

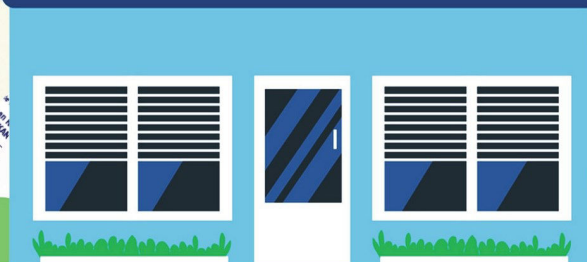
MDCG



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MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL BULLETIN

DENTAL CLINIC



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The President's Message

Salam Sejahtera to the Dental Practitioners under the purview of the Dental Act 2018.

The practice of dentistry in Malaysia, be it under the Ministry of Health, Institutions of Higher Education, the Armed Forces, or in the private sector, is regulated by the Malaysian Dental Council and governed by the Dental Act 2018. Besides that, there are also other regulations and laws that have to be adhered to, which are under the purview of the Ministry of Health, other government agencies, the fire department, the Department of Environment of the Ministry of Natural Resources And Environmental Sustainability and even local councils, to name a few.

These laws and regulations are there mainly to safeguard the public (who come to us as patients or employees in our clinics), the dental practitioners themselves and any others who are directly or indirectly connected to dental clinics.

Therefore, it is the responsibility and duty of all owners and persons-in-charge of dental clinics, and of all dental practitioners, in both the government and private sectors, to be familiar with these laws and regulations, and to ensure compliance in a timely manner. This can be done by getting equipment checked and calibrated, renewing annual practicing certificates and indemnity insurance and renewing necessary licenses. Together we can ensure the safety of our patients, dental care workers, dental practitioners and the public in general

Datuk Dr. Muhammad Radzi bin Abu Hassan

From the Editor's Desk



The Dental Act 2018 officially took effect on 1 January 2022, with three provisions being deferred until 1 January 2025. Two of these provisions pertain to the application of the Annual Practising Certificate (APC) for year 2025, which now requires practitioners to have the necessary Professional Indemnity Cover in place. Additionally, practitioners must have obtained 20 continuing professional development points (CPD) in the year 2023. The deadline for submitting applications for the APC 2025 to the Malaysian Dental Council (MDC) is 1 November 2024, with the APC 2024 remaining valid until 31 December. Failure to apply for the APC 2025 by the specified date will result in practitioners being automatically suspended from the Dental Register. A reminder on the importance of meeting these new requirements has been included in this issue of the Bulletin.

Private dental practitioners who own or are in-charge (PIC) of dental facilities must adhere to the various licensing requirements applicable to dental practices. To assist practitioners, we have compiled a list of requirements that must be met, for the legal operation of dental facilities. This list serves as a guide, as requirements may vary across different local councils and at different times.

This issue of the Bulletin also pays tribute to our esteemed legal adviser, Mr. Jason Gomez, whose sudden passing has deeply saddened us. Mr. Gomez dedicated over 10 years of selfless service to the MDC, providing invaluable input on the drafting of key legislative documents such as the Dental Act 2018, the Dental Regulations 2021 and the Code of Professional Conduct 2022, and various guidelines and directives. He played a pivotal role in advising Council members during disciplinary inquiries conducted by the MDC.

Under the regulatory framework of the Dental Act 2018, Malaysian citizens holding dental qualifications, who seek registration with the MDC must meet the criteria set forth in the Act. They must be certified by the Dental Qualifying Committee (DQC) as having successfully completed the Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE) before they can apply for registration as dental practitioners. In preparation for this, the Examination Committee has been diligently working towards finalizing the format of the examination, with plans for it to be operational by 2025. We commend the committee for their dedicated efforts in this regard, and are pleased to share their progress with our readers.

Dato' Professor Dr Ishak bin Abdul Razak

COUNCIL MEMBERS



Seated (from left): Dr. Fauziah binti Ahmad, Dr. Noormi binti Othman (Dental Registrar), Datuk Dr. Muhammad Radzi bin Abu Hassan (President), Dato' Professor Dr. Ishak bin Abdul Razak, Professor Dr. Abdul Rashid bin Ismail

Standing (from left):

Professor Dr. Rahimah binti Abdul Kadir, Dr. Ng Woan Tyng, Professor Dr. Dalia binti Abdullah, Professor Dr. Rosnah binti Mohd Zain, Dr. Sharifah Tahirah binti Syed Alwi Aljunid, Associate Professor Dr. Maryati binti Md. Dasor, Professor Dr. Seow Liang Lin, Dr. Lim Chiew Wooi, Dr. Teerunavookarasu a/l Rajaratnam, Dr. Wong Siong Ting, Dr. Lee Wei Zin, Puan Jeevaretnam a/p K. Sockalingam, Dr. Firdaus bin Hanapiah, Dr. Ha Kien Oon and Dr. Norhayati bt Jaffar

Not in the picture:

Professor Dr. Zamri bin Radzi, Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Hazudin bin Hassan, Dr. Mohd Salman bin Masri, Dr. Syed Iqbal bin Syed Husman, Dr. Leong Kei Joe, Puan Zainab bt Mohideen, Puan WA Shashila (MDC Legal Advisor)



**In Loving Memory of
Mr. Jason Reginald Gomez
Legal Advisor to the Malaysian Dental Council**

**With heavy hearts and great sadness, we share the news
that**

Mr. Jason R. Gomez left us on 1 April 2024.

**His passion for and unwavering dedication to the Malaysian
Dental Council will forever be remembered.**

**We cherish his friendship and devotion and will miss him
dearly.**

**Our deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Jason
Reginald Gomez.**

May his soul rest in peace.



MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL

DENTAL REGISTRAR'S REPORT FOR 2023

1. Registration under the Dental Act 2018

a) Registration as Dental Surgeon

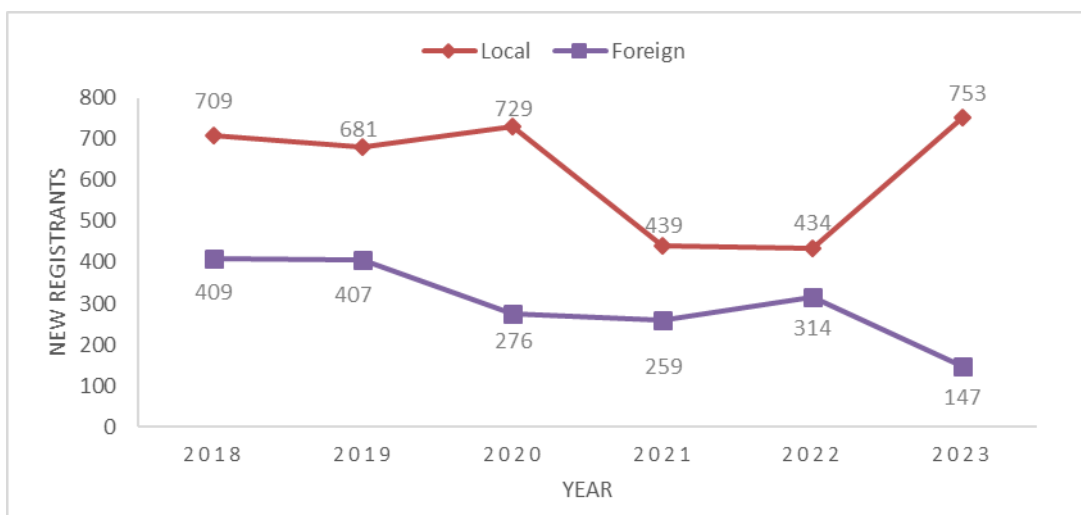
A total of 900 graduates registered with the Malaysian Dental Council (MDC) in 2023 (**Table 1**), a significant increase of 20% from the previous year. With the implementation of the new Dental Act 2018 [*Act 804*] on 1 January 2022, all graduates are registered under Section 31 of the Act.

