

**THE COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS  
OF  
HONG KONG**

**Guidelines  
For  
Accreditation and Training  
In  
Periodontology**

**August 2000**

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## INTRODUCTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The specialty of Periodontology is that discipline of Dentistry which covers knowledge of diseases and defects of the tissues which form the attachment of the tooth and its replacement in the human jaw. The specialty also deals with the diagnosis, management and prevention of congenital or acquired defects or diseases which may affect periodontal tissues. (Appendix 1).

A Periodontist is a dentist registered in the Specialty of Periodontology. He/She should have undergone training in Periodontology and satisfied all the assessment criteria laid down by a recognised Specialty Board in Periodontology. The major part of his/her practice should be in clinical Periodontology; he/she should be currently of good standing in the Specialty of Periodontology.

In our view, the discipline of Periodontology in the HKSAR fulfills all nine criteria for recognition as a Specialty as laid down by the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine:

1. *that the Specialty is needed in the HKSAR*

Dental surgeons have been granted permission by the Dental Council of the HKSAR to use the title 'Periodontist'. They have restricted their clinical practice to Periodontology. They manage, on a referral basis and in cooperation with other dental surgeons or dental specialists, patients with complex periodontal problems that are beyond the capabilities of general dental practitioners.

2. *that the Specialty is new and different to existing specialties in the HKSAR*

The discipline of Periodontology deals with diseases and defects of tissues that are anatomically and pathologically distinct from that managed by existing dental specialties in the HKSAR, namely Paediatric Dentistry, Orthodontics and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

3. *that the knowledge base and practice involved are broad enough to constitute more than a subspecialty within another specialty*

The knowledge base and practice of Periodontology are broad enough for The University of Hong Kong, as well as for most Commonwealth, North American and European Dental Schools, to offer full-time postgraduate training or master's degree programmes in the specialty. There is a world-wide trend for the length of these programmes to be three years and for training to include surgical placement of dental implants.

4. *that such specialty exists in another country*

Periodontology exists as a recognised discipline in most dental schools. In countries and regions in which dentistry is regulated by specialist registrations (i.e. U.K., U.S.A., E.E.C. and other European countries, Canada and Australia/New Zealand, Central and South America), Periodontology is a distinct specialty.

5. *that the specialty is recognised at the institutional level*

In the University of Hong Kong, there is one full Professor, four Associate Professors and one Clinical Dental Surgeon in the discipline of Periodontology. In the

Government Dental Services there is one Senior Dental Officer who has postgraduate training in Periodontology and offers, within the Government Dental Services, a referral specialist service.

6. *that sufficient specialists in that specialty already exist in the HKSAR to make the specialty viable.*

There are, within the Periodontology Clinic of The University of Hong Kong, five dental surgeons offering Periodontology specialist services and they are Fellows of the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong and Fellows of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (Dental Surgery). In the private sector, two dental practitioners with postgraduate qualification in Periodontology are also full Fellows of both the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong and the Academy of Medicine (Dental Surgery). Thus there is potentially one supervisor and six trainers. There are currently two specialty societies for the study of Periodontology, namely the Hong Kong Society of Periodontology and the Hong Kong Association of Periodontology.

7. *that the specialty is viable in private practice*

Internationally, Periodontology is viable in private practice and currently there are private practitioners in Hong Kong practising mostly clinical Periodontology and have been allowed by the Dental Council of Hong Kong to use the specialist title 'Periodontist'. There are all together eighteen dental surgeons with postgraduate qualification in Periodontology practising actively in the HKSAR.

8. *that the specialty has the administrative support of one or more constituent Colleges of the Academy*

The specialty of Periodontology has the administrative support of the College of Dental Surgeons.

9. *that the major part of the postgraduate training and assessment required is unique and different to existing specialties*

In parallel with other dental specialties (i.e. Paediatric Dentistry, Orthodontics and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery), the specialty of Periodontology will have a defined training and assessment programme within the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong. In the U.S.A., there is an American Board of Periodontology providing unique assessment for specialists in the field of Periodontology. The Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons also offers an exit Fellowship in Periodontics.

