصصی / فوق تخصصی) issued by University of Medical Sciences and Health Services under the Ministry of Health and Medical Education ** |



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| Ireland | Membership / Fellowship of the Royal Colleges and Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist training (CSCST) from Ireland and Certificate of Specialist Doctor issued by the Medical Council of Ireland and Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist training (CSCST) | Membership/ Fellowship of the Royal Colleges before 1996 |
| | Membership/ Fellowship of the Royal College of General Practitioners and Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of training in General Practice (CSCST) from Ireland and A certificate of specific qualification in General medical practice issued by the Medical Council of Ireland and Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of training in General Practice (CSCST) | Intercollegiate Specialty examination from one of the four Surgical Royal Colleges** Fellowship of the Royal colleges after 1996** |
| Italy | Diploma of specialized doctor granted by a rector of an Italian university (A Diploma di (medico) specialista, rilasciati dal rettore di una universita) | |
| | An Attesto di formazione specifica in medicina generale (certificate of specific training for general medical practice) issued by the Ministry of Health. | |
| Japan | | PhD Note: minimum two (2) years clinical course duration. |
| Jordan | | Jordanian Board awarded by the Jordanian Medical Council |
| Korea | | Certificate of specialization awarded by the Ministry of Health and Welfare showing the completion of the training program in addition to passing the required examination. |
| Kuwait | 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 | |



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| Lebanon | | <p>Certificate of completion of residency and exit specialization exam from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American University of Beirut (AUB) ** • Saint Joseph University ** • Lebanese University ** • Beirut Arab University (BAU) ** |
| Libya | | Libyan Board of Medical Specialty |
| Malaysia | | Master/Doctor Degree minimum 4 years course duration |
| Morocco | | Diplome de Specialite Medicale (Specialty Certificate issued by the National Physicians Authority) |
| Nepal | | MD ** or MS ** from recognized Medical school |
| Netherlands | | <p>Bewijis van inschrijving in een Specialistenregister (Certificate of recognition And Registration/certificate of entry in the Specialist Register)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Medisch Specialisten Registratie Commissie (MRSC) o Sociaal-Geneeskundigen Registratie Commissie o Huisarts en Verpleeghuisarts Registratie Commissie (HVRC) van de Koninklijke Nederlandsche Maatschappij tot Bevordering der Geneeskunst <p>– Note that only certificates issued before 19 July 2007 are accepted from this awarding body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Registratie Commissie Geneeskundig Specialisten (RGS) |
| | | <p>Certificaat van inschrijving in een specialistenregister van huisartsen awarded by any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Huisarts en Verpleeghuisarts Registratie Commissie (HVRC) o Registratie Commissie Geneeskundig Specialisten (RGS) |
| New Zealand | Fellowship of the Royal College/ Colleges | |
| Norway | | <p>Spesialistgodkjenning issued by the Den Norske Legeforening (Medical Association of Norway) or Norwegian Directorate of Health</p> |
| | | <p>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)</p> |



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| Oman | Arab board for medical specialties and Certificate of completion of residency program from teaching institutions in Oman | |
| | Omani Board | |
| Pakistan | | Fellowship of College of Physicians and Surgeons in Pakistan (FCPS)** |
| Philippines | | <p>Diplomate of the Philippine Board** N.B. Diplomate from the following institutions is accepted: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists** • Philippine Academy of Family Medicine** • Philippine College of Physicians** • Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society** • Philippine Society of Pathologists** • Philippine Pediatric Society** • Philippine College of Radiology** • Philippine College of Surgeons** |
| Poland | | <p>(Specialist Diploma) Dyplom uzyskania tytułu specjalisty issued by the Centrum Egzaminów Medycznych** First Degree of Specialization**</p> |
| Portugal | | Título de Especialista (professional award of specialist) issued by the Ordem dos Medicos |
| | | Título de especialista em medicina geral e familiar (certificate of specific training for general medical practice) issued by Ministério da Saude or Ordem dos Medicos |
| Qatar | Arab board for medical specialties and Certificate of completion of residency program from teaching institutions in the state of Qatar | |
| | Qatar Medical Specialties Certificate (Qatari Board) | |
| | Certificate of Completion of Fellowship training from teaching institutions in the state of Qatar | |



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| Romania | | Certificate de medic specialist issued by Ministerul Sănătății Publici (the Ministry of Public Health) ** |
| | | Certificat de medic specialist medicină de familie issued by Ministerul Sănătății Publici (the Ministry of Public Health)** |
| Russia | | Magista PhD** |
| Saudi Arabia | 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 | |
| Serbia | | Specialty certificate issued by a Serbian university And Registration as a specialist from the Serbian Medical Chamber ** |
| Singapore | Exit Certificate from Joint Committee on Specialist Training (JCST) and Certificate of Specialist Accreditation from the Specialist Accreditation Board | |
| Slovakia | | Diplom o špecializácii (Diploma of specialization) issued by Slovak universities** |
| Slovenia | | Potrdilo o opravljenem specialisticnem izpitu (Certificate of successful completion of the specialist exam) issued by Medical Chamber of Slovenia** |
| South Africa | | Master of Medicine (M.Med) Degree or Fellowship Certificate approved by the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA) |
| 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 • 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 |



