



nhra
BAHRAIN



مملكة البحرين
Kingdom of Bahrain

الهيئة الوطنية لتنظيم المهن والخدمات الصحية NATIONAL HEALTH REGULATORY AUTHORITY



HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL LICENCING STANDARDS: PHYSICIANS 2017

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Definitions:

Authority: National Health Regulatory Authority

Continuing Professional Development (CPD): A range of learning activities through which healthcare professionals maintain and develop their knowledge and skills throughout their career to ensure that they retain their capacity to practice safely, effectively and legally within their evolving scope of practice. CPD is also referred to as Continuing Medical Education (CME).

Credentialing: A process whereby specific licensing title is assigned to a healthcare professional based on recognized and accredited qualifications, training, experience and current practice.

Experience: Hands on clinical experience gained by a licensed healthcare professional during a salaried employment/contractual period and it excludes volunteer jobs, observer-ship, or clinical attachment.

Fitness to practice: A status where the healthcare professional is able to consistently demonstrate ability to practice without any impediments i.e. physical or others.

Gap of Practice: A defined period of discontinuation of clinical experience/ practice.

Good Standing Certificate (GSC): A certificate showing evidence that the healthcare professional is competent to practice the Profession, has not been found guilty of unprofessional conduct, and that there are no pending or previous disciplinary orders or criminal proceedings against the healthcare professional.

Healthcare Profession: A field of healthcare recognized by the Authority.

Healthcare Professional: A person who by education, training, certification and licensure is qualified to provide healthcare services.

Internship: A period of supervised clinical practice pursued by graduates of healthcare programs to consolidate the knowledge & skill gained during their recognized college study provided the internship is done in a university affiliated Hospital.

License: A permission granted by the Authority to practice a healthcare profession.

Licensing: A process of granting a legally protected professional title by the Authority.

Primary Source Verification: A process of validating documents required for licensure from the issuing organization.

Qualification: An educational evidence granted by universities, colleges, academic institutes or schools that are nationally accredited or formally recognized.

Tier: A term used to indicate a category of post graduate qualifications for physicians and dentists based on the level and the presence of the following:

- Structure of the academic program Training governance.
- Training curriculum when needed Entry level examination.
- Defined program competency framework.
- Competency based assessment during training.
- Hands-on training and independent practice.
- Progression of responsibility during training and measurable outcomes at each level Final certifying exam.
- Independence to practice post qualification Requirement to maintain the licensing/ qualification.

Acronyms:

ACLS: Advanced Cardiac Life Support

ASCP: American Society for Clinical Pathology

BLE: Bahrain Licensing Examination

BLS: Basic Life Support

BSc: Bachelor of Science

CME: Continuing Medical Education

CPD: Continuing Professional Development

FAIMER: Foundation for the Advancement International Medical Education and Research

GP: General Practitioner

GSC: Good Standing Certificate

HCPC: Health and Care Professions Council - United Kingdom

ICU: Intensive Care Unit

IMED: International Medical Education Directory

IVF: In Vitro Fertilization

MBBS: Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery

MBChB: Medicinae Baccalaureus, Baccalaureus Chirurgiae

NRP: Neonatal Resuscitation Program

PALS: Pediatric Advanced Life Support

PQR: Professional Qualification Requirements

PHD: Doctor of philosophy

PHTLS: Pre Hospital Trauma Life Support

UK: United Kingdom

USA: United State of America

WHO: World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION

Preface:

The Supreme Council of Health (SCH) in Kingdom of Bahrain is pleased to present the unified Healthcare professionals Qualification Requirements (PQR) which represents a milestone towards fulfilling the kingdom's objectives to improve the healthcare service provision across the country.

This document provides a base for all health care facilities both in the governmental and private sector to assess the documents submitted by applicants within their geographical jurisdiction to ensure safe and competent delivery of services. Moreover, it places an emphasis on educational standards, experience and licensure requirements for healthcare professionals to be licensed to practice safely in Kingdom of Bahrain and in accordance with Bahrain laws and benchmarked international best practices.

The SCH would like to acknowledge the efforts of all individuals who have contributed towards compilation of this document and would like to thank them for their dedicated efforts and assistance.

1. Licensure General Requirements

All applicants must fulfill all the following requirements in order to qualify for licensure:

1.1 Educational Qualifications

- Qualification when needed must be nationally accredited by the Ministry of Education in Bahrain/ Higher Education Council (HEC).
- Qualifications must be issued by institutions/ colleges recognized in home country.
- At the entry level, minimum qualification requirement is high school certificate as per country specific education.
- Qualifications are evaluated in accordance to the following criteria:
 - o The country and institution from which the qualification was awarded.
 - o The level of national /international recognition of the qualification.
 - o The duration and content of study, and the presence of clinical practice/ practical training.
 - o Qualifications acquired through honorary nature, correspondence or distance learning are not counted towards the PQR requirements.
- Qualifications not mentioned in this document may be evaluated and reviewed by NHRA which may grant the applicant with the appropriate title.