## 1. INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMITMENTS

Basic and Higher Specialist training in Periodontology in Hong Kong should be, at present, a joint endeavour between the Faculty of Dentistry, the University of Hong Kong and the Prince Philip Dental Hospital. Other training centres may be identified, in the Government Dental Services and Private Sector, by the Specialty Board in Periodontology.

Approved training centres should demonstrate a commitment to specialist training with appropriate documentary evidence. Responsibilities include the provision of teaching staff, teaching and clinical facilities and adequate number of suitable patient. The contribution of each institution, the period of assignment and the financial commitment should be identified.

The programme should be recognized within the administrative and clinical structure of the institution. It should also be consistent with that of other internationally recognized programmes in Periodontology.

Centres sponsoring Basic and Higher Specialist training in Periodontology must be accredited by the Education Committee of the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong.

## 2. CURRICULUM AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The programme in Periodontology should encompass a minimum of 6 years training, with an Intermediate Examination after 4 years of Basic Training, followed by a 2 years Higher Specialist Training leading to the Exit Examination.

The specialist training programme should comprise a comprehensive study of applied clinical sciences in a graduated sequence of training appropriate to clinical periodontology.

### 2.1 *Curriculum*

The curriculum should be constructed with reference to the BDS undergraduate course in Hong Kong and additional requirements based upon the Intermediate Examination as well as the Exit Examination.

- A basic dental degree (BDS) registerable or deemed to be registerable in Hong Kong is considered to be the most appropriate preparation for entering a training programme in the specialty of Periodontology in Hong Kong. The Basic Specialist Training should provide:
  - i) structured further development of knowledge, skill and attitudes common to all branches of Restorative Dentistry,
  - ii) knowledge base and clinical skills in Periodontology.
  - iii) skills in critical appraisal of literature and research technique.
  
- Admission to the Higher Specialist Training in Periodontology should be granted upon successful completion of the Intermediate Examination. Higher Specialist training should:



- i) facilitate consolidation of knowledge and skill in the practise of clinical periodontology,
  - ii) equip trainees to manage change and help reinforce a commitment to lifelong learning.
- An integrated education process is essential. The programme must be designed to provide adequate knowledge in the scientific basis of Periodontology and training in its clinical practise at specialist level.

## 2.2. *Sequence of Training*

1. A basic dental degree, which is registerable or deem to be registerable, from the University of Hong Kong or an equivalent approved by the College is the entry requirement for the Basic Training in Periodontology.
2. In year 1 of the training programme, the candidate is required to gain clinical experience in general dentistry at the Prince Philip Dental Hospital, the HKSAR Government Dental Services or other practices approved by the College.
3. During year 1, the candidate is required to attend lectures, specific or continuing education courses and conferences of not less than 30 CME hours. The candidate must submit evidence of these hours to the Specialty Board in Periodontology before admission to year 2 of the training programme.

4. Year 2 to year 4 should be a full time, structured, institute based training programme in Periodontology in approved training institutions.

5. Before entry into the Higher Specialist Training programme, the candidate must have successfully completed the Intermediate Examination in Periodontology of the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong, which may be a conjoint examination with the Membership in Restorative Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh with Periodontology as the selected field of examination or an examination mounted by the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong (Appendix II).

6. Year 5 and year 6 should offer a structured advanced training period within an approved programme at a training institute or accredited practice in conjunction with a training institute.

7. Before accreditation as a trained specialist, the candidate, having fulfilled all other requirements of specialty training as determined by the Specialty Board in Periodontology, must also successfully complete an Exit Examination in Periodontology conducted by The College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong.

8. Final Exit Examination (Appendix III).

### **3. ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH**

It is essential for the programme to maintain a University link. This may include the acquisition of a postgraduate master degree in Periodontology and an Advanced Diploma in Periodontology as additional achievements within the programme. These courses should

include basic and applied clinical science components as well as research methods and supervised clinical practice, as is currently available in the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Hong Kong.

Trainees should demonstrate an ability in critical thinking primarily by means of critical study of literature and carrying out or participating in scientific project(s) related to periodontology leading to the publication of a scientific article in international referred journal.

