



QCHP
المجلس القطري للتخصصات الصحية
Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners



Policy Category: Physicians/Scope of practice
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Validity: This policy is the main and valid policy until updated, replaced or canceled by the Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners Registration Department. Update, replacement or cancellation of this policy may occur when needed. However, all healthcare practitioners and parties shall comply with this policy.
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1. Introduction

In alignment with the QCHP mission and values to upgrade the healthcare sector in the state of Qatar, and updating all QCHP's approved policies to match with the latest regional and international standards, and to eliminate any confusion in the regulatory process, the Registration Department and as per approval of the permanent licensing committee, has updated a policy that regulate the practice of GP limited to an area of interest to be either General practitioner, or Associate Specialist according to the requirements and guidelines mentioned in this policy

2. Policy Statement

2.1 As per the QCHP Registration department policy of limiting the scope of practice for GP physicians (Circular # 23/2011 and physician's guide lines).

Physicians who were categorized before as GP limited to an area of interest can be granted one of the following titles:

- A. General Practitioner (see 3.1).
- B. Associate Specialist (see 3.2).

2.2 The currently licensed "Gp Limited to" physicians, who got this title according to their experience in a certain specialty without a post-graduate certificate in that specialty, will be kept in the system as "Gp Limited to", unless they provide any approved postgraduate degree

3. Definitions

3.1. General Practitioner:

A physician with a primary medical degree only (MD, MBBS, MBChB, etc) whose practice is not limited to a specific medical specialty but instead covers a variety of medical problems in patients of all ages along with referral of patients to hospitals and other medical services for urgent and specialist treatment. They focus on the health of the whole person combining physical, psychological and social aspects of care.

(Or)

A physician with a medical degree (MD, MBBS, MBChB, etc) whose practice was exclusively in a specific medical specialty for the last 3 years. However, he/she doesn't have a post-graduate certificate in that specialty.

3.2. Associate Specialist:

- A physician who has a post-graduate degree which is not from the QCHP approved specialty qualifications list and he/ she is only practicing in the same specialty of his/ her post-graduate degree.



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(Or)

- A physician who has a post-graduate degree which is included in the QCHP approved specialty qualifications list; however he/ she did not complete the required years of work experience as per the category of his/her post-graduate certificate.

(Or)

- A physician who completed structured supervised training programs of minimum three years and is eligible to sit for the certifying exam.

4. Abbreviations

QCHP: Qatar Council for Healthcare practitioners.

MD: Doctor of medicine.

MBBS: Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.

MBChB: Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery

5. Scope

This policy applies to all Physicians who do not have any post-graduate degree, have a post-graduate degree; however, this degree is not from the QCHP's approved qualifications list, have a completed structured supervised training programs and is eligible to sit for the certifying exam (board eligible) or have post-graduate degree from the QCHP's approved list but did not complete the required years of work experience as per the category of the post-graduate certificate, in addition to the current licensed GP limited to an area of interest.

6. Procedures/Guidelines

- 6.1.** All physicians under **General Practitioner** or **Associate Specialist** categories can apply for evaluation and licensing with all the Registration/ licensing requirements as per the QCHP approved policies and procedures.
- 6.2.** The Physicians who will be registered/ licensed as General Practitioners are required to sit for the Prometric qualifying exam.
- 6.3.** Physicians who are licensed as **"Associate Specialist"** can practice independently as per their scope within the core competencies specific to this scope (either medical or surgical) which will be announced later.



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- 6.4. Associate Specialist** can apply for core privileges request after fulfilling all the requirements as per the QCHP guidelines, the applications will be submitted to specialized expert panel for assessment.
- 6.5.** Otherwise, **Associate Specialist** can work as assistant/ under direct supervision from the specialist/ consultant who is licensed and has medical/surgical privileges issued by QCHP.
The supervisor and the associate specialist with the facility will be responsible for any complications that may occur to the patient.
- 6.6.** For “**Associate Specialist**”;
- ❖ The post- graduate degree should include at least one year structured training program in addition to passing the final certifying exam.
 - ❖ Or Master degree or membership of the Royal colleges that mandates at least 18 months of training in an accredited institution.
 - ❖ A physician who completed structured supervised training programs of minimum three years and is eligible to sit for the certifying exam.
- 6.7.** A physician who has a post-graduate degree which is included in the QCHP approved specialty qualifications list; however he/ she did not complete the required years of work experience as per the category of his/her post-graduate certificate will be licensed as an Associate specialist until he/she complete the required experience and he/she can apply for change scope to a specialist.
- 6.8.** The “Gp Limited to” title will be cancelled from the registration/ licensing electronic system for any future applications for physicians.
- 6.9.** The currently licensed “Gp Limited to” physicians, who got this title according to their experience in a certain specialty without a post-graduate certificate in that specialty, will be kept in the system as “Gp Limited to”, unless they provide any approved postgraduate degree.
- 6.10.** The rest of the currently licensed “Gp limited to” physicians, who are fulfilling the criteria in the definition # 3.2. , will be changed to “Associate Specialist”.
- 6.11.** Physicians who have more than one post graduate degree and none of them is among the approved list, they will be reviewed on a case by case basis.



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- 6.12.** Physicians who will continue to maintain their license as “GP Limited to” will practice under supervision of specialist/consultant within their scope of practice.
- 6.13.** The “GP Limited to” title included in any document issued by the Registration department as policy, circular, letter, etc. shall be replaced by “Associate specialist” title.

7. Related Policies and circulars

- 7.1.** New QCHP approved specialty qualifications list for physicians.
- 7.2.** Break from practice policy



8. Charts

Process Map for evaluation of General Practitioners and Associate Specialist

