

## Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

### Guidelines for the admission of First Fellows to the Subspecialty of **[new subspecialty]**

1. Application for First Fellows will be opened on receiving the proposal of establishment of the **[new subspecialty]**. All potential candidates are kept informed of the progress of accreditation. First Fellows will be admitted only after approval of the Subspecialty by the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM).
2. The College will cease to admit First Fellows once the **[new subspecialty]** Training Programme starts (the cut-off date), which should be no later than 24 months from the date of approval of the **[new subspecialty]** by the HKAM.
3. All First Fellows must have Fellowship of FHKAM(Paediatrics) AND FHKCPaed.
4. All First Fellows must have the following subspecialty training:  
EITHER
  - 4.1. He/she has undergone supervised training in **[new subspecialty]** for 3 years in an overseas centre recognised for **[new subspecialty]** training by the professional college/authority in that country;OR
  - 4.2. He/she has *a period of full-time supervised training (which should normally be not less than 6 months) in a recognized centre*. In addition, the shortfall of the 3 years of the stipulated accredited subspecialty training programme should be *made up with a period of Good Independent Practice (GIP) in that subspecialty* of twice of the shortfall duration required to complete the 3 years accredited training programme.
5. To fulfil the criteria of “supervised training” in section 4.2, the period should satisfy ALL of the followings:
  - 5.1. Training in all areas listed as mandatory modules in the **[new subspecialty]** curriculum can be counted towards the 6 months “supervised training”. However, the **[new subspecialty]** core curriculum must account for a majority of the claimed “supervised training” period. Thus if an applicant claims the minimum of 6 months of “supervised training”, training in **[new subspecialty] core curriculum** should be more than 3 months. Training in other mandatory modules can be counted to a maximum equal to the duration of the mandatory modules in the future training programme, but limited to less than half of total claimed supervised training.
  - 5.2. A recognized centre is defined as either an overseas centre recognized or accredited for training in **[new subspecialty]** by the professional college/authority in that

country; or a local centre that is a fully accredited training centre of the **[new subspecialty]** Training Programme.

- 5.3. For local centres, the candidate must prove that he/she is serving full time in the Subspecialty Team in that centre.
- 5.4. The maximum period of supervised training recognized for local centers will be 6 months.
6. To fulfil the criteria of “Good Independent Practice (GIP)” in section 4.2, the period should satisfy sections 6.1 and 6.2.:
- 6.1. The assurance of the standard and quality of the GIP in **[new subspecialty]** should be supported by documentation of the following activities during the claimed period:
  - the clinical workload and mandatory procedural skills in **[new subspecialty]** (cases managed, procedures performed); AND
  - relevant educational activities, such as conferences participated; AND
  - relevant research and publications; AND
  - participation in relevant professional bodies; AND
  - teaching in the relevant fields

Note:

- a) The period of GIP will be counted from the time an applicant is eligible to obtain the Fellowship of the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians (count from the month after passing Exit Assessment to the month before the First Fellow Interview Assessment).
- b) One cannot claim GIP in more than one Subspecialty simultaneously during any one period.
- c) One can claim GIP in different Subspecialties in sequential periods of one’s career. Implications are that one can be First Fellows in more than one subspecialty if one has adequate separate supervised training/GIP in the subspecialties.
- d) College should be satisfied of a First Fellow’s competency at the time of admission. Therefore the applicant should be in active practice in the subspecialty (as determined by the Assessment Committee) up to the time of application for First Fellow accreditation.
- e) **The GIP is not restricted to practice within accredited institutions. However, a significant proportion of his/her practice should be in the subspecialty. The nature and amount of practice qualifying for GIP will be determined by the Assessment Committee.**

- f) GIP period will be counted up to three months before the cut-off date. The Assessment Committee takes approximately 3 months for completing the endorsement procedures of admission of a First Fellow by the College and then the HK Academy of Medicine.
7. All First Fellows will have to pass an assessment by the College. The assessment shall be based on criteria comparable to that required for Fellowship in the new subspecialty obtained via the approved formal training programme. The assessment will be conducted by the Assessment Committee of the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians in conjunction with an External Assessor appointed by the College.
8. For those Fellows who have acquired substantial subspecialty experience but who have not met the Admission Criteria as stated in paragraph 4 above at the cut-off date, there is a special one-off arrangement for them to become Fellows in the new subspecialty 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 paragraph 4.1 or 4.2 above, whether in terms of the duration of good independent practice and experience required by the College, at the cut-off date as stated in paragraph 2;
  - 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, in College accredited training centres, to make up for the shortage of period of “supervised training” or “good independent practice” requirements as stated in paragraph 4.1 or 4.2 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 subspecialty.
- College will submit a list of these College Fellows 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 subspecialty has been in place.

*Endorsed by Council on 12 Nov 2013*

*Further amendment in red proposed by Committee for Subspecialty Board (in red) on 13 Jan 2014*