Table 1: New Registrants by Section and Act, 2018 – 2023

Section	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
12(1) Act 51	1,117	1,079	1,001	686		
12(3) Act 51	0	2	1	0		
12(9) Act 51	1	7	3	12		
31 Act 804					748	900
Total	1,118	1,088	1,005	698	748	900

In 2023, 84% of the new registrants were from local institutions. New registrants from foreign institution were 53% less compared to previous year (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1: New Registrants from Local and Foreign Institutions, 2018 – 2023



In 2023, the local institution with the largest number of graduates registered with the MDC was Manipal University College Malaysia (MUCM) followed by Universiti Teknologi MARA (**Table 2**).

Table 2: New Registrants from Local Institutions, 2018 – 2023

Institution	Year					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
University of Malaya	55	55	54	49	0	49
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	50	50	50	5	56	61
Universiti Sains Malaysia	46	46	52	50	0	46
AIMST University	70	73	75	3	75	68
Penang International Dental College	76	78	40	78	45	59
Universiti Teknologi MARA	59	47	99	9	86	75
International Islamic University Malaysia	64	53	57	63	2	54
Islamic Science University Malaysia	30	42	31	38	0	35
MAHSA University	70	74	70	2	69	73
International Medical University	32	38	42	46	41	55
Melaka Manipal Medical College/ Manipal University College Malaysia	77	70	67	5	0	122
SEGi University	47	47	50	49	41	8
Lincoln University College	33	8	42	42	19	48
TOTAL	709	681	729	439	434	753

The highest number of foreign graduates registered with the MDC were from Egypt, followed by Indonesia and India (**Table 3**).

At the end of 2023, the total number of registrants in the Dental Register was 17,431.

Table 3: New Registrants by Country of Qualification, 2018 – 2023

Country	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Malaysia	709	681	729	439	434	753
Egypt	91	164	107	124	108	67
India	122	79	72	52	94	9
Indonesia	74	75	51	47	74	36
United Kingdom	13	11	22	4	8	7
Jordan	96	52	2	-	-	-
Australia	2	5	6	7	5	3
Republic of Ireland	4	2	6	1	-	1
Bangladesh	1	8	4	4	17	7
New Zealand	5	5	2	7	2	4
Canada	-	-	1	-	1	-
China	-	1	1	1	-	-
Philippines	-	-	1	-	-	-
Taiwan	-	3	1	11	4	3
Turkey	-	1	-	1	-	1
Pakistan	-	1	-	-	-	-
Myanmar	1	-	-	-	-	-
Singapore	-	-	-	-	-	1
Japan	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL	1,118	1,088	1,005	698	748	900

b) Registration as Dental Specialist

One of the new provisions under Act 804 is the registration of dental specialists. In 2023, 252 dental specialists were registered, increasing the total number of practitioners in the specialist division to 959. The highest percentage of total registered dental specialist was in the field of Orthodontics (22%) followed by Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (18%) and Periodontics (12%) (Table 4).

Table 4: New Dental Specialist Registrants by Specialty, 2022-2023

Specialty	2022	2023	Total
Dental Public Health	78	21	99
Endodontics	30	8	38
Forensic Odontology	7	2	9
Oral Maxillofacial Radiology	3	1	4
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	129	46	175
Oral Pathology and Oral Medicine/ Oral Medicine	27	10	37

Specialty	2022	2023	Total
Orthodontics	163	44	207
Paediatric Dentistry	70	34	104
Periodontics	81	36	117
Prosthodontics	59	26	85
Restorative Dentistry	48	23	71
Special Care Dentistry	12	1	13
GRAND TOTAL	707	252	959

2. Annual Practising Certificate

In 2023, a total of 14,261 dental practitioners were issued with Annual Practising Certificate (APC). A summary of the distribution of dental practitioners from 2018 to 2023 is shown in **Table 5**. The trend translates to 56.0% increase in ‘active’ dental practitioners over the past five years. The number of dentists (dental practitioners registered in Division II of the Dental Register) only made up less than 0.1% of the active dental practitioners since the year 2020.

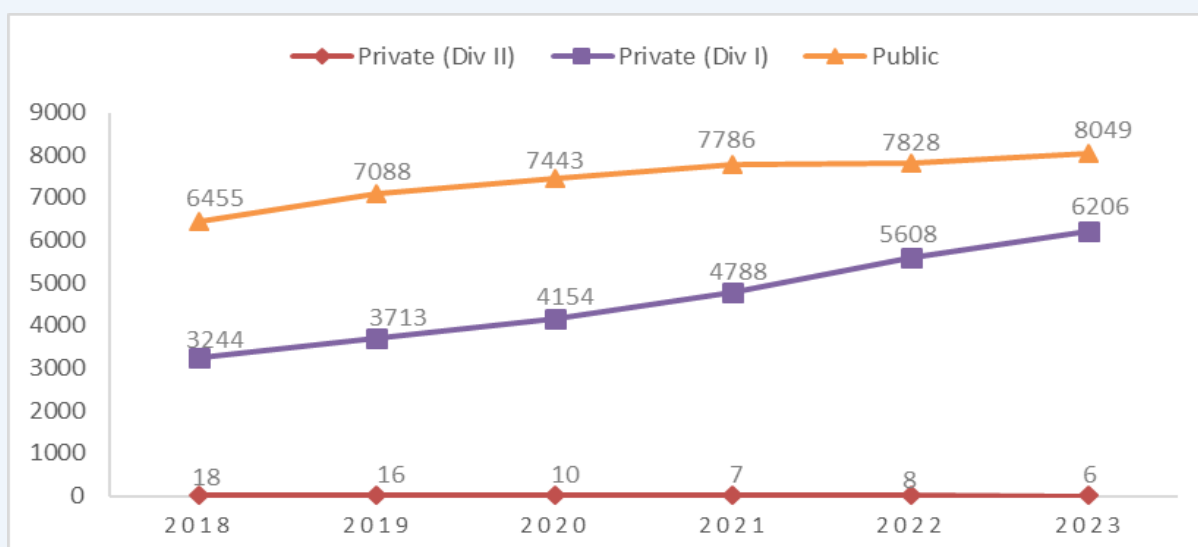
Table 5: Annual Practising Certificate Issued by Sector (2018 – 2022)

Division/ Sector	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Div I - Public	6,455 (66.4%)	7,087 (65.5%)	7,443 (64.1%)	7,786 (61.9%)	7,828 (58.2%)	8,049 (56.4%)
Div I - Private	3,244 (33.4%)	3,714 (34.3%)	4,154 (35.8%)	4,788 (38.1%)	5,608 (41.7%)	6,206 (43.5%)
Total Div. I	9,699	10,801	11,597	12,574	13,436	14,255
Div II - Private	18 (0.2%)	16 (0.2%)	10 (0.1%)	7 (0.1%)	8 (0.1%)	6 (0.1%)
Grand Total	9,717	10,817	11,607	12,581	13,444	14,261
% Increase	12.7	11.3	7.3	8.4	6.9	6.1

2.1 Distribution of Active Dental Practitioners by Sector

In 2023, the number of active dental practitioners in the public sector was higher compared to the private sector (**Figure 2**). However, the increased rate in public sector (2.8%) was much lower than the increased rate for private sector (10.7%) in 2023.

