

HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION AND TRAINING
NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF SPECIALISTS IN
SOUTH AFRICA

NOTING:

1. The Standards Generating Body (SGB) Subcommittee of the Medical and Dental Board has completed the process of aligning the qualification for specialists and subspecialist with the Higher Education Qualification Framework (HEQF) of South Africa;
2. The SGB subcommittee of the MDB has defined the purpose, rationalé, prior learning, international comparability, assessment, moderation, criteria for assessors, and exit level outcomes and associated assessment criteria for clinical disciplines, pathology disciplines, surgical disciplines, and subspecialities;
3. The failure of many training programmes to comply with the requirement for intergrated assessment, including portfolio assessment, formative assessment, continuous assessment, summative assessment, and assessment of research.
4. The current failure of many specialists to meet the exit outcomes of the current criteria for specialist qualification, especially the exit outcome 3 which is related to the need to 'undertake and complete a relevant research study';
5. The variation in the assessment of exit outcomes 1 and 2, which are related to professional knowledge, skills, and competence, with some being examined in a local examination (the MMed route) and others taking a national examination (the College route);
6. The need to align the requirements for the registration of specialists in South Africa with the SGB standards of the MDB;

RESOLVES THAT EVIDENCE OF CONTINUOUS INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT DURING TRAINING IS REQUIRED FOR REGISTRATION AS SPECIALIST IN SOUTH AFRICA:

1. **Evidence of continuous integrated assessment during training is required for registration as a specialist in South Africa.**
 - 1.1 The nature of integrated assessment will be defined by the SGB subcommittee of the MDB from time to time.
 - 1.2 The Head of Academic Department of the training institution is responsible for providing evidence of integrated assessment of each candidate in their programme.

2. Completion of a national curriculum and national professional examinations of exit level outcomes 1 and 2 will be required for registration in South Africa.

- 2.1 The national core curriculum and professional outcomes for each specialist will be set by the Subcommittee on Postgraduate Education and Training (Medical) (PETM) for each specialty according to requirements of the SGB subcommittee of the MDBP.
- 2.2 Candidates in each specialty will be required to undertake a national professional examination through a national examining body which is constituted by representatives of the training institutions and professional societies, such as The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa;
- 2.3 The outcomes of the professional examinations may be used as credits for Parts I and Part II of the Mmed degree, by the universities.
- 2.4 The national examining body, which will be appointed as an agency of the MDBP, will abide by the SGB requirements of the Board;
- 2.5 The national examining body will be accredited by the PETM, in collaboration with the Committee of Medical Deans, on a 5 yearly basis at their cost as part of the quality assurance process of the SGB subcommittee of the MDBP in collaboration with the Committee of Deans or institution.

3. Completion of a research component will be a requirement for registration as a specialist in South Africa.

- 2.1 All specialist trainees will be required to complete a relevant research study, under the supervision of the Head of Department or nominee;
- 2.2 The assessment criteria of the research study would be that appropriate theoretical knowledge is demonstrated; a research protocol is compiled according to required norms; and a progress report on the research project is given on a regular basis; and that research results are reported in a format of a dissertation according to acceptable scientific norms.
- 2.3 The research study will be allocated a minimum of 60 credits in terms of the SGB.
- 2.4 The research study, which will be assessed at university level, may be used as a credit for Part III of the MMed degree.

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION AND TRAINING (MEDICAL), 20 JANUARY 2010