

**THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE
OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG**

**Guideline 3 -
Period of Assessment: Exemption, Reduction and Deferment**

Preamble

1. A person who has passed the Licensing Examination and who wishes to be registered as a medical practitioner under section 14 of the Medical Registration Ordinance (“MRO”) shall complete, to the satisfaction of the Council, such period of assessment as the Council may determine, not exceeding the prescribed period of 12 months stipulated in section 3 of the Medical Registration (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulation (the “Regulation”).
2. The following guidelines apply to any person who has passed the Licensing Examination and the latest date when he/she ought to have started undergoing the prescribed period of assessment will fall on or after 26 August 2019 (“Qualified Applicant”).

Application

3. Qualified Applicant may apply for:-
 - a. exemption from assessment of a specialty;
 - b. reduction of the period of assessment for a specialty;
 - c. reduction of the period of assessment generally; and
 - d. deferment of assessment.
4. Documentary proof in support is required. Qualified Applicant should refer to the explanatory notes issued by the Licentiate Committee on the supporting documents required for application.
5. Applications for exemption, deferment or reduction should be considered according to the following guidelines.

Guidelines for exemption from assessment of a specialty

6. Qualified Applicant is eligible to apply for exemption from assessment of a specialty if he/she has a specialist qualification comparable to a Fellowship of the Colleges under the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (“HKAM”).
7. Details of exemption from assessment of a specialty are as follows: -
 - (a) For Qualified Applicant with a specialist qualification comparable to a Fellowship of the Hong Kong College of Physicians, he/she will take the remaining 6 months’ of period of assessment in surgery related discipline(s);
 - (b) For Qualified Applicant with a specialist qualification comparable to a Fellowship of the College of Surgeons of Hong Kong, he/she will take the remaining 6 months of period of assessment in medicine related discipline(s); and

- (c) For Qualified Applicant with a specialist qualification comparable to a Fellowship of the other Colleges under the HKAM (College for Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong excepted), he/she will take each for 3 months of period of assessment in general surgery and general medicine.

- 8. No more than one application for exemption from assessment of a specialty can be allowed.
- 9. Unless otherwise approved by the Medical Council, application for exemption from assessment of a specialty can only be made before a Qualified Applicant has started to undergo the period of assessment

Guidelines for reduction of the period of assessment for a specialty

- 10. Application for reduction of the period of assessment for a specialty can be made only after a Qualified Applicant has started to undergo assessment of that specialty. For the avoidance of doubt, a Qualified Applicant who has been exempted from assessment of a specialty can no longer apply for further reduction of the period of assessment for other specialties.
- 11. Reduction will only be granted if a Qualified Applicant has undergone assessment for that specialty for a sufficient duration to enable the Internship Sub-committee to assess his/her performance and ability.
- 12. Reduction of the period of assessment for a specialty will normally be granted if a qualified applicant:-
 - (a) has passed all 3 parts of the Licensing Examination at the first attempt; and
 - (b) has completed at least 6 weeks of period of assessment in that specialty, and
 - (c) has the recommendation of his/her supervisor that the assessment in that specialty be reduced; and
 - (d) has obtained a post-graduate medical qualification in that specialty which is recognized by the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine as equivalent to an intermediate qualification; and
 - (e) has practiced for at least 24 months as a clinician in that specialty in a local accredited institution recognized by the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine.

Guidelines for reduction of the period of assessment generally

- 13. Qualified Applicant may apply for reduction of the period of assessment stipulated in section 3 of the Medical Registration (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulation to one to three days if:-
 - (a) he/she has passed the Licensing Examination;
 - (b) he/she holds a specialist qualification comparable to a Fellowship of the Colleges under the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (College for Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong excepted); and
 - (c) he/she has completed a period of full-time employment for three years or more as a medical practitioner by any one or more of the following institutes, namely:-
 - (i) The Department of Health;
 - (ii) The Hospital Authority;
 - (iii) The University of Hong Kong; and
 - (iv) The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

14. For the period of full-time employment for three years or more as stipulated in paragraph 13(c) above, the Qualified Applicant must have satisfactory performance during the employment period on the following areas:-
 - (a) application and update of professional skills and knowledge;
 - (b) team work;
 - (c) communication; and
 - (d) ethical practice.