Figure 2: Distribution of Active Dental Practitioners by Sector (2018 – 2023)



The distribution of active dental practitioners in Malaysia by state is outlined in **Table 6**. Selangor continues to lead with the highest number of dental practitioners, both in the public and private sectors. Following Selangor is FT Kuala Lumpur, together accounting for 34.7% of all dental practitioners in Malaysia. In Selangor, FT Kuala Lumpur and Johor, the private sector has more dental practitioners compared to the public sector. Combined, these three states make up 62.7% of all dental practitioners in the private sector. The distribution of dental practitioners in the private sector primarily depends on demand and accessibility, whereas in the public sector, it is based on the available posts in each state.

Table 6: Annual Practising Certificates Issued by States in Malaysia (2023)

State	Division I Dental Surgeons			Division II Dentists
	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total	
Perlis	149	27	176	-
Kedah	514	230	744	-
Penang	463	419	882	-
Perak	597	297	894	-
Selangor	971	2,100	3,071	-
FT Kuala Lumpur	853	1,030	1,883	-
FT Putrajaya	130	31	161	-
Negeri Sembilan	441	168	609	-
Malacca	412	180	592	-
Johore	705	760	1,465	-
Pahang	678	149	827	-
Terengganu	541	127	668	-
Kelantan	669	146	815	-
Pen. Malaysia	7,123	5,664	12,787	-

State	Division I Dental Surgeons			Division II Dentists
	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total	
Sabah	442	299	741	4
Sarawak	440	238	678	2
FT Labuan	44	5	49	-
Malaysia	8,049	6,206	14,255	6

FT = Federal Territory

2.2 Distribution of Active Dental Practitioners by Gender and Sector

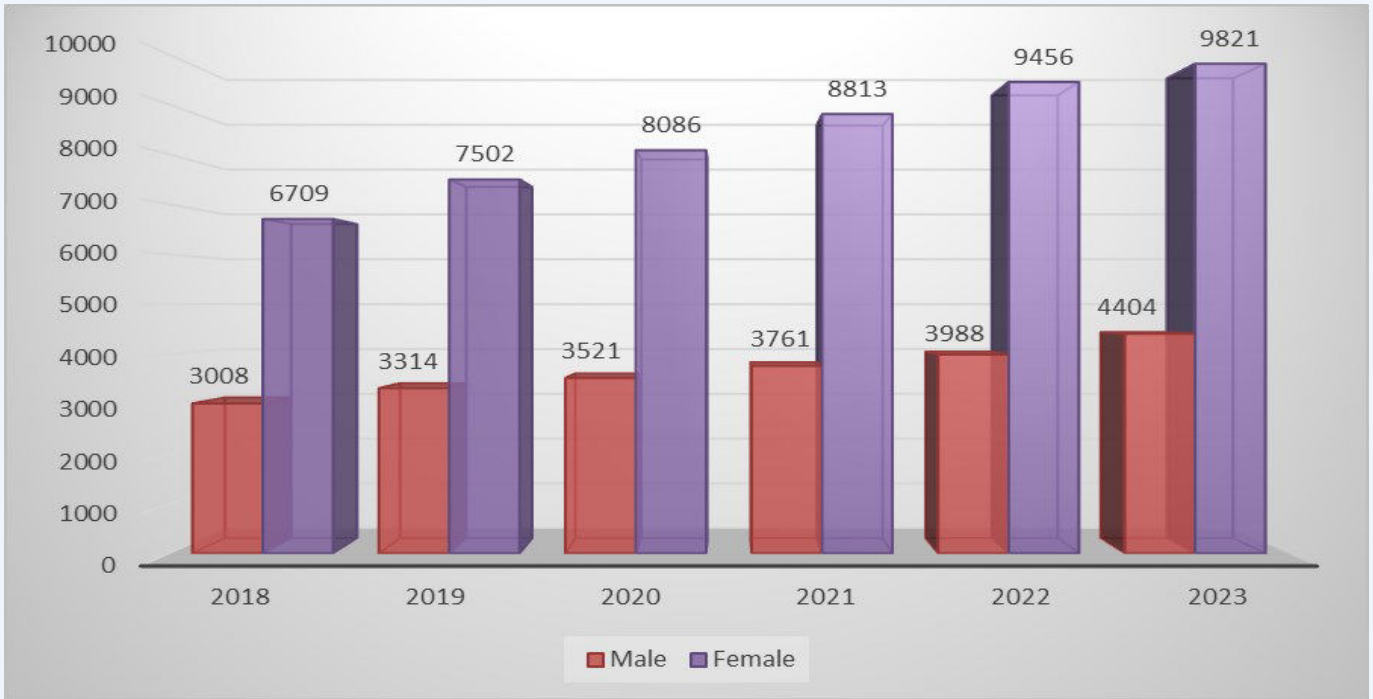
In 2023, slightly more than two-thirds (69%) of active dental practitioners were female (**Table 7**). However, the gender distribution varies by sector where females make up 62% of the public sector and only 38% of the private sector.

Table 7: Distribution of Active Dental Practitioners by Gender & Sector, 2023

Sector	Male	Female	Total
Public	1,939 (44.0%)	6,110 (62.0%)	8,049
Private	2,465 (56.0%)	3,741 (38.0%)	5,616
Total	4,404 (30.9%)	9,851 (69.1%)	14,255

A 5-year trend analysis showed that 'feminization' of the profession seems to be constantly increased (**Figure 3**). However, based on the figures in 2018, the growth in the number of females as compared to males is now equivalent, both standing at 46.4%.

Figure 3: Distribution of Active Dental Practitioners by Gender, 2018-2023



3. Temporary Practising Certificate

In 2023, a total of 195 Temporary Practising Certificates (TPC) were issued to dental surgeons registered outside Malaysia to practise in Malaysia. The majority (96%) were issued to academic staff and out of these 89% were issued to academic staff in private universities (**Figure 4**). A downward trend is observed in the number of TPC issued since 2018 (**Figure 5**) and the number of TPC issued in 2023 was 8.5% lower than the previous year. The reason for the reduction could be due to the new requirements under the Guidelines for Application of Temporary Practising Certificates, Dental Act 2018.