#### **4. PROGRAMME SUPERVISION AND STAFFING**

The Supervisor of training must be nominated by the Specialty Board in Periodontology and appointed by the Education Committee of the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong.

The Supervisor must have sufficient authority and time to fulfil all administrative and teaching responsibilities in order to achieve the educational goals of the programme. In addition, it is the Supervisor's responsibility to ensure that trainees completing the programme have achieved the standards of performance established for the programme and for the practice of clinical periodontology at a specialist level.

The actual specialty instruction and supervision may be delegated to accredited trainers. It is also strongly recommended that individuals, who provide instruction and supervision specific to any other related specialty area, should be fully qualified in that specialty.

4.1 *The Supervisor must ensure that the following procedures are carried out:*

- a. Selection of trainees.
- b. Development, implementation and re-evaluation of the curriculum.
- c. Ongoing evaluation of programme content, teaching faculty and trainees' performance.
- d. Programme administration.
- e. Planning and operation of facilities used in the programme.
- f. Evaluation of the supervision and activity of trainees in affiliated institutions.
- g. Maintenance of records related to the education programme.
- h. Overall continuity and quality of patient care.
- i. Serve as Chief Examiner in both Intermediate and Exit Examination.
- j. Matching of trainee with trainer.

4.2 *The number of trainers and their time commitment should be sufficient to ensure:*

- a. Continuity of instruction to trainees.
- b. Exposure of trainees to a broad range of diagnostic and treatment modalities.
- c. Participation of trainers in teaching activities, including conferences and seminars.
- d. High quality of patient care in terms of diagnosis, treatment planning, management and outcomes assessment of all cases treated by the trainees.
- e. Adequate supervision of clinical activities. The degree of supervision should be related to the ability and experience of the trainees. In the years of Higher Specialist Training, trainees should be under close supervision on a minimum of one trainer to two trainee ratio.

4.3 Supervisor and trainers should have a real and demonstrated interest and competence in teaching and practising clinical periodontology. They should also provide the necessary time and effort to the education process and set an example by engaging in scholarly pursuits such as (1) participation in continuing education; (2) participation in national/international professional bodies in Periodontology; (3) presentation and publications of scientific studies; and (4) demonstration of an interest in research related to Periodontology.

4.4. Instruction and supervision within the Specialty of Periodontology must be conducted by individuals who are fully qualified and accredited.

The teaching and supervisory staff should have regularly scheduled sessions and be available for emergency consultation. There should be regular sessions for presentation of cases and participation in peer review.

It is recommended that the performance of the trainers be evaluated annually in a structured written format. While the Supervisor and the Specialty Board in Periodontology must be responsible for teaching staff evaluation, it is highly desirable that trainees also participate in the process.

4.5 The policy regarding the privilege and responsibility for trainees in the Higher Specialist Training programme of Periodontology parallels that enunciated by other Colleges of the Academy of Medicine, namely:

- a. Each trainee in the Higher Specialist Training programme will normally be supervised in an approved training centre in Periodontology. However, on the recommendation

of the Specialty Board in Periodontology and with the approval of the Education Committee, 2 years of supervised practice is also acceptable.

- b. In a supervised practice situation, the trainer and trainee need not work in the same practice. There must however be documented regular contacts between the clinical trainer and the trainee in relation to: diagnosis, treatment planning, patient care, treatment evaluation, practice management and professional development. The trainee should be attached to an approved training centre for at least three sessions per week.
- c. The Supervisor will make regular, not less than once every four months, visits to the trainee's practice to assess and give feedback on the practice profile, record keeping and management. The trainee is responsible to make improvements according to the feedback advise.
- d. Supervision of trainees should extend to all areas of Periodontology, including multidisciplinary treatment undertaken in collaboration with colleagues.
- e. Trainees in Periodontology should only be allowed privileges commensurate with their level of training and clinical skills.
- f. Trainers must at all times ensure that their trainees are not undertaking activities that are beyond their level of competence.

- g. Each trainee in the Higher Specialist Training programme is required to attain a minimum of 30 CME points per year in Periodontology.