1.2 Professional Experience

1.2.1: Internship

- o All Physicians are required to successfully complete one (1) year internship post- graduation.

1.2.2: Experience:

The applicant's experience must be relevant to the category applied for, and must have been accomplished in an appropriate setting licensed by the professional regulatory and licensing authority in the country of practice.

- o Bahraini nationals, new graduates: are exempted from experience requirements for the basic entry level.
- o Non Bahraini residents of Bahrain may be exempted from experience requirements for basic entry level after the approval of the Supreme Council of Health.
- o All other applicants are required to fulfill experience as per their relevant titles according to the PQR.

1.3 Professional License and Good Standing Status

- The applicant must be registered and have a valid professional license to practice, or registration (where applicable) from home country and or country of last employment.
- The applicant must provide evidence of meeting the minimum required experiences for the applied title.
- Good Standing Certificate (GSC) must meet the following requirements:

Valid and not older than six (6) months at the time of application for licensure
we Issued by the professional regulatory and licensing authority in the country(s) of last employment.

- NHRA may request more evidence or conduct investigations if deemed necessary to prove the status of good conduct of the healthcare professional.
- The applicant must declare that he/she has never been convicted with any legal cases, medical malpractice during his/her practice of the healthcare profession or he/she is currently under investigation.

1.4 Primary Source Verification

The documents required for licensing shall be verified directly from the original or primary source. These documents include but not limited to: educational qualification(s), experience certificate(s), professional license(s) and/or any other documents deemed necessary by NHRA.

1.5 Licensure examination (BLE)

1.5.1 BLE is applicable to some professions as indicated by related legislations

Some Physicians are required to pass NHRA's BLE in order to obtain the professional license in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

1.6 BLE Exemption Policy

As per decision number 11 for the year 2015 pertaining to the licensure examinations, physicians may be exempted from the licensure examination:

1. Applicants who hold higher specialization qualifications (Master's degrees as a minimum).
2. Bahraini or GCC nationals who hold a valid GCC License.
3. Applicants who have 10 years of clinical experience (post internship).

Please note that all licensure examinations dates are fixed and available on NHRA website

1.7 Examination Attempts

1.7.1 Applicant may attempt the licensure examination four consecutive time provided that the attempts are done within a maximum of three years from the date of the first attempt.

1.7.2 An applicant who fails four consecutive times is required to go through a period of training of no less than six months in a licensed facility and to provide proof of completion of this training. For physicians the training should cover the basic medical fields including medicine, surgery, pediatrics, and obstetrics & gynecology which should cover at least four months of the total training period required.

1.7.3 After proof of completion of training, the applicant may attempt the licensure examination twice provided that the attempts are within two years from the date of completion of the training period.

1.8 Discontinuity of Practice

This section applies to Bahrainis ONLY and Non Bahraini if residence of Bahrain.

- Healthcare professionals who have a gap of practice of at least two (2) years and opting to be licensed in Kingdom of Bahrain must follow the CME/CPD requirements below.
- All CME/CPD credits must be related to practice specialty of the healthcare professional, and according to the CME/CPD specific requirements of NHRA.
- All applicants are required to complete a clinical training program which shall be determined by NHRA in the specialty field.
- All clinical training programs shall be carried out in an approved practice setting by NHRA.
- All applicants after completion of CME/CPD credits and clinical training program are required to pass NHRA licensure assessment to obtain the license to practice.

| Gap of | Physicians/Dentists |
|---|--|
| From two to less than three years | *60 CME/CPD credits *6 months of training |
| From three to less than four years | *90 CME/CPD credits *8 months of training |
| From Four to less than Five years | *120 CME/CPD credits *10 months of training |
| From Five years onwards | *150 CME/CPD credits *12 months of training |

2.1 Renewal of Licenses

- 2.1 Physicians must accumulate a minimum of 30 CME CPD hours annually. CME/CPD must be relevant to the field of the specialty:
- 2.2 Physicians may apply for a re-categorization of their license supported by a formal competency letter from the facility in order for NHRA to evaluate the request.
- 2.3 NHRA may re-assess a physician's competencies if it deems necessary. NHRA may also re-categorize a physician accordingly.

General Comments:

- License categories are independent from employment grade and titles.
- Health care facilities may not employ a health care professional at a higher category than that given by NHRA.
- NHRA reserves the right to re-evaluate any healthcare professional should the need arise.
- License can be renewed up to a maximum of 5 years each time.
- These standards shall be reviewed once every three years.
- All professionals holding administrative, academic, and other non-clinical positions will not be licensed by NHRA unless they prove continuity of clinical practice.