Figure 4: Percentage of TPC Issued by Categories in 2023

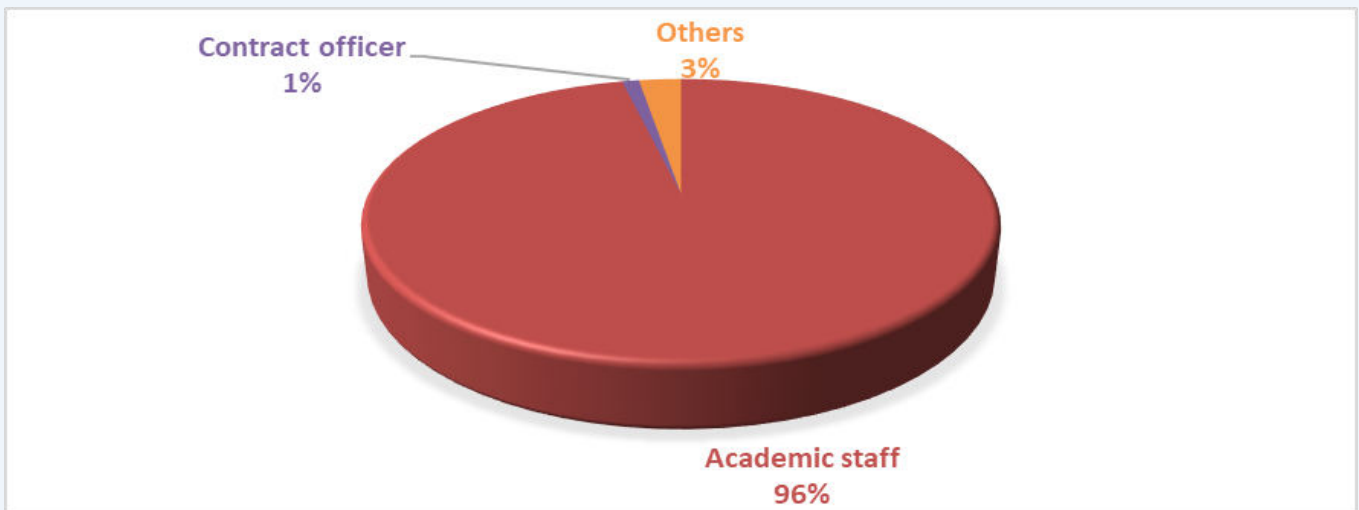
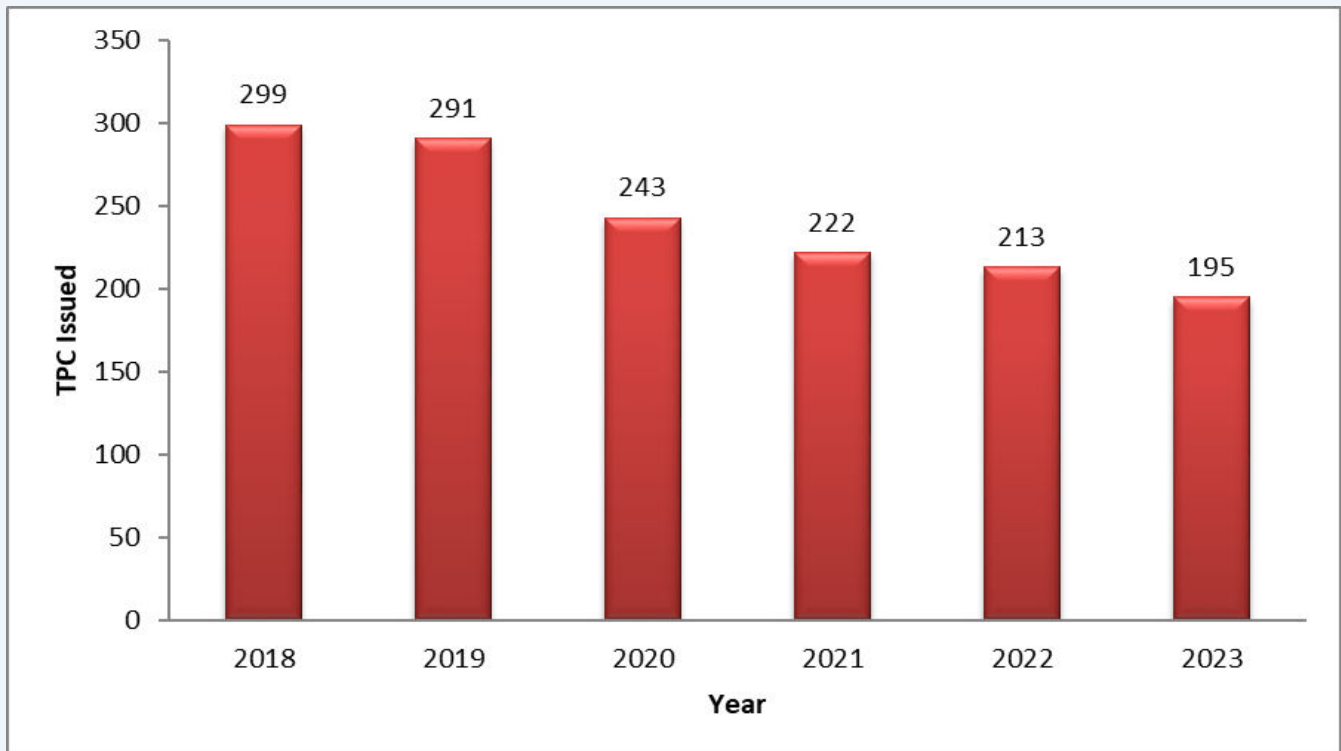


Figure 5: Number of TPC Issued (2018 – 2023)



4. Issues the Dental Registrar wishes to highlight

4.1 Implementation of the Dental Act 2018

With the Dental Act 2018 and Dental Regulations 2021 in force since 1 January 2022, dental practitioners are advised to refer to the new MDC website at <https://hq.moh.gov.my/ohp/mdc/> and subscribe to the MDC's Official Telegram Channel at <https://bit.ly/MDCTelegram>, for any announcement and information updates on the implementation of the Dental Act 2018 on the following matters:

- Professional Qualifying Examination
- registration as a dental surgeon
- registration as a dental specialist
- application for practising certificates (APC & TPC)
- application for translation of certificates and letter of good standing
- Code of Professional Conduct and guidelines under the Dental Act 2018

4.2 Malaysian Healthcare Practitioners' System (MHPS)

This system has replaced the Dental Practitioners' Information Management System (DPIMS) in phases. In October 2023, the module for APC application was introduced. Updates on this new module and the development of other modules have been actively announced on the MDC's official Telegram channel.

4.3 Application for year 2025 APC

The APC application for Division I dental surgeons and dental specialist shall be made fully online via the MHPS. Dental practitioners are reminded that complete application for 2025 APC must be made no later than 1 November 2024. Application received after 1 November 2024 must be accompanied with an additional RM100, the charges for late application for APC. Please note that for private dental facilities, the MDC will only issue APC for facilities registered under the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998 [Act 586].

All APC application for 2025 must be accompanied with a minimum of 20 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points accumulated in 2023 and Professional Indemnity Cover.

4.4 CPD Points records

Dental practitioners are encouraged to register with myCPD 2.0 at <http://www.mycpd2.moh.gov.my/> to record their annual CPD points collection. CPD points collected for the previous year must be recorded in myCPD 2.0 the latest by end of January the current year. Any CPD points collected and approved by a verifier in myCPD 2.0 will be automatically transferred to the dental practitioner's account in MHPS to be used for application of practising certificate.

Alternatively, dental practitioners may use manual form to record annual CPD points collected. All dental practitioners are reminded to keep their CPD records and relevant documents for at least five years for verification purposes.

