

HONG KONG ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

Guidelines for Recognition of Academy College

1. On Colleges and Specialities

- 1.1. The issue of specialty recognition and College recognition be separated.

2. Specialities

Definition for Specialty

- 2.1. A specialty has a broad base of knowledge and practice, the major part of which is unique.
- 2.2. The major part of the training and assessment of a specialty should be unique.

Application for Recognition of Specialty

- 2.3. On application from 50 or more fully qualified practitioners in a proposed specialty, the Academy may recognize this new specialty. These 50 practitioners must have received recognizable, supervised training or qualifications which the Council will accept as appropriate for that specialty and as equivalent to the standard to that required for the Academy Fellowship. In addition, each of these 50 practitioners must show evidence that they have practised predominantly in the proposed specialty. Basically, at least 60% of the total volume of their work should be from work in the proposed specialty in the previous 12 months;

OR

The Academy may recognize a new specialty on application from one or more established Colleges of the Academy.

- 2.4. If there is a disagreement between a group of 50 practitioners and a College, or no College is available to assist in the matter, these practitioners may appeal to the Council of Academy directly for consideration towards the recognition of a specialty.

Criteria for Recognition of a Specialty

- 2.5. The Academy may recognize a specialty if it is *satisfied that enough of the following criteria are fulfilled:-*
- a) that the specialty is needed in Hong Kong;

- b) that the specialty is new and different to existing specialties;
- c) that the knowledge base and practice involved are broad enough to constitute more than a subspecialty within another specialty;
- d) that such a specialty exists in another country;
- e) that the specialty is recognized at the institutional level; with the establishment of a department of that specialty or the appointment of a full professorship in that specialty in at least one of the universities in Hong Kong, or the establishment of a department of that specialty in one of the Hospital Authority Hospitals or the Department of Health;
- f) that sufficient specialists in that specialty already exist in Hong Kong to make the specialty viable, to enable the development of adequate training programme, and to conduct academic activities such as teaching, research, and professional meetings;
- g) that the specialty is viable in private practice;
- h) that the specialty has the administrative support of one or more constituent Colleges of the Academy;
- i) that the major part of the postgraduate training and assessment required is unique and different to existing specialties.

After Recognition of a Specialty

- 2.6. Council shall appoint one or more of its constituent Colleges to represent the specialty on Academy committees, and to supervise the organization, training, and assessment of the specialty.
- 2.7. The Academy may intervene and arbitrate over unresolved disputes between members of the specialty and its supervisory College, on application from the College, or from 20 or more members of the specialty.

3. Subspecialties

Definition for Subspecialty

- 3.1. A subspecialty may exist only within an established specialty.
- 3.2. A subspecialty shares with its parent specialty a significant part of training and assessment, including basic training and entry assessment.

Criteria for Recognition of a Subspecialty

- 3.3. On application from one or more Colleges, the Academy may recognize a subspecialty if it is *satisfied that enough of* the following criteria are fulfilled:
- a) that the subspecialty is needed in Hong Kong;
 - b) that the subspecialty is new and different to existing subspecialties;
 - c) that the knowledge base and practice involved are identifiably distinct, and is appropriate and compatible with its parent main specialty;
 - d) that such a subspecialty exists in another country;
 - e) that the subspecialty is recognized at the institutional level; with the appointment of academic staff for that subspecialty at the Senior Lecturer or Associate Professor level in at least one of the universities in Hong Kong, or the appointment of a Consultant for that subspecialty in one of the Hospital Authority Hospitals or the Department of Health;
 - f) that the subspecialty has the administrative support of one or more constituent Colleges of the Academy.
- 3.4. The subspecialty is supervised by a separate Board and represented via its parent College.

4. Recognition and Quotability

- 4.1. The Academy establishes a register of recognized specialties and subspecialties that exist in Hong Kong.
- 4.2. The Academy recognizes a list of existing specialties, these being identical to the existing Colleges.
- 4.3. Where the specialty or subspecialty requires formal, structured, College-supervised training and equivalent full assessment process, then the specialty or subspecialty should be quotable.

5. Colleges

Conditions under which the Academy should not recognize a new College

- 5.1. A decision to recognize a new College shall not be made unless the application to do so is made by 50 members of a specialty which has already been recognized by the Academy.

- 5.2. A decision to recognize a new College shall not be made unless Council is satisfied that such a College has a viable separate existence, and that its existence does not prejudice the effectiveness of an existing College.
- 5.3. A new College should normally not be recognized by the Academy unless the specialty has been recognized by Council from the foundation of the Academy, or for a minimum of four years.
- 5.4. A new College shall not be recognized by the Academy unless its constitution and regulations are compatible with those of the Academy, that it stipulates a willingness to abide by the standards set by the Academy, and it has a standing Education Committee.
- 5.5. A new College shall not be recognized by the Academy unless its training programme is accepted by the Council as of a sufficient standard.
- 5.6. A new College shall not be recognized by the Academy unless Council is satisfied that the College will conduct its own examinations within two years of its recognition.
- 5.7. A new College shall not be recognized by the Academy unless Council is satisfied that the College will begin its Continuing Medical Education programme within one year of its recognition.

*Approved by Education Committee on 10.9.96, endorsed by Council on 19.9.96
Revised by Education Committee on 28.10.97, endorsed by Council on 20.11.97*

C:\Recognition of Specialty & College.doc
20.11.97