

## Guidelines for Admission of “First Fellows” in New Subspecialty

### (1) Name

The terminology “First Fellow” will be used for the first batch of Fellows admitted in a new subspecialty.

### (2) Admission criteria

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

- a) be a Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine;
- 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 subspecialty;
- c) has satisfied the College that he has a minimum period of good practice in the field of the new subspecialty. The period should be twice of the duration required for a formal subspecialty 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 subspecialty 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 when their formal training programme has started\*; and
- b) the training programme should start *within 24 months* after approval of the new subspecialty by the Academy Council.

*\* Colleges should set a deadline for First Fellow applications to ensure First Fellows 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 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 having substantial subspecialty experience but not meeting admission criteria at the cut-off date

For those Fellows who have acquired substantial subspecialty 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 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 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 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.