APC APPLICATION

APPLICATION OF 2025 APC

must be submitted by

1 November 2024

- a) With evidence of 20 CPD points collected in 2023; and
- b) Proof of professional indemnity cover for the year 2025

Evidence of CPD points collected must be kept for 5 years to facilitate verification.

2024



LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATE PRACTICE

Opening and maintaining a private dental clinic can be an exciting and challenging endeavor.

While purchasing the necessary equipment and instruments, it is essential that we keep in mind the registration and licensing requirements and the initial and yearly costs involved in the various licensing.

Remember that the requirements are not confined to the Dental Act and the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act, but include other laws, regulations and local by-laws.

In order to assist the new owner of a private clinic, the Editorial Board has pooled the experiences of a few dental surgeons, and to the best of our knowledge, at this point of time, listed below are the initial and on-going legislative requirements for a private dental clinic.

Please take note that this is only a guide, and may vary between states and local authorities, and from time to time. Therefore, we advise you to check and confirm the requirements as time passes.

LICENSING/ CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRIVATE DENTAL CLINIC

No	Licensing	Charges (RM)	Renewal	Act/Regulations	Departments	Remark
1	Borang G	150 per registration certificate	One Time	Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998 (Act 586)	JKN	
2	APC	100-300	Annually	Dental Act 2018 - Section 42	MDC	Depends on number of practicing addresses
3	Specialist Registration	1200 per specialty	One Time	Dental Act 2018	MDC	
4	Indemnity insurance	>200	Annually	Dental Act 2018 Compulsory in 2025 APC	MDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depends on coverage • Have enough coverage to cover the type of procedures/treatment undertaken
5	Autoclave	100 per autoclave	1 year	Factories & Machinery Act 1967	JKKP	
6	Compressor	100 per machine		Factories & Machinery Act 1967	JKKP	
7	X-Ray QA	300-600 per machine	2 years	Radiation Protection (Licensing) Regulations 1986		Depends on QA company (get quotation first)
8	X-Ray (Class C)	315 per machine	3 years	Atomic Energy Licensing Act 1984 (Act 304)	Engineering Dept of KKM	IOPA, OPG & CBCT
9	Fire Extinguisher	<125	1 year	Fire Service Act 1988 Section 29(5) (Act 341)	Bomba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each clinic needs a min of 2 types of extinguishers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 powder type - 1 CO₂ Carbon Dioxide 60

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bomba license RM 5 per extinguisher Nos depending with the size of clinic
10	Personal Data Protection Act: a) Pemilik Tunggal b) Perkongsian c) Sdn Bhd d) Awam Berhad	100 onwards 200 300 400	2 years	Personal Data Protection Act 2010 Akta 709 Perlindungan Data Peribadi 2010	PDPD, MCMC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depends on title of clinic registered under (ie: sole proprietor, partnership, limited, public limited) Check with relevant authorities 	
11	Signboard	>200	Annually/ 1 year	Registration of Businesses Rule 1957 - Rule 13A	City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depends on different city councils, size and number of sign boards Check with local authorities 	
12	Waste Management	>60 per collection	Monthly	Environmental Quality (Schedule Waste) Regulations 2005		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration with the DOE Depends on weight of waste Check with waste disposal companies 	

Notes:

- JKKP – Jabatan Kesihatan dan Keselamatan Pekerjaan (Occupational Health & Safety).
- Prices quoted as at 1 May 2024.
- Annually means from 1 January to 31 December.
- 1 year means 12 months from date of renewal.

YEAR 2024

ACTIVITIES

✦ CONDUCTED BY ✦

THE MDC

YEAR 2024



MDC & MOH BOOTH AT 31ST MDA SCATE 2024

HELD AT KL CONVENTION CENTRE

The Malaysian Dental Council joined the 31st MDA SCATE Conference Programme 2024 at the same booth as the Ministry of Health.

The main purpose of joining the event was to assist dental practitioners regarding the newly introduced online system for application of annual practicing certificate (MHPS), as well as the MyCPD system.

31ST MDA SCATE

MDC & MOH booth

26-28 January 2024



Booth visits

Dr Nurul Syakirin, Dr Habibah and Dr Lily Laura welcoming and conversing with booth visitors during the event.



Representatives

MDC officers who were involved in the 3-day programme at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (From left: Dr Nurul Syakirin, Dr Suziyana, Dr Sangithah, Dr Mariah, Dr Damia)



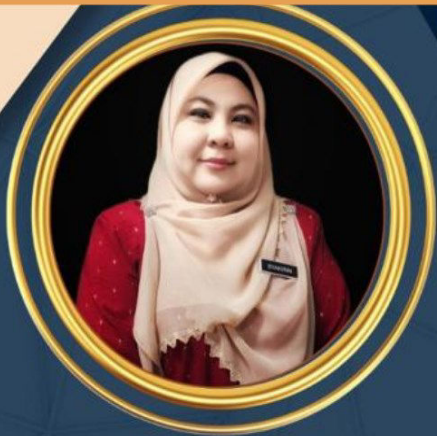
Handling Inquiries

MDC officers; Dr. Sangithah, Dr Suziyana and Dr Nurul Syakirin assisting dental practitioners who required help regarding the updated MHPS system



Group Photo

A group photo in front of the Ministry of Health booth together with SCATE 2024 Organizing Chairman Maj (Rtd) Dr Hetal Ashvin Kumar Mavani (far left)



SPEAKER:
DR. NURUL SYAKIRIN BINTI ABDUL SHUKOR
SECRETARY OF MALYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL

CPD POINTS
A4 : 1 POINT

Are you covered?

Yes
 No

WEBINAR PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY COVER FOR PRACTISING CERTIFICATE APPLICATION

9 AUGUST 2024 (FRIDAY)
3.00 PM-4.30 PM

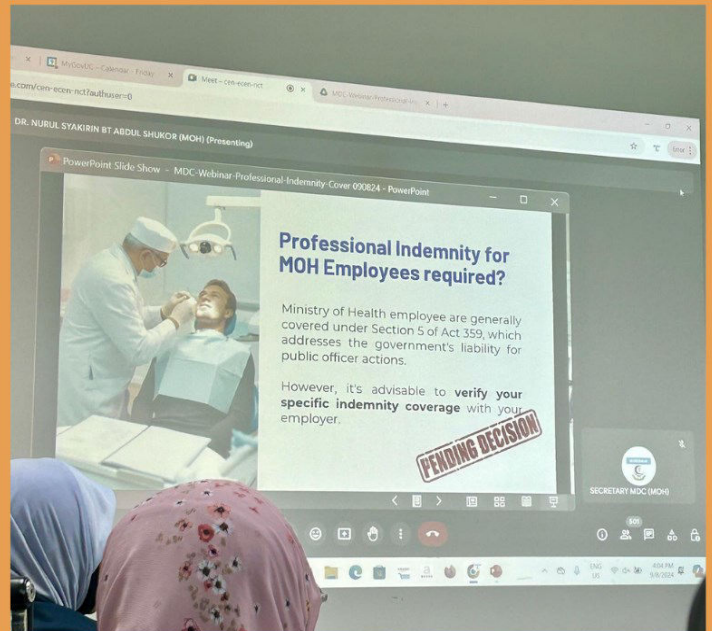
GOOGLE MEET:



meet.google.com
/cen-ecen-nct

f LIVE

**PROGRAM KESIHATAN
PERGIGIAN KKM**



Professional Indemnity Cover Webinar by the Malaysian Dental Council

HELD ONLINE ON GOOGLE MEET AND FACEBOOK LIVE ON 9 AUGUST 2024

The Malaysian Dental Council held a webinar on 9 August 2024 via the application Google Meet as well as on Facebook Live to encourage dental practitioners to obtain a professional indemnity coverage for the benefit of their dental practice. Practitioners who have missed out on the webinar can rewatch the session by scanning this Facebook Live QR Code.



