

Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

Administrative principles for the admission of First Fellows to a new Subspecialty:

1. When College receives an application for accreditation of a new Subspecialty, announcement will be made to all College Fellows to invite applications to be First Fellows. All applicants will be 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.
2. The College will cease to admit First Fellows once the new Subspecialty Fellowship Training Programme starts (**the cut-off date**), which has to be within 24 months from the date of approval of the new Subspecialty by the Academy. The College will set a **deadline date for accepting appeals** from unsuccessful applicants. Appeals will be handled by College Review Committee and applicants whose appeals are successful will be admitted even after the Cut-off date. Applicants who do not yet qualify when College calls for First Fellows may apply later, but before the Fellowship Training Programme starts. These later applications will be vetted by the Assessment Committee (input from the external assessor will not be available).
3. All First Fellows must be Fellows of the HKAM(Paediatrics) AND HKCPaed.
4. All First Fellows must have the following: Either
 - 4.1. He/she has undergone supervised training in the new Subspecialty for 3 years in an overseas centre recognised for its 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 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 the following:
 - 5.1. the supervised training must have covered **a majority of the core modules** of the future structured training programme of the Subspecialty (in other words, previous training in areas listed as elective modules of the new Subspecialty Training Programme, or training in only a minor part of the core modules will NOT be counted as supervised training); AND
 - 5.2. A recognized centre is defined as either an **overseas centre** recognized or accredited for training by the professional college/authority in that country; or a **local centre** that is an accredited training centre of the new Subspecialty Training Programme; AND
 - 5.3. For local centres, the candidate must prove that he/she is **servicing full time** in the Subspecialty Team in that centre during the period of supervised training; AND
 - 5.4. If training in a local centre is claimed, **only 6 months** of training will be counted towards the period of supervised training.

Note:

- a) **Documentary proof** of supervised training must be submitted.
- b) One cannot claim having supervised training in more than **one subspecialty** simultaneously in **any period**.

- c) The required duration of supervised training can be achieved **cumulatively**.
- d) The supervised training should occur after passing the MRCP/MRCPCH/Intermediate Examination OR after 3 years of paediatric training.
6. To fulfil criteria of “Good Independent Practice (GIP)” in section 4.2, the period should satisfy the followings:
- 6.1. The assurance of the standard and quality of the GIP should be supported by documentation of the following activities during the claimed period:
- the **clinical workload** (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
- 6.2. The period of GIP will be counted from the time **after an applicant has obtained the Fellowship of the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians**.
- Note:
- a) One cannot claim GIP in more than **one Subspecialty** simultaneously **during any one period**.
 - b) 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.
 - c) The fulfilment of adequate GIP can be **achieved any time in the past**. The applicant is not required to be in active practice at the time of First Fellow application. Implications are that retired Fellows or Fellows already not practicing in the Subspecialty can be admitted as First Fellows.
 - d) The GIP is not restricted to practice within accredited institutions. There is no requirement that the Fellow is practising in the Subspecialty >50% of his/her time.
 - e) GIP period will be counted up to before the endorsement of the First Fellow status by the Academy.
7. All First Fellows will have to pass an **Interview 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 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.

Developed by Working Group on 2-8-2012