



Hong Kong College of Paediatricians
香港兒科醫學院



Date: 24th January, 2013

Call for Application of First Fellows of the Subspecialty of Paediatric Neurology

To All Fellows of Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

Please read this IMPORTANT announcement about the Accreditation of the Subspecialty of **Paediatric Neurology (PN)**, and the call for application of FIRST FELLOW.

The Hong Kong College of Paediatricians recognized the importance of developing various subspecialties to streamline tertiary and quaternary paediatric practice and to prepare for the establishment of Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics. Through the effort of the Working Group for the Accreditation of Paediatric Subspecialties in Hong Kong, the College has established a fair and open mechanism for accreditation of subspecialties.

The College has now received an application for the accreditation of the PN subspecialty. After careful consideration by the Working Group and a period of open consultation to all Fellows, the College Council has agreed to start the formal process of accreditation. The whole process will be stringent and subject to scrutiny by an independent overseas expert in the field and the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. It will result in the setting up of the relevant Subspecialty Board, training and accreditation guidelines, training programmes with accredited training centres and trainers. Future trainees will have to go through such a training programme before being recognized as a subspecialist. Colleagues may have questions about the name of subspecialist qualifications and the quotability of such qualifications. You are invited to read the attached Appendix 1 and 2 on “Frequently asked questions on quotability of First Fellow of a Subspecialty” and “Administrative principles for the admission of First Fellows to a new Subspecialty”.

To start the Accreditation process, the College would like to call for applications from all Fellows interested in being accredited as First Fellows in the subspecialty of Paediatric Neurology (PN). According to Guideline of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, and as shown in the document on “Administrative principles for the admission of First Fellows”, College will cease admitting First Fellows after the “cutoff date” when the formal Training Programme starts. The Subspecialty Board will decide the date of starting the formal Training Programme within 24 months of formal approval of the Subspecialty by the Academy. We estimated that the cutoff date for Paediatric Neurology will be about 2 years after the deadline stated below. Fellows who consider themselves eligible for First

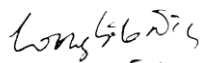
Fellows admission within this time frame should also respond to this Call, if they wish to be considered for admission. **Because the accreditation process involves inviting an External Assessor to Hong Kong to conduct the Interview Assessment, no application after the deadline stated below will be accepted. There will NOT be another Call for Application in future.**

The First Fellows Application Form is attached. To enable financial viability of the Subspecialty, the College has decided to levy a 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 31st March, 2013:**

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 undersigned or the College secretariat for more information.



Dr Wong Sik Nin
Secretary, Working Group for Accreditation of Paediatric Subspecialties
For Dr Chan Chok Wan
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 a new Subspecialty
Application Form for First Fellows of the Subspecialty of Paediatric Neurology (PN)

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 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.
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 serving 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

Revised by Working Group on 15-11-2012