Preparation for the Professional Qualifying Examination

by

Professor Toh Chooi Gait

Chair, MDC Examination Committee

1. Introduction

The Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE) was included in the Dental Act 2018 [Act 804] for the following purposes: -

- 1) To protect public interest
- 2) To ensure that new dental practitioners are competent and reached minimum acceptable standards based on the Competencies of New Dental Graduates, Malaysia (v2 2021) document.
- 3) To ensure that new dental practitioners are safe practitioners.

The Dental Regulations 2021 under the Dental Act of 2018 was approved by the Minister of Health in December 2021 and came into force from 1 January 2022. Hence, the Dental Qualifying Committee (DQC) and the Examination Committee (EC) were officially established (**Table 1 and Table 2**).

Table 1. Members of the Dental Qualifying Committee, officially appointed on 14 January 2022.

No.	Name	Category
1.	Dr. Noormi binti Othman	the Principal Director as Chairman
2.	Dr. Chia Jit Chie	the Director of Oral Health Programme as a Deputy Chairman
3.	Prof. Dr. Rahimah binti Abd. Kadir	MDC representative
4.	Dato' Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim bin Abu Hassan (public – UiTM)	four dental surgeons among academic staff from dental faculties of the accredited local training institutions and appointed by the President, two of whom shall be from the public sector and two of whom shall be from the private sector.
5.	Prof. Dr. Dalia binti Abdullah (public – UKM)	
6.	Prof. Dr. Rosnah binti Mohd Zain (private – Universiti MAHSA)	
7.	Prof. Dr. Abdul Rashid bin Hj. Ismail (private – MUCM)	

Table 2. Members of the Examination Committee (EC), officially appointed on 18 January

2022

Bil.	Name	Category
1.	Prof. Dr. Toh Chooi Gait (Chair)	10 academic staff from dental faculties of the accredited local training institutions with at least 5 years of teaching experience
2.	Prof. Dato' Dr. Ishak bin Abdul Razak	
3.	Prof. Dr. Noor Hayaty binti Abu Kasim	
4.	Prof. Dr. Prabhakaran a/l K N Nambiar	
5.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. S. Nagarajan a/l M P Sockalingam	
6.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Badiah bt Baharin	
7.	Dr. Siti Mazlipah binti Ismail	
8.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zuraiza binti Mohamad Zaini	
9.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maryati binti Md Dasor	
10.	Dr. Nor Atika binti Md Ashar	
11.	Dr. Norhayati binti Omar	2 dental specialists from the Ministry of Health with at least 10 years of clinical experience
12.	Dr. Rasidah binti Ayob	

Pursuant to Section 29 (2) (c) of the Dental Act 2018, a Malaysian citizen who does not hold a qualification granted by an accredited local training institution shall need to pass the PQE, before he can apply to register with the Malaysian Dental Council (MDC).

A Malaysian citizen who holds a qualification granted by an accredited local training institution, will have to be certified by the Dental Qualifying Committee to have fulfilled the requirements of PQE as stipulated in the section 29 (1) (b) of the Dental Act 2018.

This provision will be enforced five years after the enforcement of the Dental Act 2018 (i.e. 1 January 2027). This is in-line with the provision in section 102 of the Dental Act 2018 as follows;

“A Malaysian citizen who graduates from any of the dental schools listed in the Second Schedule of the repealed Act within five years of the appointed date, shall be eligible to be registered under Section 31 of this Act.”

For new appointments beginning 1 January 2022, a non-Malaysian who wants to apply for Temporary Practising Certificate (TPC) to practice dentistry in Malaysia shall also be required to pass the PQE. This is pursuant to section 40 (1) (b) (i) of the Dental Act 2018 which states:

A non-Malaysian citizen may apply to the Dental Registrar for a temporary practising certificate to practice dentistry in Malaysia if he fulfils the following conditions:

(b) he-

(i) has passed the Professional Qualifying Examination;

The MDC during its Second Meeting under the Act 804 convened on 14th March 2022, agreed that existing non-Malaysian dental practitioners working in Malaysia, are exempted from the requirement to pass the PQE in order to re-new their TPC, provided they remain employed in their current institutions. Should they plan to be employed by another local institution of higher education (IHE), they will be required to pass the PQE, unless they possess a TPC as a Dental Specialist.

The Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE) comprises of three (3) parts, viz.

- 1) Part 1 – Theory paper comprising 50 one best answer (OBA) questions and 10 short answer (SAQ) questions.
- 2) Part 2 – Practical examination using customised resin tooth models mounted on dental patient simulators, comprising of 3 components:
 - a. Component 1 - management of ICDAS Code 5 caries lesion with composite restoration in a molar tooth,
 - b. Component 2 - porcelain-fused-to-metal (PFM) crown preparation and impression taking of an upper central incisor tooth; and
 - c. Component 3 - root canal treatment of a single rooted premolar tooth.

For components 1 and 3, standardised resin teeth that have been customised for the PQE will be used.

- 3) Part 3 – Clinical examination in the form of 10 objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) stations to assess four domains; namely;
 - a. professionalism and patient safety;
 - b. communication skills;
 - c. diagnostic skills; and
 - d. clinical management.

The learning outcomes in the assessment blueprint of the PQE are extracted from the Competencies of New Dental Graduates Malaysia (v2 2021) document.

Currently all dental undergraduate programmes offered in Malaysia have to map their programme outcomes to these competencies. When the requirement for certification by the DQC to be eligible for registration is enforced, the three (3) parts of the examination shall be embedded in the local dental programmes, with monitoring by the DQC.

2. Meeting of Dental Qualifying Committee and Examination Committee with Dental Deans

An initial discussion related to implementation of the PQE in accredited local institutions was held online on 20 October 2022 between the DQC, the Malaysian Dental Deans Council and the EC, and chaired by Dr. Noormi binti Othman, the Principal Director of Oral Health (**Figure 1**). Arising from this meeting, the EC drafted the Guidelines to Fulfil the Requirements of the PQE: Conduct of the Examinations by Local Institutions.

A second meeting was then held on 21 March 2023 between the DQC, the Malaysian Dental Deans Council and the EC in the University of Malaya chaired by the Chairman of the Malaysian Dental Deans Council, Professor Dr Zamri bin Radzi, to receive feedback from the local institutions in order to finalize the Guidelines (**Figure 2**). Professor Dr Toh Chooi Gait, Chair of the EC presented the guidelines to the deans of the local institutions and after receiving their feedback, the guidelines were finalised, and approved by the MDC in its Ninth Meeting under the Dental Act 2018 which convened on 24th July 2023. It was then circulated to all local institutions. Based on the approved Guidelines for local IHE, they have the following options for conducting the PQE for their own students: -

1) Part I

- a. Conducted as a one-off examination based on the PQE blueprint in the fourth (4th) or fifth (5th) year of the dental course comprising of 50 OBA and 10 SAQ; or
- b. Conducted at every level of the study during the dental programme based on the outcomes of the dental programme that have been mapped to the PQE outcomes, using approved objective assessment tools such as OBA, SAQ, extended matching questions (EMQ) and modified essay questions (MEQ).