Clinical responsibility of trainees should be assigned by the Supervisor, based on the following criteria:

1. Performance in the preceding period of training.
2. Documented evidence of training.
3. Competence in clinical judgement and techniques.
4. Personal reliability and responsibility.

#### **5. PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND RESOURCES OF AN ACCREDITED TRAINING UNIT**

Institutional facilities and resources must be adequate to provide the educational experiences and learning opportunities to enable fulfilment of the requirements of the programme as specified in this guidelines. These include, but are not limited to, facilities and human resources for trainees to carry out patient care and to meet personal educational responsibilities, administrative offices, and sufficient space for instruction.

5.1 Clinical facilities must be properly equipped for the performance of all patient care procedures relevant to Periodontology. Equipment and supplies for managing medical emergencies must be readily accessible and functional.

5.2 There must be a supply of patients in need of periodontal therapy to ensure adequate exposure of trainees to a range of diagnostic and treatment modalities as specified by the Specialty Board in Periodontology.

### 5.3 Educational resources

It is recommended that every accredited training unit should contribute fully to the development of an Educational Resources Centre.

This will include:

- a. Documentation and periodic review of all existing facilities and resources related to the training in Periodontology.
- b. Continued development and update of advanced educational materials on clinical techniques and research findings especially those related to the local and regional population.
- c. Periodic evaluation of the log of clinical experience.
- d. Library.

## 6. CONTINUING ASSESSMENT OF TRAINEES

There must be documentation of the continuous evaluation of the performance and advancement of trainees. The system should assure that, through the Supervisor of training, the programme:

- a. Progressively assesses the accumulated log of activities, maintained by all trainees in a log book.



- b. Periodically, at least biannually, evaluates the knowledge, skills and professional development of all trainees, using appropriate criteria and procedures.
- c. Provides to each trainee an assessment of the individual's performance, at least biannually. More frequent evaluation and documentation of such evaluation should be made if a trainee is found to be not properly motivated or eligible for advancement or retention in the programme. Remedial activities should be prescribed in accordance to the assessment report.
- d. Allows trainees to undertake more complex cases and to accept further patient care responsibilities based on an objective evaluation of their competencies.
- e. Maintains a personal evaluation record of each trainee, which is accessible to the trainee and available for periodic review by the Specialty Board in Periodontology.

## 7. ROTATIONS

Training rotations will be supported on the basis of

- a. Extending the clinical and any other experience of the trainees as defined by the training requirements, especially where specific strengths or weaknesses are identified with the respective programmes.
- b. Promoting and developing consistent standards and collaboration between programmes
- c. Developing international relationship and recognition.

Rotations between accredited programmes should normally not exceed six months and be subject to prior approval of the Specialty Board in Periodontology. The trainee has to submit a written report on the activities and achievements made at the conclusion of the rotation period.

## **8. REVIEW**

Each programme must regularly evaluate the degree to which its goals are being achieved through internal assessment.

It is also essential that each training centre regularly submits adequate documentation of its training commitments and trainee status and experience to the Specialty Board in Periodontology.

牙周治療科是預防、診斷、治療牙周組織病及其相關後遺症的一門口腔專業。註冊牙周治療科專科醫生需接受相關之專業訓練及通過考核，其亦需具備及保持良好之專業聲譽，並以牙周病科治療為其主要臨床工作。

### Scope of the Intermediate Examination in Periodontology

Intermediate Examination in Periodontology is the major tool to objectively assess the performance and capability of trainees after the Basic Specialist Training programme. Candidates must have successfully completed the Intermediate Examination before they will be admitted in the Higher Specialist Training programme.

No syllabus can be comprehensive and the outlines which follow are not intended to be prescriptive or exhaustive. The trainees are expected to be aware of recent developments in the field of Periodontology. Familiarity with the published literature pertinent to all aspects of Periodontology is essential.

The scope of the Intermediate examination is broadly outlined as follows:

1. Adequate knowledge and some experience in:
  - Principles of oral diagnosis and therapy including:
    - Mucosal diseases of the oral cavity
    - Pathological conditions of temporomandibular joint
    - Dento-alveolar infection
    - Changes in the oral cavity, jaws and surrounding tissues which are signs of general diseases.