Guidelines for deferment

15. Qualified Applicant who passed the Licensing Examination in the first sitting of a year is required to start undergoing the period of assessment on either 1 July the same year or 1 January the next year. Qualified Applicant who passed the second sitting of a year is required to start undergoing the period of assessment on either 1 January or 1 July the next year.
16. In general, deferment will not be granted to a Qualified Applicant unless he/she is engaged in active clinical practice.
17. Application for deferment will only be considered in special circumstances which may include but not limited to pregnancy, sickness, engagement in clinical training or employment in clinical practice etc.
18. The maximum period allowed for deferment is normally 3 years counting from the latest date when he/she ought to have started undergoing the period of assessment.
19. If deferment is granted, the qualified applicant must start undergoing the period of assessment immediately after the deferment has lapsed, failing which he/she will have to take and pass all three parts of the Licensing Examination again.

-End-

Explanatory Notes on the Supporting Documents Required for Application for Exemption, Reduction and Deferment of the Period of Assessment

Exemption from assessment of a specialty

- Certification by respective colleges under the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine ("HKAM") confirming that the applicant has a specialist qualification comparable to a Fellowship of the Colleges under HKAM. A sample certificate of specialist qualification is attached at **Appendix A**.

Reduction of the period of assessment for a specialty

- Letters from supervisor of the applicant recommending reduction of assessment in that specialty; and
- Supporting documents showing the award of a post-graduate medical qualification in that specialty which is recognized by HKAM as equivalent to an intermediate qualification; and
- Supporting documents showing that the applicant has practised for at least 24 months as a clinician in that specialty in a local accredited institution recognized by HKAM.

Reduction of the period of assessment generally

- Certification by the respective colleges under HKAM confirming that the applicant has a specialist qualification comparable to a Fellowship of the Colleges under HKAM. A sample certificate of specialist qualification is attached at **Appendix A**; and
- Certification by the supervisors confirming satisfactory performance during a period of full time employment for three years or more as a medical practitioner by any one or more of the following institutions, namely:-
 - (i) The Department of Health;
 - (ii) The Hospital Authority;
 - (iii) The University of Hong Kong; and
 - (iv) The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

A sample certificate of satisfactory performance is attached at **Appendix B**.

Deferment

- Supporting documents showing that the applicant is engaged in active clinical practice, e.g. employment contract; and / or
- Supporting documents showing that the applicant has special circumstances for deferment which may include but not limited to pregnancy, sickness, engagement in clinical training or employment in clinical practice etc., e.g. medical certificate and employment contract.

Licentiate Committee

The Medical Council of Hong Kong

September 2023

Appendix A

To: Secretary, Licentiate Committee
The Medical Council of Hong Kong
4/F, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building
99 Wong Chuk Hang Road
Aberdeen
Hong Kong

CERTIFICATE OF SPECIALIST QUALIFICATION

This is to certify that _____ (Full Name), holder of HKID Card /
Passport No. _____ has a specialist qualification **comparable** to a
Fellowship of the _____ (Name of
College) under the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine.

Official Stamp of College

Signature: _____

Name of officer: _____

Name of College: _____

Date: _____

Appendix B

To: Secretary, Licentiate Committee
The Medical Council of Hong Kong
4/F, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building
99 Wong Chuk Hang Road
Aberdeen
Hong Kong

CERTIFICATE OF SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE

This is to certify that _____ (Full Name), holder of HKID Card / Passport No. _____ has during the employment period from _____ (dd/mm/yyyy) to _____ (dd/mm/yyyy) as _____ (Post Title(s)) in _____ (Name of Institution) **satisfactory performance in respect of the following areas:-**

- (a) application and update of professional skills and knowledge;**
- (b) team work;**
- (c) communication; and**
- (d) ethical practice.**

Official Stamp of Institute

Signature: _____

Name of Responsible Person : _____

Name of Institute: _____

Date: _____