2) Part II

- a. Conducted using similar resin teeth that have been customised for the PQE, and using the same rubrics for assessment, but given the flexibility to schedule the examination at any time and on separate occasions during the programme.
- b. Allowed the flexibility to conduct Components 1 and 3 on patients instead of using the customised resin teeth to reduce costs for conducting the examinations. However, the IHE will need to follow guidelines for case selection, clinical examination procedures and assessment rubrics as provided by the MDC.
- c. A member from the MDC Panel of Examiners will be appointed by the DQC to observe and monitor the evaluation and conduct of the examination.

3) Part III

- a. The IHE shall submit evidence (e.g. official published examination results, minutes of Faculty Board/Senate of endorsing the results) of their students passing the Part I and Part II to the MDC Secretariat at least one (1) month prior to their taking the Part III of the PQE.
- b. Part III may be conducted as a conjoint examination with the Final Professional Examination of the IHE or as a separate examination.

- c. The questions for Part III of the PQE can either be
- I. provided by the EC from the MDC question bank; or
 - II. developed by IHE and approved for use by the EC after vetting; or
 - III. combination of questions supplied by EC and questions developed by the IHE and approved for use by the EC.

All local dental students on completion of their course, shall also need to successfully pass the various parts of the PQE and receive a certificate from the DQC for registration to practise with the MDC.

Figure 1. First Meeting of members of DQC, EC with Malaysian Dental Deans Council on 20 October 2022



Figure 2. Second Meeting of members of the DQC and EC with members of the Malaysian Dental Deans on 21 March 2023



3. Development of Guidelines

To assist in the implementation of the PQE, the EC developed the following PQE handbook and guidelines:

- 1) Handbook for Professional Qualifying Examination
- 2) Guidelines for Developing PQE Questions
- 3) Guidelines for Conducting PQE Examination
- 4) Guidelines for Examiners

1) Handbook for Professional Qualifying Examination

This handbook explains to potential applicants the processes involved in registration for practice with the MDC. This includes the need to pass the PQE as provided in Section 29 (2) of the Dental Act 2018. It provides details of the three parts of the PQE, the frequency such examinations are held and the limit of the examination fees for each part of the examination. The proposed fees have yet to be determined by the MDC.

Applicants will need to apply to the MDC in the prescribed form, with supportive documents, for eligibility to take the examination. Approved candidates can then register with any of the hosting local IHE to take Part I and Part II of the PQE. Fees once determined by MDC, will be standardised irrespective of the hosting IHE. Candidates need to pass both Part I and Part II to be eligible to register for Part III of the examination. There is a limit of three (3) years from the date of passing the first PQE examination (either Part I or Part II, whichever is earlier) to passing Part III of the PQE examination. There is no limit to the number of attempts for the examination.

2) Guidelines for Developing PQE Questions

These guidelines are for members of the Question Setting Panel and IHE to use in developing appropriate quality questions, to evaluate the PQE outcomes at the stated level of Bloom's taxonomy as provided in the PQE assessment blueprint, with the approved assessment tools of OBA, SAQ and OSCE. Templates for these assessment tools are provided together with tips for good question design.

3) Guidelines for Conducting PQE Examination

The DQC has decided to outsource the conduct of the three (3) parts of the PQE to local IHE, who are prepared to host the examination. Examination fees will be collected by the hosting institution to cover the cost of conducting the examination. These guidelines are to assist IHE on the requirements and processes involved in hosting the PQE for the MDC. Local IHE who are interested in hosting any or all parts of the PQE can apply to the MDC. The MDC shall send a delegation to the institution to assess that the IHE has the required infrastructure and facilities to host the examination. Once the IHE has received approval from the MDC, the IHE shall submit to the MDC the proposed dates of the examination, for the MDC to publish on its website.

4) Guidelines for Examiners

These guidelines are to serve as a reference for trained examiners in the execution of their duties and responsibilities when appointed by the DQC to serve in any one of the following roles:

- i) Chief examiner,
- ii) Examiner for any part of the PQE, or
- iii) Assessor of an IHE in their compliance to fulfilling the requirements of the PQE for their students.

There are forms for the examiners to fill after completion of their role, to provide feedback for quality improvement and to report any untoward incidence that may need special attention.

4. Building a Question Bank

A Question Setting Panel was established comprising of dental specialists from various disciplines as reported in the first article published in the MDC Bulletin Jul-Dec 2021. Training to develop OBA questions was held on 20 October 2015, followed by a workshop to create OBA questions for the question bank on November 4-6, 2015. Additionally, a workshop to train and develop SAQ and OSCE questions took place on December 10-11, 2015, with another session for further SAQ and OSCE question development on March 30 – April 1, 2016 (**Figure 3**).

The questions were then vetted and modified, where necessary, by members of the EC, prior to entering them into the question bank. For questions that require major modifications, two (2) more workshops were organised for the Question Setting Panel on 24-26 August 2016 and 3-5 September 2017 to modify the questions and develop more questions for the question bank. The panel members were divided into three (3) groups to review and construct questions according to disciplines (**Figure 4**) as follows:

- i) Group 1: basic dental science, operative dentistry, periodontics and prosthodontics
- ii) Group 2: basic medical science, oral surgery, oral pathology, oral medicine, radiology
- iii) Group 3: community dentistry, paediatric dentistry, orthodontics, professionalism, ethics.

With the enforcement of the Dental Act 2018 and its Dental Regulations 2021, the Question Setting Panel was expanded in 2022, with two (2) representatives from each local institution. Two (2) workshops were held on 20-22 May 2022 and 22-24 July 2022 (**Figure 5 and Figure 6**) to develop more questions. All questions were vetted by the EC to review their appropriateness in testing the PQE outcomes and if needed were modified prior to adding them to the question bank.

Figure 3. PQE workshop held on 30 March – 1 April 2016



Group 1



Group 2

Figure 4. Members of the Question Setting Panel in the 2017 workshop



Figure 5. Question Setting Panel Workshop on 20-22 May 2022



Figure 6. Expanded Question Setting Panel in Workshop on 22-24 July 2022



5. Pilot Examinations

Pilot examinations were conducted for all three parts of the PQE to refine the details of conducting the examinations. The first pilot examination was for Part III, which was observed by members of the EC and MDC staff at IMU on 15 December 2020 and reported earlier in the MDC Bulletin (Jul-Dec 2021 issue). PQE Part I pilot examination was held in IMU on 24 January 2022 using an online assessment system, with 25 fresh dental graduates, who volunteered to participate (**Figure 7, Figure 8 and Figure 9**). All the candidates responded to an online questionnaire immediately after the examination was completed. The majority of the candidates gave high ratings to the venue, examination format, duration of the examination and online examination platform. Most agreed (28%-36%) or strongly agreed (40%-64%) that the assessment was fair, reliable, fit for purpose, up-to-date and clearly understood. The open comments were positive and constructive.