- Principles of Behavioural Sciences and Education Psychology as related to patient management as well as oral health promotion to the community.
- Diagnostic microbiology and radiology as related to Dentistry.
- Cariology/endodontic diagnostics and treatment.
- Diagnosis and management of occlusion problems.
- Prosthodontic Rehabilitation.

2. Dental Epidemiology and Preventive Dentistry

- Sufficient knowledge to interpret and evaluate epidemiological data and periodontal diseases prevention programmes for various population groups.
- Critical appraisal of the cost effectiveness of different care models.

3. In-depth knowledge on:

- Congenital and acquired pathological conditions and other changes in the periodontal tissues.
- Inter-relation of periodontal diseases and other systemic diseases.

4. In-depth knowledge and ability to independently and proficiently carry out:

- Examination, diagnosis and treatment planning for patients with periodontal diseases.
- Periodontal disease risk factors and prognostic assessment.

- Evaluation of periodontal treatment outcomes.
- Cause related therapy for periodontal diseases, such as oral hygiene evaluation and instruction, root surface instrumentation, access surgery, etc.
- Corrective periodontal therapy such as mucogingival surgery, intervention for regeneration of periodontal tissues, reconstruction of alveolar process, root resection and hemisection of tooth, crown lengthening, etc.
- Periodontal therapy incidental to other dental interventions such as management of perio-endo lesion, periodontal lesions in relation to orthodontic and prosthodontic problems and therapy.
- Implant installation and maintenance care.
- Formulation of individualised periodontal maintenance regime.

5. Demonstrate ability in critical thinking and effective communication.

- Acquire skill and participate in critical study of literature.
- Planning and carrying out a scientific project leading to submission of a formal written dissertation on a clinical topic in Periodontology.
- Develop effective communication skills with patients, dental and medical professionals.

### **Specialty Exit Examination in Periodontology**

The Exit Examination aims to objectively evaluate the ability of the candidates to consolidate the knowledge and clinical skills that they have acquired in the whole Specialist Training Programme in Periodontology. The candidate must demonstrate in-depth knowledge, experience and competency required at a specialist level.

In order to assess the capabilities and performance of the candidates in different areas, the Exit Examination is composed of 4 sections:

1. Log Book
2. Written Section
3. Clinical Examination
4. Documented Case Reviews.

Oral examinations will be held on all of the above sections. Candidates would not be examined by their respective designated supervisor/trainer as far as possible. Examiners may be invited from cognate specialty of an Academy or College abroad. All sections of the examination will be conducted in English

Candidates will be graded as having passed or failed separately in the log book, written section, clinical examination and documented case reviews section. A candidate who fails in not more than two sections of the examination may repeat the failed section(s) at a subsequent examination scheduled by the College. If the repeat examination is failed or a candidate fails in more than two sections, a new diet of examination has to be taken.

## **1. Log Book**

The purpose of this section is to enable the candidate to demonstrate the varieties of clinical cases that he/she had personally treated under supervision. The format of the Log Book will be provided by the Supervisor/Trainer. The candidate will be asked to describe, explain and discuss contents in the Log Book during the oral examination, which will last for 60 minutes. The Log Book must be submitted four weeks prior to the oral examination date and should include 25 cases with documented treatment progress over two years.

## **2. Written Section**

This paper is to assess the candidate's knowledge on Periodontology at an advanced level. The candidate is required to present a written essay, approximately 2000 words in length, on a clinical topic chosen by the candidate and approved by the Specialty Board in Periodontology no less than 6 months before the oral examination. The essay should include a review of current and classic dental literature and textbooks.

## **3. Clinical Examination**

This section is to evaluate the adequacy of the candidate's exposure to clinical problems in periodontology. The ability of the candidate to handle 'unfamiliar' clinical problems systematically and independently is to be assessed. There will be a 30-minute oral examination on clinical cases provided by the Examiners.