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| Sudan | | Clinical MD Issued by Sudan Medical Specialization Board Or Clinical MD issued by University of Khartoum and Specialist Registration from Sudan Medical Council |
| Switzerland | Diplôme de médecin spécialiste/Diplom als Facharzt/ Diploma di medico specialista (specialist qualification) issued by the Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA) Or Master of Advanced Studies of Clinical Medicine | |
| Sweden | 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) | |
| Syria | | Higher Study Certificate issued by Ministry of Higher Education ** Syrian specialization certificate issued by MOH** Syrian board** Specialist registration is not accepted as recognized specialty certificates |
| Tunisia | | Specialty Certificate issued by the Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Health |
| Turkey | | Uzmanlik Belgesi issued by Sağlık Bakanlığı (Certificate of Medical Specialty issued by Ministry of Health) |



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| United Arab Emirates | Arab board for medical specialties and Certificate of completion of residency program from teaching institutions in U.A.E. | |
| Ukraine | | PhD** |
| United Kingdom | Membership/Fellowship from Royal Colleges + Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) or equivalent in U.K. | Membership/Fellowship of the Royal Colleges before 1996 |
| | | Intercollegiate Specialty examination from one of the four Surgical Royal Colleges** |
| | 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. | Fellowship of the Royal Colleges after 1996 ** |
| United States of America | American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Certificates and Subspecialty Certificates | |



No.3: 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.
- ❖ The post-graduate degree, which is limited for certain duration of time, should be valid at the time of applying for Registration/licensing with DHP.
- ❖ DHP reserves the right to ask for recommendation letters and complete the assessment through the expert panels.
- ❖ DHP reserves the right to conduct interviews as part of the evaluation process if required.
- ❖ DHP has the right to ask for additional supporting documents whenever needed.
- ❖ Holders of specialty certificates in the main specialty while their work experience in the sub specialty, the registration department can grant them the Scope of Practice as per the sub specialty only if the university/issuing institution does not have the sub specialty degree at the time he/she got the degree. The registration department may request for an official proof (if necessary).
- ❖ In determining the eligibility of an applicant for registration in Specialty Scope, applicant shall comply with the following basic requirements:
 1. To have a minimum of six (6) years undergraduate degree (MBChB/MBBS/MBBCh /Northern American MD or equivalent)
 2. The internship program can be considered for completion of the required undergraduate study years in case the medical college program is less than (6) years.
- ❖ DHP reserves the right to consult an expert panel in the respective specialty whenever required.
- ❖ Physicians cannot be registered with double specialties unless they are related.
- ❖ physicians cannot get privileges out of their scope of practice.
- ❖ Certificates of mostly academic nature and character, the curricula of which do not include patient care, clinical practice, and practical training in the field of specialization.
- ❖ This policy cancels any previous policies in this regard.
- ❖ 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 DHP. (Appendix 1)
- ❖ The applicant must be reasonably fluent in either Arabic or English or both.
- ❖ Please ensure to check the below mentioned website for any updates:
 - ✓ <https://dhp.moph.gov.qa>
 - ✓ www.MOPH.gov.qa



APPENDIX (1):

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 after completion of one year of clinical experience post qualification degree.
- 3- Holders of certificates from Category 2, can be promoted to Consultant title after completion of four years of clinical experience post qualification degree.
- 4- Holders of certificates from Category 2 **, can be promoted to Consultant title after completion of seven years of clinical experience post qualification 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.

ملحق (1)

تُمنح المنشآت الصحية الصلاحية لإعطاء مسمى استشاري للأطباء المرخصين لديها تبعاً للضوابط والمعايير المدرجة ادناه:

- 1- أن يكون الطبيب حاصل على ترخيص مزاولة المهنة كطبيب متخصص صادر من المجلس القطري للتخصصات الصحية.
- 2- يمكن للأطباء حاملي الشهادات من الفئة 1 الحصول على مسمى استشاري بعد اتمام سنة كاملة من الخبرة العملية السريرية.
- 3- يمكن للأطباء حاملي الشهادات من الفئة 2 الحصول على مسمى استشاري بعد اتمام أربع سنوات كاملة من الخبرة العملية السريرية.
- 4- يمكن للأطباء حاملي الشهادات من الفئة 2** الحصول على مسمى استشاري بعد اتمام سبع سنوات كاملة من الخبرة العملية السريرية.
- 5- ان يقدم الطبيب ما يثبت قيامه بنشر ما لا يقل عن (2) من المقالات الطبية، واحدة فقط كتقرير عن حالة مَرَضِيَّة معينة.
- 6- ان يحصل الطبيب عما لا يقل عن رسالتي تزكية حديثة، بالإضافة الى تقييم سنوي مُرضي من مكان العمل الحالي.
- 7- تتكون لجنة من المدير الطبي وعضو من ادارة الجودة وعضو من الموارد البشرية في المنشأة الصحية لاتخاذ القرار لإعطاء مسمى استشاري لاحد منتسبيها من الاطباء.
- 8- يجب ان تكون جميع الوثائق المذكورة أعلاه متوفرة في حال تم طلبها من المجلس القطري للتخصصات الصحية لأغراض التدقيق.