Requirements and Considerations

1. Physicians Licensure Requirements

Physicians applying for licensure must fulfill the following requirements in addition to all the requirements mentioned in chapter one:

- Must be graduates from an allopathic Medical School/College listed in the Avicenna Directory of Medical schools published by the World Health Organization (WHO) or the International Medical Education Directory (IMED) of the Foundation for the Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER) and recognized by Ministry of education of Bahrain / Higher Education Council (HEC).
- All Physicians are required to successfully complete one year (12 months) internship post- graduation.
- Non Bahraini applicants must hold a valid License to practice in their home country and/or country of last employment (where applicable).
- Specialty certificates will be accepted with the following conditions:
 - o Must be obtained after a full-time structured clinical residency program of minimum **three (3) years** course duration.
 - o Clinical Master degree of minimum **two (2) years** of full time course duration.
 - o Clinical PhD of minimum **three (3) years** course duration.
- New qualifications not motioned in this document should be evaluated and approved by NHRA
- Private Medical clinics may be operated by a physician who is categorized at least as a specialist as per this PQR.

2. Special Considerations

- Experience:
 - o Graduates from Bahrain universities are exempt from experience post internship if residence of Bahrain for basic entry level only.
 - o Graduates from non-Bahraini universities are required to fulfill experience as per their relevant titles according to the PQR.
- Tier Two Qualifications:
For physicians who hold Tier Two qualifications and go through a structured fellowship training of no less than one year, the period of the fellowship will be calculated as part of the clinical experience required for that tier.
- Physicians applying for a license in a sub-specialty must provide proof of a minimum of one year clinical training in the same sub-specialty. CPD certificates will not be considered as training for the sub-specialty.

3. Credentialing

The following standard will apply to Bahraini national physicians who started post graduate training prior to the publication of this PQR:

- If the qualification obtained is moved to a lower tier in the new PQR, then the previous credentialing criteria will apply.
- If the experience required is reduced in this current PQR, then the new criteria will be applied.

4. Qualification and Experience Requirements for Physicians Licensure

| Hospital Title | License Category | Qualifications | Experience and Other Requirements | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| Intern | No license or registration is required for this category | MBBS or MBChB or equivalent qualification from an accredited institution | No experience required | | |
| Resident | General License | MBBS or MBChB or equivalent qualification from an accredited institution | For Bahrainis, successful completion of internship and passing licensure examination For Non-Bahrainis, a minimum of five years of clinical experience post internship is required | | |
| Senior Resident | | MBBS or MBChB or equivalent qualification from an accredited institution . and having an international enter degree (MRCS,MRCP..etc) or First Board exam | For Bahrainis, (2) years of clinical experience and successful completion of two years of a residency training program with proof of passing the first part examination of the training program. For non-Bahrainis a minimum of five years of clinical experience post internship | | |
| Chief resident | Specialist | MBBS or MBChB or equivalent qualification from an accredited institution And Completion of specialty qualification as per the Recognized Specialty Certificate table | | | |
| | | | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
| | | | No experience required | 1 year of experience post qualification | 3 years of experience post qualification |

| Category | Qualifications | Experience and Other Requirements | | |
|-------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------|
| | | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
| Consultant | <p>MBBS or MBChB or equivalent qualification from an accredited institution</p> <p>And</p> <p>Completion of specialty qualification as per the Recognized Specialty Certificate table</p> | (2) years of experience post qualification* | (4) years of Experience post qualification | Cannot attain the title |

