

## **Guidelines for Admission of “First Fellows/ First Batch Specialists” in New Specialty**

### **(1) Name**

The terminology “First Fellow” will be used for the first batch of Fellows admitted in a new specialty. The terminology “First batch specialist” will be used for the first batch of potential specialists recommended by the College for inclusion of their names in a new specialty under the Specialist Register.

### **(2) Admission criteria**

A First Fellow/ First batch specialist must satisfy **all** of the following: -

- a) be a Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, or a specialist certified by the Academy and his / her name currently included in the Specialist Register.
- b) has satisfied the College that his training and/or clinical competence is comparable in quality and standard to be required for a Fellow in the new specialty;
- c) has satisfied the College that he has a minimum period of good practice in the field of the new specialty. The period should be twice of the duration required for a formal specialty training programme. The standard of such practice or supervision must be assessed as satisfactory by the College for the purpose of accreditation;
- d) has passed an assessment by the College. The assessment shall be based on criteria comparable to that required for Fellowship in the new specialty obtained via the approved formal training programme. The assessment should preferably be conducted by a panel consisting of at least one external independent member.

### **(3) Cut-off date**

- a) Colleges should cease to admit First Fellows/ First batch specialist when their formal training programme has started\*; and
- b) the training programme should start *within 24 months* after approval of the new specialty by the Academy Council.

\* *Colleges should set a deadline for First Fellow/ First batch specialist applications to ensure First Fellows/ First batch specialist can be admitted before the formal training has started. But in the circumstance that an appeal is received from an unsuccessful applicant against the assessment result and the appeal is allowed, the applicant could be admitted as First Fellow/ First batch specialist after commencement of the training programme on condition that the applicant has submitted the appeal and the necessary documentations by the appeal deadline set by the College.*

### **(4) Fellows / Specialists having substantial specialty experience but not meeting admission criteria at the cut-off date\***

For those Fellows / specialists who have acquired substantial specialty experience but not met the Admission Criteria as stated in paragraph 2 above at the cut-off date, there is a special one-off arrangement for them to become Fellows / potential specialists in the new specialty provided they have fulfilled all of the following conditions, namely that they:-

- a) have already fulfilled *at least 75%* of the requirement as stated in 2(c) above, whether in terms of the duration of good practice, number of patients treated or operated and experience required by the College, at the cut-off date as stated in paragraph 3;
- b) have registered with the College on or before the cut-off date of their intention to follow this special one-off arrangement;
- c) will undergo a supervised training programme, content and format to be decided by the College, to make up for the shortage of experience/exposure requirements as stated in 2(c) above. All make-up programmes must be completed before the First Exit Examination takes place;
- d) have to pass the normal Exit Examination of the specialty.

College will submit a list of these College Fellows / potential specialists in the new specialty to the Academy within 1 month after the cut-off date. The provisions under this one-off arrangement cease to be in force once the Exit Examination of the specialty has been in place.

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