#### 4. Documented Case Reviews

There will be a 60-minute oral examination based on documented case review of fifteen patients who have been treated by the candidate in the Higher Specialist Training Programme. All fifteen cases must differ from those included in the Log Book. The review cases must be chosen from the categories listed in the next paragraph. This section is to allow the candidate to demonstrate the breadth of diagnostic and clinical skills and the quality of patient care in his practice of clinical periodontology. Each case must incorporate a post-operative review of no less than six months.

The fifteen cases should comprise all, and spread among the following broad categories:

1. Early onset periodontitis.
2. Adult chronic periodontitis.
3. Periodontitis with modified host response.
4. Patients requiring periodontal therapy incidental to other dental interventions such as management of perio-endo lesion, periodontal lesion in relation to orthodontic, paediatric and prosthodontic problems and therapy.
5. Patient for implant installation and maintenance care.

The original patient record should form part of and be appended to the end of each documented case. The candidate's name, initials and addresses should not be shown on the materials presented.. Only the patient's initials, sex and date of birth are to be shown.

The documentation must follow the format provided by the College. For each patient record, the case history must be written in English, typed and separately bound. A robust flat type

A4 format with clear PVC pocket is recommended. Two copies of all documentations for each case review are required, one copy will have to be submitted to the College at the time of application to the Exit Examination, the second copy should be retained by the candidate for reference.

The candidate must provide the following for each documented case:

1. Medical and dental history, diagnosis and treatment plan.
2. Radiographic investigations and, where necessary, study cast analysis.
3. Clinical photographs of pre-treatment, mid-treatment (if indicated) and post-treatment phases.
4. Evidence of continuous evaluation and monitoring of the progress and completion of treatment.
5. Post-treatment clinical/radiographic records of no less than 6 months.
6. Critical appraisal of treatment results.

A signed statement from the trainer responsible for the direct clinical supervision of the candidate, should accompany the Case Reviews confirming the participation of the candidate in the management of the submitted cases. Any treatment procedures that were performed by another clinician should be declared in the Case Reviews. The original case records will be available for collection following adjudication. It is the candidate's personal responsibility to ensure that all patient records are properly backed-up and in safe custody during and after any part of the Examination.

**List of Proposed Supervisor, Trainers and Training Centre in Periodontology**

Supervisor: Esmonde F. Corbet

Trainers: W.I.R. Davies  
Gordon K.C. Chiu  
Li-Jian Jin  
Wai Keung Leung  
Felix I.S. Yeung  
Kwan Yat Zee

Training Centre: Faculty of Dentistry  
Prince Philip Dental Hospital  
34 Hospital Road  
Hong Kong. .

**List of Fellows of CDSHK and HKAM (DS)  
with Advanced Training in Periodontology**

Gordon K.C. Chiu

Esmonde F. Corbet

W.I.R. Davies

Rupert Gildenhuis

Wai Keung Leung

Lum Peng Lim

F.C. Smales

Richard Wagner

Felix I.S. Yeung

Kwan Yat Zee

## List of Potential Trainees in Periodontology

Name	Basic Dental Degree (Year Awarded)	Post-Graduate Degree (Year of Graduation)
D.K.Y. Chan*, BDS, MDS (HK)	HK (1989)	1993
J.P.Y. Chow, DMD (Phil), MSc (UK)	Philippines (1978)	1993
C.K.Y. Fung,* BDS, MDS (HK)	HK (1991)	1994
C.K.W. Kan, BDS, MDS (HK)	HK (1988)	1998
D.H. Lee*, BDS, MDS (HK)	HK (1993)	1996
D.K.C. Ng, BDS, MDS (HK)	HK (1986)	1999
V.K.S. Ngai*, BDS, MDS (HK)	HK (1994)	1997
J.O.W. Tam*, BDS (UK) MDS (HK)	UK (1991)	1995
K.S.K. Tong, BDS, MDS (HK)	HK (1995)	1998
M. Wong, BDS (NZ), MDS (HK)	NZ (1990)	1997
B.M.S. Woo, BDS (HK)	HK (1992)	(2000)
C. Yu, BDS, MDS (HK)	HK (1991)	1996

\* Need Exit Assessment only