5. Recognized Specialty Certificates

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|-----------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Algeria | | | Certificate of Specialization |
| Arab Countries | | Arab Board in Family Medicine Or Arab Board in other specialties in addition to clinical fellowship of one or two years duration | Arab Board in other specialties |
| Austria | | Facharzt Diplom (Diploma of medical specialist) issued by Österreichische Ärztekammer | |
| | | An Arzt für Allgemeinmedizin (Diploma of general medicine) | |
| Australia | Fellowship of the Royal College/Colleges Note: fellowship should be by Exam and not by endorsement or election. | | |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|-------------------|--------|--|--|
| Bangladesh | | | Fellow of the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons Note: fellowship should be by Exam and not by endorsement or election |
| | | | Master of Surgery (MS) |
| | | | Doctor of Medicine (MD) |
| Belarus | | | Kandidat Nauk |
| | | | First Degree of Specialization |
| Belgium | | Bijzondereberoepstitel van geneesheerspecialist/ Titre professionnel particulier de médecin spécialiste awarded by the Minister bevoegdvoor Volksgezond- heid/Ministre de la Santé Publique (Formal evidence of having qualified as a medical specialist issued by the Minister of Public Health) | |
| | | Bijzondereberoepstitel van huisarts/Titre professional particulier de médecin généraliste (certificate of specific training for general medical practice) | |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|-------------------------------|---|--------|---|
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | | | Certificate of successful completion of the specialist exam |
| Brazil | | | “Titulo De Especialista” Issued by Brazilian Medical Association and the Brazilian College of Surgeons And Registered with the Regional Councils or Federal Medical Council as a Specialists |
| Bulgaria | | | Свидетелство за призната Специалност (Evidence of Recognized Specialty) awarded by the Университет (University) |
| | | | Свидетелство за призната специалност по Обща медицина (certificate recognised specialty in General Medicine) |
| Canada | Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPC) | | Evidence of successful completion of university-based clinical residency program accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (for Bahraini’s national only) |
| | Certification by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) | | |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|----------------|--------|---|--|
| Chile | | | Evidence of successful completion of an accredited residency program and specialty certificate issued by the Medical School in which residency was done |
| China | | | Evidence of clinical training (minimum two (2) years) program accredited by the National Committee of Academic Degree leading to a Master's Degree |
| Croatia | | | Diploma o specijalističkom usavršavanju in specijalist obiteljske medicine issued by the Ministarstvo nadležno za zdravstvo Diploma o specijalističkom usavršavanju issued by the Specijalist obiteljske medicine |
| Cuba | | | First Degree of Specialization |
| Denmark | | Bevis for tilladelsetil at betegne sig somspeciallæge (Certificate concerning the title of Specialist -Issued by Authority of health services (Sundhedsstyrelsen). Tilladelsetil at anvendebetegnelsenalmentpraktiserende læge/Speciallæge i almenmedicin (certificate of specific training for general medical practice) | ΤίτλοςΕιδικότητας Γενικής Ιατρικής (title of specialization in General Medicine) |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|----------------|--------|---|--|
| Egypt | | Egyptian board/ fellowship or PhD | Doctor of Medicine (MD) Clinical Master Degree |
| Estonia | | Tilladelsetil at anvendebetegnelsen almentpraktiserende læge/Speciallæge i almenmedicin (certificate of specific training for general medical practice) | Residentuuri lõputunnistus eriarstiabi erialal awarded by Tartu University Diplom peremeditsiini erialal (Diploma of family medicine) |
| Finland | | Erikoislääkarin tutkinto/ Special läkarexamen (Certificate of degree of specialist in medicine awarded by a Finnish University). | |
| | | Todistus yleislääketieteen erityiskoulutuksesta/Bevis om särskild allmänläkarutbildning (Certificate of specific training for general medical practice) | |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|----------------|--------|---|--|
| France | | Certificat d'études spécialisées de médecine (CES) (Certificate of Specialised Studies in Medicine issued by French University with Full license issued by Conseil National de l'ordre des médecins) | Diplôme Interuniversitaire de Spécialité (DIS) (Interuniversity Diploma of medical specialty) |
| | | Diplôme d'études spécialisées/Diplôme d'études spécialisées complémentaires qualifiant de médecine (DESC - diploma of complementary specialised studies) issued by French University | |
| | | Diplôme d'études spécialisées de médecine générale (qualification in general medicine) | |
| Germany | | Fachärztliche Anerkennung/Urkunde (Certificate of medical specialist issued by State's Medical Council (Arztekammer)) | |
| | | Zeugnisüber die | |
| | | Spezifische Ausbildung in der Allgemeinmedizin (Certificate of specialist training in general medicine) | |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|------------------|--------|--|--|
| Greece | | | <p>Doctor of Medicine (MD)</p> <p>Clinical Master Degree</p> |
| Hong Kong | | <p>Specialist training from a recognized post-graduate training program in Hong Kong And Fellowship of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM)</p> | <p>Residentuuri lõputunnistus eriarstiabi erialal awarded by Tartu University Diplom peremeditsiini erialal (Diploma of family medicine)</p> |
| Hungary | | <p>Háziorvostan Szakorvosi bizonyítvány issued by Nemzeti Vizsgabizottság (Hungarian specialist certificate awarded by National Board of Examination) Awarded before 28 August 2004 by the Hungarian Ministry of Health.</p> | |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|----------------|--|--|---|
| Iceland | | | Sérfræðileyfi (Certificate of specialist in medicine- issued by The Directorate of Health). |
| | | | An Almennt heimilislækningaleyfi (Evrópulækningaleyfi) (certificate of specific training for general practice) |
| India | | Doctorate of Medicine (DM) + Doctor of Medicine (MD) | |
| | | Magister Chirurgiae (MCH) + Master of Surgery (MS) | Doctor of Medicine (MD) Master of Surgery (MS) |
| Iran | | Diplomate of National Board (DNB) | Specialization certificate minimum three (3) years |
| Iraq | | Iraqi Board issued by the Iraqi Commission of Medical Specialties | Clinical Master's degree |
| Ireland | Fellowship of the Royal Colleges in the specialty awarded after 2004 | Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST)/ | Membership/ MRCP, MRCPed, MRCOG, MRCOph, MRCOrth, MRCGP |
| | | Fellowship of the Royal Colleges in the specialty awarded before 2004 | |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Italy | | Diploma of specialized doctor granted by a rector of an Italian university (A Diploma di (medico) specialista, rilasciati dal rettore di una universita) | |
| | | An Attesto di formazione specifica in medicina generale (certificate of specific training for general medical practice). | |
| Japan | | | Clinical PhD Note: and minimum two (2) years course duration |
| Jordan | | Jordanian Board issued by the Jordanian Medical Council | Certificate of Higher Specialization Master's degree |
| Kingdom of Saudi Arabia | Saudi board by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties with a minimum of one year of structured subspecialty fellowship | Saudi board by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties | |
| Kuwait | | Board Certification by the Kuwait Board under the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization/Ministry of Health | |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|-----------|--------|---|--|
