



Date: 5 October 2020

Call for Application of First Fellows of the Subspecialty of Paediatric Haematology & Oncology (PHO)

To All Fellows of Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

Please read this IMPORTANT announcement about the Accreditation of the Subspecialty of **Haematology & Oncology**, and the call for application of FIRST FELLOWS.

Our College recognises the importance of developing our various subspecialties to further advance and consolidate tertiary and quaternary paediatric services and training.

The College has received an application for the accreditation of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology (PHO) as a paediatric subspecialty. After a period of open consultation to all Fellows and careful consideration by the Committee for Subspecialty Boards and our College Council, we have agreed to start the formal process of accreditation of PHO as a subspecialty under our College. Fellows can access the full set of PHO accreditation documents on our College Website → Subspecialty → Paediatric Haematology & Oncology.

The accreditation process will be conducted with by our College in collaboration with an independent External Assessor with the necessary expertise in PHO. The process comprises the establishment of a PHO Subspecialty Board, training and accreditation guidelines, an accredited training programme, PHO training centre(s) and recognition of PHO First Fellows. After establishment of the PHO training programme, future PHO subspecialists will be recognised as a subspecialist only after completing the accredited programme. For the name of subspecialist qualifications and quotability of such qualifications, you are invited to read the attached **Appendix 1** on “Frequently asked questions on quotability of First Fellow of a Subspecialty”.

Colleagues who are interested to apply to be First Fellows are advised to read **Appendix 2** on “Administrative principles for the admission of First Fellows to the PHO subspecialty”. However, this document lists only the general principles and the final decision of admission will be made by the External Assessor and the Assessment Subcommittee after an Interview Assessment.

To start the accreditation process, the College would like to call all Fellows interested in being

accredited as First Fellows in PHO to apply in accordance with our guidelines. According to Guidelines of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, and as shown in **Appendix 2** on “Administrative principles for the admission of First Fellows to the PHO subspecialty”, College will cease admitting First Fellows after the “cutoff date” (i.e. the date when the formal Training Programme starts). The Subspecialty Board will decide this date of starting the formal Training Programme (latest within 24 months of formal approval of the Subspecialty by the Academy). We estimate that the cutoff date for PHO Subspecialty will be approximately 2 years after the deadline stated below. **Due to the stringent regulations related to admission of First Fellows, no application after the deadline stated below will be accepted. There will NOT be another Call for Application in future.**

The First Fellows Application Form is attached. To ensure financial viability of the Subspecialty accreditation process, the College will levy a non-refundable First Fellows Application Fee of \$3000 for each application. A further First Fellows Admission Fee of \$7000 is applicable for each successful application and admission of First Fellows in the Subspecialty.

Interested Fellows please submit the following to the College Honorary Secretary at Room 801, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building, Wong Chuk Hang Road, Hong Kong **on or before 4th December 2020:**

1. The First Fellows Application Form (which should be duly signed);
2. Documentary evidence of your supervised training (please give reason if not available);
3. A brief curriculum vitae highlighting your relevant subspecialty experience; and
4. A cheque of \$ 3000 (payable to “Hong Kong College of Paediatricians”).

If you are interested to know more about the process of subspecialty accreditation, please contact the College secretariat at enquiry@paediatrician.org.hk for more information.

Prof Li Chi-kong
Director of Subspecialty Boards

Attached documents:

- Appendix 1: Frequently asked questions on quotability of First Fellow of a Subspecialty.
- Appendix 2: Administrative principles for the admission of First Fellows to the PHO Subspecialty Application Form for First Fellows of the Subspecialty of Paediatric Haematology & Oncology.

Frequently Asked Questions on Quotability of First Fellow of a Subspecialty

Frequently encountered questions	Latest reply by HKAM in Oct 2010:
If our Fellow has completed training in both General Paediatrics and a paediatric subspecialty e.g. paediatric cardiology:	
1. At the level of Specialist Registry, he/she can choose to be included in either the register of Specialist in Paediatrics or Specialist in Paediatric Cardiology, but not both. Is this true?	<i>Correct</i>
2. He/she can change between the two registries at any time. How often can he/she change registries?	<i>Any doctor can apply to MCHK to change specialty in Specialist Registry, but he would need to be removed from the registered specialty first before he can be entered for a new specialty. I am not aware of any time restriction. But it normally takes a few months for the process, as MCHK would need to check with HKAM whether the Fellow/doctor is eligible for the specialty being applied (we have to go through HKAM Council), then MCHK has to go through the EAC and MCHK main Council.</i>
3. At the Academy Fellowship level, he/she will only be awarded one Academy Fellowship – i.e. FHKAM(Paediatrics). Is this true?	<i>Correct. At the Academy, we only have 15 types of Fellowship.</i>
4. Will the Academy award double Academy Fellowships e.g. FHKAM(Paediatrics) and FHKAM(Paediatric Cardiology)?	<i>No. Double Fellowship is possible only for “cross-college” Fellowship, as mentioned above we only have 15 Fellowship at the Academy level – one for each College.</i>
5. At the College Fellowship level, can the College award double Fellowships to this Fellow – i.e. both FHKCPaed and FHKCPaed (Paediatric Cardiology)?	<i>It is up to your College to decide, as long as your constitutions allow it. Additional comments: Before a new specialty can be included in SR, the specialty must be approved by the Academy EC. After HKAM Council endorsed the new specialty, Academy would write to MCHK to recommend including the new specialty in the SR.</i>

The College has recommended the term “Board Certified in [Subspecialty]” for newly accredited Fellows in the Subspecialty. Is this title quotable?

The quotability of a professional qualification is decided by the Medical Council of Hong Kong, basing on 1) at least 6 months of full time structured and supervised training or study; and 2) formal assessment by a recognized medical body or independently vetted (e.g. external examiner) by a recognized medical body. It is unlikely that a First Fellow can quote this title because he/she did not undergo an examination to get such a degree. However, College may apply for quotability for future graduates who have undergone the formal training programme and Board examination.

Hong Kong College of Paediatricians**Administrative Principles for the admission of First Fellows to the Subspecialty of Paediatric Haematology & Oncology (PHO)**

1. Application for First Fellows will be opened on receiving the proposal of establishment of the PHO 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 PHO subspecialty Training Programme starts (the cut-off date), which should be no later than 24 months from the date of approval of the PE 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 PHO for 3 years in an overseas centre recognised for PHO 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 PHO subspecialty curriculum can be counted towards the 6 months “supervised training”. However, the PHO 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 PHO 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 PHO by the professional college/authority in that country; or a local centre that is a fully accredited training centre of the future PHO 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. 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 PHO should be supported by documentation of the following activities during the claimed period:

- the clinical workload in PHO (cases managed, procedures performed). [pending External Assessor's input on any mandatory procedures or skills for PHO] 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 (of Remedial Training Programme) 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.