

The College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong

Guidance Notes

for

Certification for Specialist Registration (CSR) / Certification for Specialist Qualification (CSQ)

- (1) The College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong (CDSHK) Guidance Notes for Certification for Specialist Registration (CSR) / Certification for Specialist Qualification (CSQ) should be applied in conjunction with the Guidance Notes for Certification for Specialist Registration (CSR) / Certification for Specialist Qualification (CSQ) of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM).
- (2) The criteria for assessment for both CSR and CSQ are specialty-specific and are the same within the same specialty under the CDSHK.
- (3) An application for CSR/CSQ in a specific dental specialty received by the HKAM shall be forwarded to the respective Specialty Board under the Education and Examinations Committee (E&EC) of the CDSHK (Specialty Board) for vetting and consideration. The decision of the E&EC shall then be forwarded to the Council of the CDSHK (Council) for endorsement. The Council shall give the final decision.
- (4) Each application shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- (5) All applicants for CSR/CSQ (applicants) must have already been on the list of respective specialist register of their countries of training or practice as an indication of comparability in professional standard, the applicants will then be assessed on all aspects of their individual postgraduate training and experience.
- (6) All applicants should possess training equivalent to the specialist training programme of at least 6 years of full time supervised training as stipulated in the respective Guidelines for Accreditation and Training in the relevant specialty of the CDSHK for CSR/CSQ which they are going to apply.
- (7) All applicants should have passed an examination with an overseas qualification equivalent to the Intermediate Examination of the CDSHK in the relevant specialty recognized by the respective Specialty Board.
- (8) All applicants should also have completed a specific specialty training for at least a period that is equivalent to the period of time required in the higher training as stipulated by the respective Specialty Board of the CDSHK in the Guidelines

for Accreditation and Training in the relevant specialty and have passed an Exit Examination/Assessment with a qualification equivalent to the Exit Examination of the CDSHK in the relevant specialty recognized by the respective Specialty Board.

- (9) An application in a specific specialty shall be forwarded to the E&EC and subsequently to the Council for endorsement after being vetted by the respective Specialty Board for follow-up action if the application is considered as equivalent.
- (10) For those non-equivalent applications, they would be classified in the following two categories: -
 - a) “Not equivalent, with major deficiencies identified”, abbreviated as “NE(Major)”, meaning that the applicant has major deficiencies or gaps identified in his/her training or qualifications as compared to the standard required for an Academy Fellowship in the relevant specialty, with substantial training/experience required and such could not be readily addressed by supplemental training/assessment.
 - b) “Not equivalent, with minor deficiencies identified”, abbreviated as “NE(Minor)”, meaning that the applicant has minor deficiencies or gaps identified in his/her training or qualifications as compared to the standard required for an Academy Fellowship in the relevant specialty, which could possibly be made up by supplemental training/assessment.

The supplemental training/assessment would be considered on a case-by-case basis and specialty-specific, and would be based on the gaps identified in the vetting process. The assessment, if required, may include written assessment, practical assessment, log book assessment and viva voce assessment. The standard of the assessment should be set beforehand.

- (11) After assessment of the submitted overseas qualification(s), the vetting of an application is divided into two elements, namely, training duration and requirements equivalent to individual specialty-specific training programme of the CDSHK:

An applicant’s training duration in a specialty recognized by the CDSHK is equivalent to the training period of a minimum of 6 years in the respective specialty of the CDSHK (i.e., 72 months).

- a) A recognized training period of less than 48 months would be regarded as a major deficiency, i.e., “NE(Major)”;
 - b) A recognized training period of 48 to less than 72 months would be regarded a minor deficiency, i.e., “NE(Minor)”;
 - c) Applications of those who have a recognized training period of 72 months or more would be further assessed for fulfilment of individual specialty’s requirements.
 - d) The individual specialty-specific requirements are equivalent to the curriculum and training requirements stipulated in the “Guidelines for Accreditation and Training” in the relevant specialty, which are to be reviewed regularly by the respective Specialty Board of the CDSHK.
- (12) An applicant shall have satisfied the Continuing Medical Education/Continuous Professional Development (CME/CPD) requirements comparable to those determined by the CDSHK. Applicant is required to submit evidence of his/her CME/CPD activities for the consideration of the CDSHK.
- (13) For the information required for an application for CSR/CSQ in a specialty, this document should be referred to together with the “Guidelines for Accreditation and Training” in the relevant specialty, the respective Specialty Board may request for additional information from the applicant via the CDSHK for vetting.
- (14) After vetting by the CDSHK, the information and recommendation will be submitted to the Education Committee of the HKAM via the Chairman of the E&EC of the CDSHK for consideration.
- (15) The CDSHK is not obliged to provide training to unsuccessful applicants.
- (16) An administrative charge shall be levied for the accreditation process. The fee is not refundable after the accreditation process has been commenced no matter whether the application being successful or not.

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