| Latvia | | | 'Sertifikāts'—kompetentu iestāžu izsniegts dokuments, kas apliecina, ka persona ir nokārtojusi sertifikācijas eksāmenu specialitātē (specialist certificate) awarded by the Latvian Medical Association |
| | | | Ģimenes rsta Sertifikāts (certificate of specialist training) awarded by the Latvian Medical Association |
| Lebanon | | Certificate of completion of residency and exit exam from St Joseph University, Lebanese University, or American University of Beirut with an exit certificate. American board/French diploma | Certificate of Completion of residency and exit exam from all other Lebanese Universities. The residency program should not be less than three (3) years course duration |
| Libya | | | The Libyan Board of Medical Specialty |
| Lithuania | | | Rezidentūros pažymėjimas, nurodantis suteiktą gydytojo specialisto profesinę kvalifikaciją (Certificate of resident studies, which shows the qualification as a specialized medical doctor) awarded by a Lithuanian University |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|---|
| | | | Šeimos gydytojo rezidentūros pažymėjimas (certificate of family medicine) awarded by a Lithuanian University |
| Luxembourg | | | Certificat de médecin spécialiste issued by the Ministre de la Santé publique |
| | | | Diplôme de formation spécifique en médecine générale |
| Macedonia | | | Potrdilo o opravljene specialisticnem izpitu (Certificate of successful completion of the specialist exam) issued by the Medical Chamber of Macedonia/university |
| Malta | | | Ċertifikat ta' Speċjalista Mediku (Medical Specialist Certificate) awarded by the Kumitat ta' Approvazzjoni dwar Speċjalisti (Specialist Accreditation Committee) |
| | | | Tabib tal-Familja awarded by the Kumitat ta' Approvazzjoni dwar Speċjalisti |
| Mexico | | | Evidence of minimum three (3) years residency program with a Specialist degree |
| Moldova | | | Kandidat Nauk |
| | | | Magista PhD |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|-------------------|--------|--|---|
| Montenegro | | | Certificate of successful completion of the specialist exam |
| Morocco | | | Diplome de Specialite Medicale (specialty degree issued by National Doctor Authority) |
| Netherland | | <p>Bewijs van inschrijving in een Specialistenregister (Certificate of recognition And Registration/certificate of entry in the Specialist Register)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Medisch Specialisten Registratie Commissie (MRSC) o Sociaal-Geneskundigen Registratie Commissie o Huisarts en Verpleeghuisarts Registratie Commissie (HVRC) van de Koninklike Nederlandsche Maatschappij tot Bevordering der Geneeskunst – note that only certificates issued before 19 July 2007 are accepted from this awarding body o Registratie Commissie Geneeskundig Specialisten (RGS) | |
| | | <p>Certificaat van inschrijving in een specialistenregister van huisartsen awarded by any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Huisarts en Verpleeghuisarts Registratie Commissie (HVRC) o Registratie Commissie Geneeskundig Specialisten (RGS) | |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|---------------------|--------|---|--|
| New Zealand | | Fellowship of the Royal College/Colleges (the fellowship should be by Exam and not an endorsed or elected fellowship) | Šeimoms gydytojo rezidentūros pažymėjimas (certificate of family medicine) awarded by a Lithuanian University |
| Nigeria | | | Fellowship of the west African College of Physicians or Surgeons |
| Norway | | | Spesialistgodkjenning issued by the Den Norske Legeforening (Medical Association of Norway) or Norwegian Directorate of Health |
| | | | Bevis for kompetanse som allmennpraktiserende lege/Godkjenning som allmennpraktiserende lege (certificate of specific training for general medical practice) issued by Norwegian Registration Authority for Health Personnel (SAK) |
| Oman | | | Oman Medical Specialty Board Certificate issued by the Ministry of Health |
| Pakistan | | Fellowship of College of Physicians and Surgeons in Pakistan (FCPS) | MD in Clinical Medicine |
| Phillippines | | | Diplomate of the Philippine Board |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|-----------------|--------|---|---|
| Poland | | (Specialist Diploma) Dyplom uzyskania tytułu specjalisty issued by the Centrum Egzaminów Medycznych | First Degree of Specialization |
| | | Dyplom uzyskania tytułu specjalisty w First Degree of Specialization dziedzinie medycyny rodzinnej (specialist in family medicine) issued by the Centrum Egzaminów Medycznych | |
| Portugal | | Título de Especialista (professional award of specialist) issued by the Ordem dos Medicos | |
| | | Título de especialista em medicina gerale familiar (certificate of specific training for general medical practice) issued by Ministrio da Saude or Ordem dos Medicos | |
| Romania | | | Certificat de medic specialist issued by Ministerul Sănătății Publici (the Ministry of Public Health) |
| | | | Certificat de medic specialist medicină de familie issued by Ministerul Sănătății Publici (the Ministry of Public Health) |
| Russia | | | Kandidat Nauk Magista PhD |
| Serbia | | | Specialty certificate issued by a Serbian university |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| | | Certificate of Specialist Accreditation from the Specialist Accreditation Board | |
| Slovakia | | Diplom o špecializácii (Diploma of specialization) issued by Slovak universities | |
| | | Diplom o špecializácii v odbore všeobecné lekárstvo issued by Slovak universities | |
| Slovenia | | | Potrdilo o opravljenem specialističnem izpitu (Certificate of successful completion of the specialist exam) issued by Medical Chamber of Slovenia |
| | | | Potrdilo o opravljeni specializaciji iz družinske medicine (Certificate of completion of specialist training in family medicine) issued by Medical Chamber of Slovenia |
| South Africa | Fellowship Certificate approved by the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA) | | Masters of Medicine (M. Med) Degree |
| Spain | | Título de Especialista (professional qualification of a specialist) issued by the Spanish Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs or the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture | |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|--------------------|--------|--|---|
| | | Título de especialista en medicina familiar y comunitaria (specialist certificate in family and community medicine) issued by the Spanish Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs or the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture | |
| Srilanka | | | MD issued by the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine of Sri Lanka, University of Colombo |
| Sudan | | | Master's degree Clinical MD |
| Sweden | | Bevis om specialistkompetens somläkare (certificate of the right to use the title of specialist) issued by the Socialstyrelsen (National Board of Health and Welfare of Sweden) | |
| | | Bevis om kompetens som allmänpraktiserande läkare (Europaläkare) (certificate of specific training for general practice) issued by the Socialstyrelsen (National Board of Health and Welfare of Sweden) | |
| Switzerland | | Diplôme de médecin spécialiste/Diplomals Facharzt/ Diploma di medico specialista (specialist qualification) issued by the Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA) | |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|---------|--------|---|--|
| | | Certificate of specific training for general medical practice issued by the Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA) | |
| | | And A document from the Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA) confirming that the training leading to the award of your GP certificate meets the standards detailed in Article 28 of Directive 2005/36/EC | |
| Syria | | | Certificate of higher study issued by Ministry of Higher Education |
| | | | Syrian specialization certificate issued by Ministry of Health |
| Tunisia | | | Specialty Certificate issued by the National Physicians Authority |
| Turkey | | Turkish Higher Specialty Medical Board certificate issued by a Turkish University | |
| Ukraine | | | Kandidat Nauk |
| | | | Magista PhD |

