

# POLICY GUIDELINES FOR ELIGIBILITY TO THE MEDICAL SPECIALIST REGISTER

PURSUANT TO SECTION 16(C) OF THE MEDICAL BOARD ACT (1960) AND MEDICAL BOARD  
(SPECIALIST REGISTRATION) REGULATIONS

## Pathway 'A'

### Direct Routes

1. Any medical doctor who is currently recognised as having a “higher qualification\*” (including individuals holding a “certificate of independent specialist”) by the Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago (MBTT) and in good standing with the MBTT. The individual doctor is responsible for verifying his/her status with the Board (**this route will be acceptable only up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**).
2. A medical doctor who has been awarded a DM (Doctorate of Medicine) degree or a DrPH (Doctor of Public Health) degree by the University of the West Indies.
3. *Overseas qualifications*
  - a. A medical doctor who is Board Certified in the United States of America or has a certificate of completion of training (CCT/CCST) from the United Kingdom or equivalent from Ireland, Canada, Australia and New Zealand; or
  - b. A medical doctor who holds equivalent specialist training as 3(a) above and overseas qualification (completion certificate of training, board certification or exit examination certificate) from a country not listed in sub-paragraph (a) and who, on referral to the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) for institutional approval, and The Medical Council for programme appraisal; based on individual consideration, meets the requisite standard of qualification.

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\* Higher Qualification refers to the list of higher qualifications approved by the Council of MBTT.

## **Pathway 'B' should be spent at an institution approved by Council**

### **Specific qualifications and experience route**

	<b>SPECIALTY</b>	<b>CRITERIA</b>
1	Surgical Specialist	(a) FRCS (Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons) (International) in the particular specialty as administered by the Intercollegiate Board of UK & Ireland (JSCFE) followed by 3 years' service in the specialty at a senior level/second call; <b>OR</b> (b) FRCS (specialty), having completed the examinations within an accredited training scheme but not having attained a CCST/CCT followed by 3 years' service in the specialty at a senior level/second call.
2	Surgical sub-specialties	Qualification as a Surgical Specialist <b>AND</b> 2 further years at a senior level/second call served within the sub-specialty, at least 1 year of which must be at an ACTT accredited institute, Board accepted fellowship/training scheme in the sub-specialty.
3	Internal Medicine	MRCP (Member of the Royal College of Physicians) and an SCE (Specialty Certificate of Examinations) in Acute Medicine followed by 3 years post completion of MRCP served in the specialty at a senior level/second call.
4	Sub-specialties - Medical (excluding Dermatology)	Qualification as an Internal Medicine Specialist and 2 further years at a senior level/second call served within the sub-specialty, at least 1 year of which must be at an ACTT accredited institute, Board accepted fellowship/training scheme in the sub-specialty.
5	Ophthalmology	(a) FRCOphth (London); or (b) FRCS (Ophthal) Edinburgh/Glasgow/Ireland; or (c) MRCOphth, attained prior to 2008, followed by 3 years served in the specialty at a senior level/second call.
6	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	MRCOG followed by 3 years served in the specialty at a senior level/second call.
7	Anaesthesia	FRCA followed by 2 years served in the specialty at a senior level/second call.
8	Emergency Medicine	FCEM followed by 2 years served in the specialty at a senior level/second call.

9	Pathology Specialties (Histopathology, Haematology, Blood Transfusion, Microbiology and Chemical Pathology)	FRCPATH followed by 2 years served in the specialty at a senior level/second call.
10	Paediatrics	MRCPCH followed by 3 years served in the specialty at a senior level/second call.
11	Radiology	FRCR followed by 2 years served in the specialty at a senior level/second call.
12	Family Medicine	MRCGP and at least 2 years working in family medicine/general practice.
13	Public Health	MPH followed by 3 years served in the specialty at a senior level/second call (District Medical Officer, Primary Care Physician-2, Medical Officer of Health-1).
14	Psychiatry	MRC Psych. followed by 3 years served in the specialty at a senior level/second call.
15	Dermatology	MRCP (Member of the Royal College of Physicians) AND an SCE (Specialty Certificate of Examinations) in Dermatology AND MBTT accepted Masters (MSc) in Dermatology from an accredited institution, including 3 years served in the specialty post diploma/MSc at a senior level/second call.
16	Oncology	(a) FRCR in Clinical Oncology followed by 2 years served in the specialty at a senior level/second call; or (b) MRCP(UK) and an SCE in Medical Oncology followed by 3 years served in the specialty at a senior level/second call.
17	Forensic Pathology	Recognition as a trained Histopathologist (see 9 above) followed by 2 years training in the field of Forensic Pathology and the attainment of a Diploma in Forensic Pathology of the Royal College of Pathologists or Diploma in Medical Jurisprudence of the Society of Apothecaries.

***NB: The time served must be verified by the yearly submission of an evaluation form determined by Council.***

***For speciality qualifications not listed above, qualifications will be referred to the ACTT and the Council of MBTT for individual consideration - please see our website for details.***

## Pathway 'C'

### **Experience route (expires 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and a formal application required for consideration by Council)**

1. An individual who:
  - (a) currently holds or has previously held office as a Specialist or Consultant or has acted in that post for 5 years continuously within the Public Service or a Regional Health Authority of Trinidad and Tobago;
  - (b) currently holds or has previously held office in the health sector as a Registrar, or Acting Registrar within the Public Service or a Regional Health Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for at least 10 years continuously; or
2. An individual who has functioned within the private sector of Trinidad and Tobago as a Specialist or Consultant for a period greater than 10 years. Such applications must be supported with either a letter of recommendation from the specialty related local professional association, approved at a legally constituted meeting or; in *the absence*\* of an established professional association, letters from three (3) Specialist/Consultant colleagues in the specialty attesting to the suitability for Specialist Practice.

**NB: Entry to the register via this pathway C will expire in ONE YEAR after establishment of Specialist Register. The doctor **MUST** apply to the Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago and provide evidence of suitability within this year for entry into the Specialist Register.**

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\* Modified at Regular Monthly Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017

## **Pathway 'D'**

### **Temporary specialist registration route**

1. Temporary specialist registration in the Medical Specialist Register may be offered for visiting doctors and doctors brought in under various healthcare undertakings.
2. Such registration will be at the discretion of the Council and the required qualifications will be similar to those outlined at Pathways 'A & B' above and recognized by the ACTT.
3. This category of registration will be subject to the immigration requirements of Trinidad and Tobago and will be for a period not exceeding 1 year at a time.
4. Doctors registered under this Pathway will not be allowed independent practice unless special dispensation is granted by the Council and this will be in circumstances where an absolute need exists for the service they can provide, such need arising due to a deficiency of specialists registered and practicing within their field.