| Country | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| United Kingdom | Fellowship of the Royal Colleges awarded after 2004 | Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) | Membership in the specialty: MRCP, MRCPCh, MRCPed, MRCOG, MRCOph, MRCOrth, Certificate of Completion of Training MRCGP |
| | | Certificate of Completion of Training MRCGP (CCT) | Intercollegiate Specialty Board |
| | | Certificate of Completion of Training Intercollegiate Specialty Board in General Practice | |
| | | Fellowship of the Royal Colleges awarded before 2004 | |
| United States of America | American Board Certificates issued by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) | | Certificate of Completion of residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for Bahraini's only |
| Venezuela | | | Completion of at least three (3) years university specialization program and registration as Specialist issued by the Colegio de Medicos |
| West Africa | | | Fellowship of the West African College of Physicians |
| West Indies | | | Doctor of Medicine issued by University of West Indies |
| Yemen | | | Clinical Master degree or residency program of minimum three (3) years course duration issued by Yemeni university |
| Others | | | Full time Masters or PhD Degrees of minimum two (2) years course duration with evidence of clinical practice and a current registration. |

6. Recognized Speciality Titles for Licensing

| Specialty Titles |
|--|
| Addiction Psychiatry |
| Adolescence Medicine |
| Anatomic and Clinical Pathology |
| Anatomic Pathology |
| Anesthesia |
| Aviation and Aerospace Medicine |
| Blood Banking and Transfusion |
| Cardiac Anesthesia |
| Cardiac Electrophysiology |
| Cardiac Surgery |
| Cardiology |
| Cardio - Thoracic Surgery |
| Cardio-Vascular Surgery |
| Chemical Pathology (Clinical Biochemistry) |
| Child and Adolescent Psychiatry |
| Clinical Cytogenetics |
| Clinical Genetics (MD) |
| Clinical Hematology |
| Clinical Immunology |

| Specialty Titles |
|--|
| Clinical Immunology and Allergy |
| Clinical Neurophysiology |
| Clinical Pathology |
| Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology |
| Critical Care Medicine |
| Cytogenetics |
| Cytopathology |
| Dermatology |
| Dermatopathology |
| Development - Behavioral Pediatrics |
| Diagnostic Radiology |
| Emergency Medicine |
| Endocrinology |
| Family Medicine |
| Female Pelvic and Reconstructive Surgery |
| Forensic Medicine |
| Forensic Pathology |
| Forensic Psychiatry |
| Gastroenterology |
| Gastrointestinal Surgery |

| Specialty Titles |
|---|
| General Surgery |
| Genito Urinary Medicine |
| Geriatric Medicine |
| Geriatric Psychiatry |
| Gynecological Oncology |
| Haematology and Transfusion Medicine |
| Hematopathology |
| Hepatology |
| Hospice and Palliative Medicine |
| Immunology |
| Infectious Diseases |
| Internal Medicine |
| Interventional Cardiology |
| Interventional Radiology |
| Maternal and Fetal Medicine |
| Medical Microbiology |
| Medical Oncology |
| Medical Physics |
| Medical Toxicology |
| Molecular Genetic Pathology |

| Specialty Titles |
|---------------------------------|
| Molecular Genetics |
| Molecular Pathology |
| Neonatology |
| Nephrology |
| Neurodevelopmental Disabilities |
| Neurodevelopmental Psychiatry |
| Neurology |
| Neuropathology |
| Neuroradiology |
| Neurosurgery |
| Neurotology |
| Nuclear Medicine |
| Nuclear Radiology |
| Obstetrics and Gynecology |
| Occupational Medicine |
| Ophthalmology |
| Oral Maxillofacial Surgery |
| Orthopedic Surgery |
| Otolaryngology |
| Pain Medicine |

| Specialty Titles |
|--|
| Pediatric |
| Pediatric Immunology and Allergy |
| Pediatric Anesthesia |
| Pediatric Cardiac Surgery |
| Pediatric Cardiology |
| Pediatric Critical Care |
| Pediatric Dermatology |
| Pediatric Development and Behavioral medicine |
| Pediatric Emergency Medicine |
| Pediatric Endocrinology |
| Pediatric Gastroenterology |
| Pediatric Hematology |
| Pediatric Hematology - Oncology |
| Pediatric Hepatology |
| Pediatric Infectious Disease |
| Pediatric Nephrology |
| Pediatric Neurology |
| Pediatric Oncology |
| Pediatric Otolaryngology |
| Pediatric Pathology |

| Specialty Titles |
|--|
| Pediatric Pulmonology |
| Pediatric Radiology |
| Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine |
| Pediatric Rheumatology |
| Pediatric Sleep Medicine |
| Pediatric Sports Medicine |
| Pediatric Surgery |
| Pediatric Transfusion Medicine |
| Pediatric Urology |
| Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation |
| Plastic Surgery |
| Psychiatry |
| Public Health Medicine |
| Pulmonary Disease |
| Radiation Oncology |
| Radiology |
| Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility |
| Reproductive Health |
| Rheumatology |
| Sexual and Reproductive Health |

| Specialty Titles |
|---|
| Sleep Medicine |
| Sports Medicine |
| Surgery of the Hand |
| Surgical Critical Care |
| Surgical Oncology |
| Thoracic Surgery |
| Transfusion Medicine |
| Undersea and Hyperbaric Oxygen Medicine |
| Urogynecology. |
| Urology |
| Vascular Surgery |



7. Sub-Specialties:

| Sub- Specialties in Plastic & reconstructive surgery |
|--|
| Hand Surgery |
| Cosmetic Surgery |
| Craniofacial Surgery |
| Pediatric Plastic Surgery |
| Burns |
| Microsurgery |
| Reconstructive surgery |
| Sub-Specialties in Neurosurgery |
| Pediatric Neurosurgery |
| Spine surgery |
| Neurosurgery/oncology |
| Skull Base Surgery |
| Neurosurgery Vascular |
| Sub-Specialties in Orthopedic Surgery |
| Pediatric Orthopedics |
| Arthroplasty Surgery |
| Spine Surgery |
| Foot & Ankle Surgery |
| Orthopedic Oncology |
| Trauma & Fracture Surgery |
| Sports Medicine |
| Upper Limb Orthopedics |

| Sub- Specialties in Otolaryngology |
|---|
| Pediatric Otolaryngology |
| Neuro-otology & Otology |
| Rhinology |
| Facioplastics |
| Head & Neck Oncology |
| Laryngology |
| Reconstructive surgery |
| Sub- Specialties in Urology |
| Pediatric Urology |
| Urology Oncology |
| Neuro-Urology |
| Gynecology Urology |
| Male Infertility |
| Reconstructive Urology |
| Laparoscopic Urology |

| Sub-Specialties in Ophthalmology |
|---|
| Neuro-Ophthalmology |
| Glaucoma |
| Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus |
| Retinal Diseases and Surgery |
| Cornea/External Diseases |
| Oculoplastics |
| Comprehensive Ophthalmology |
| Uveitis/Medical Retina |
| Ocular Oncology |

| Sub-Specialties in Medicine |
|------------------------------------|
| Adult Cardiology |
| Adult Gastroenterology |
| Adult Nephrology |
| Adult Infectious Diseases |
| Adult Pulmonology |
| Adult Endocrinology |
| Adult metabolic Diseases |
| Adult Rheumatology |
| Adult Hematology |
| Adult Oncology |
| Adult Sleep Medicine |
| Adult Intensive Care |

| Sub-Specialties in Pediatrics |
|--------------------------------------|
| Pediatric Intensive Care |
| Pediatric Nephrology |
| Neonatal Intensive Care |
| Pediatric Endocrinology |
| Pediatric Infectious Diseases |
| Pediatric Gastroenterology |
| Pediatric Cardiology |
| Pediatric Pulmonology |
| Pediatric Hematology |
| Pediatric Oncology |
| Pediatric Sleep Medicine |
| Pediatric Rheumatology |
| Pediatric Genetics |

| Sub-Specialties in General Surgery |
|---|
| Pediatric Surgery |
| Colorectal Surgery |
| Vascular Surgery |
| Endocrinology |
| Hepatobiliary Surgery |
| Surgical Oncology |
| Bariatric Surgery |
| Thoracic Surgery |
| Trauma Surgery |
| Transplant surgery |
| Sub-Specialties in Obstetrics & Gynecology laparoscopy |
| Gynecology Oncology |
| Infertility |
| Fetal Medicine |
| Perinatology |
| Uro-gynecology |
| Geriatric |
| Sub-Specialties in Emergency Medicine |
| Pediatric Emergency Medicine |
| Trauma |
| Toxicology |
| Emergency Medical Services |
| Intensive Care |
| Sports Medicine |
| Geriatric |

| Sub-Specialties in Family Medicine |
|---|
| Public Health |
| Adolescent Medicine |
| Geriatric Medicine |
| Mental Health |
| Palliative Medicine |
| Primary care/pulmonology |
| Primary care/Ophthalmology |
| Epidemiology |
| Diabetic Medicine |
| Occupational Medicine |
| Environmental Medicine |
| Preventive Pediatric Medicine |
| Sports Medicine |
| Sub-Specialties in Dermatology |
| Pediatric Dermatology |
| Dermato-Pathology |
| Dermatology Surgery |
| Laser & Photo Therapy |
| Hair implant |
| Sports Medicine |
| Geriatric |

| Sub-Specialties in Psychiatry |
|--------------------------------------|
| Child/ Adolescent Psychiatry |
| Addiction Medicine |
| Geriatric Psychiatry |
| Mood Disorder Psychiatry |
| Rehabilitation Psychiatry |
| Liaison Psychiatry |
| Forensic Psychiatry |
| Schizophrenia |

| Sub-Specialties in Anesthesia |
|--|
| Adult Cardiology Anesthesia |
| Adult Intensive Care |
| Pediatric Anesthesia |
| Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesia |
| Pain Management |
| Regional Anesthesia |
| Neuro- Anesthesia |
| Obstetrics Anesthesia |
| Vascular/Thoracic Anesthesia |
| Ambulatory Anesthesia |
| Pre-Operative Medicine |
| Sub-Specialties in Radiology |
| Diagnostic Neuroradiology Imaging |
| Body Imaging |
| Musculoskeletal Imaging |
| Interventional Radiology |
| Cardiac Imaging |
| Chest Imaging |
| Breast Imaging |
| Woman's Imaging |
| Pediatric Imaging |
| Nuclear Medicine |
| Interventional Neuroradiology |

| Sub-Specialties in Pathology |
|--|
| Obstetrics & Breast Pathology |
| Lymphoma Pathology |
| Renal Pathology |
| Dermato-pathology |
| Bone & Soft Tissue Pathology |
| Gastroenterology & Hepatology Pathology |
| General Histopathology |
| Hematology |
| Microbiology |
| Transfusion Medicine & Blood Banking |
| Molecular Diagnostics & Genetics |
| Biochemistry |

Visiting Physicians:

Health care facilities may apply for physicians to visit their institution and provide health care services to patients within a specified period of time provided the following conditions are met:

1. Full application form and required documents are submitted to NHRA at least two week prior to the scheduled visit
2. In some cases, visiting physicians who do not fulfill the categorization criteria of a consultant may be granted a visiting license if they are categorized as a specialist and in certain conditions for example:
 - a. If the specialty needed is rare in kingdom of Bahrain.
 - b. If there is a paucity in the number of consultants in a certain specialty in kingdom of Bahrain
 - c. If the visiting physician has been requested to share his clinical and academic experience and has distinctive work such as obtaining a patented technology in physician and such cases will be studied individually.
3. The NHRA may grant visiting licenses to any physicians based on the review of individual applications

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