Figure 7. Candidates taking the Part I online examination in IMU in 2022



Figure 8. Members of the EC, MDC Secretariat Staff and some of the volunteer fresh dental graduates who sat for the Part 1 pilot examination



Figure 9. Members of the EC and MDC Secretariat Staff



Seated (from left) Prof. Dr. Rosnah binti Mohd Zain, Prof. Dr. Dalia binti Abdullah, Prof. Dr. Toh Chooi Gait, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maryati binti Md Dasor, Prof. Dr. Noor Hayaty binti Abu Kasim, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zuraiza binti Mohamad Zaini

Standing (from left) Dr. Nur Hamizah binti Abu Bakar, Dr. Nurul Syakirin binti Abdul Shukor, Dr. Rasidah binti Ayob, Assoc. Prof. Dr. S. Nagarajan a/l M P Sockalingam, Dr. Noorhidayah bt Mohd Arof, Dr. Nor Atika binti Ashar, Prof. Dr. Prabhakaran a/l K N Nambiar and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siti Mazlipah binti Ismail

With the feedback received from the candidates of the Part I pilot study, errors in uploading of questions was detected, some imbalance in emphasis of disciplines and a very low pass rate, the EC decided to run a second pilot Part I PQE using final year students from local IHE. Thirty (30) dental students from ten (10) IHE participated in the second pilot examination held on 31 May 2023 in the IMU. The questions that were found to have ambiguity or were too numerous from a certain discipline were replaced. The students also answered a feedback questionnaire immediately after the examination. The feedback from the dental students were similarly positive with open comments that the content was covered during their course of study and the questions were straightforward and easy.

Both examinations were standard set by members of the EC and psychometric and post-item analyses of the questions was carried out. From the pilot examination experiences and candidates' feedback, the instructions in the guidelines to conduct the examination were duly modified for more efficiency.

A pilot examination was also carried out for PQE Part II at IMU on 22 March 2024 (**Figure 10 to Figure 19**). Four final students each from IMU, University of Malaya and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia participated in the examination. Each component of the PQE Part II was randomly assigned to four candidates. Component 1 and 2 were found to have sufficient allocation of time to complete the tasks whilst component 3 will need to have extended time. From the experience and feedback received, the time allocation for Component 3 will be duly extended and the processes refined for better implementation of this part of the examination. The guidelines will be duly modified before submission to the DQC and approval of the MDC, after which they will be published on the MDC website.

Figure 10. Radiographer Ms Chan Choi Wan of IMU demonstrating the taking of digital radiographic images, scanning of radiographic sensors and measurement of radiographic images using the software provided to candidates.



Figure 11. Examiners and observers checked the set-up in the Dental Skills Centre, IMU University before the start of the examination.



Figure 12. Chief Examiner, Associate Professor Dr. Badiah binti Baharin briefing candidates before the start of the Part II pilot examination.



Figure 13. Professor Dr. Dalia binti Abdullah demonstrating the use of an apex locator, with the endodontic model provided.



Figure 14. Professor Toh Chooi Gait examining a candidate for Component 1 on caries management and composite restoration, together with co-examiner Associate Professor Dr Maryati binti Md Dasor.



Figure 15. Professor Dr Noor Hayaty binti Abu Kasim and Dr. Nor Atika binti Md Ashar reviewing mark sheets after examining candidates on Component 2 on preparation and impression of a central incisor to receive a porcelain fused to metal crown.



Figure 16. Professor Dr Dalia binti Abdullah and Associate Professor Dr S. Nagarajan a/ M.P. Sockalingam examining candidates for Component 3 on root canal treatment of a premolar tooth.



Figure 17. One of the candidates for Component 3 using her own magnifying loupes.



Figure 18. Professor Toh debriefing candidates at the end of the pilot examination, with a request them to fill the online feedback form.



Figure 19. Candidates, Examiners, MDC Secretariat staff and observers of the Pilot Part II Examination



6. Training of Examiners

Two (2) senior academicians from each local IHE were invited as representatives to attend the Examiner Training Workshop held on 8-9 March 2024, in the Mercure Hotel, Kuala Lumpur (Figures 20 to 26). Only those who had completed the full training programme and registered as dental specialists with an annual practising certificate (APC) or possess a TPC as dental specialist, would be eligible to be member of the Panel of Examiners, for a period of five (5) years, after which they will be required to attend another training workshop to update themselves, before they can continue to be included in the Panel of Examiners for a further 5-year term. The workshop was conducted by Prof Toh Chooi Gait, Chair of EC and Prof Er Hui Meng, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Education at the IMU.

Figure 20. Briefing by MDC Secretariat staff Dr. Anis Fatin binti Muhammad Anuar at the start of the Examiner Training Workshop.



Figure 21. Participants at the Examiner Training Workshop



Figure 22. Professor Toh informing participants concerning the objectives of the workshop and introducing Prof Er Hui Meng, the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Education, IMU.



Figure 23. Professor Toh informing participants of the roles and responsibilities of the members of the panel of examiners during the Examiner Training Workshop.



Figure 24. Professor Er Hui Meng presenting to participants on the principles of assessment during the Examiner Training Workshop.



Figure 25. Participants actively engaged in discussions during a workshop activity.



Figure 26. Participants, Facilitators and MDC Secretariat Staff at the Examiners Training Workshop.



7. Concluding Summary

The EC with the close and efficient support of the MDC Secretariat staff have been busy preparing for the launch of the PQE, with regular monthly meetings to prepare the guidelines, workshops and vetting of questions. All the local IHE deans and senior academic staff have been engaged in dialogue to determine the methods of incorporating the three parts of the PQE into their dental programme, with some flexibility to minimise additional costs and disruption to the delivery of their dental programme. The IHE shall be implementing the PQE in their dental programme based on the approved Guidelines to Fulfil Requirements of the PQE. All dental students who enrolled into dental programmes in 2022 will need to fulfil the requirements of the PQE as a basic condition for registration with the MDC. Pilot examinations for all three parts of the PQE have been carried out to ensure that the examinations can be implemented with fairness and efficiency. The first Examiners Training Workshop has been successfully completed. All local IHE have agreed to incorporate the PQE into their programmes. The estimated target to launch the PQE for external candidates will be by the fourth quarter of 2024.

8. Acknowledgements

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed members of the EC, the Question Setting Panel, DQC and the MDC Secretariat for their unwavering dedication and collaborative effort in the preparatory work leading to the launch of the PQE. Their expertise, commitment, and teamwork have been instrumental in ensuring the quality and integrity of the examination process.

We are also deeply thankful to IMU for graciously hosting the pilot examinations. Their support and cooperation have been invaluable in facilitating the smooth execution of this significant milestone.

Special appreciation goes to the candidates who volunteered to participate in the pilot examinations. Their willingness to contribute to the refinement of the examination process is commendable and greatly appreciated.

We recognize and commend the collective efforts of all involved, which have been pivotal in shaping the successful implementation of the PQE.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

CASE 1

THE FACTS OF THE COMPLAINT

- C, who is an enforcement officer at a Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri, made a complaint on 1 September 2020 regarding a raid conducted at a clinic on 9 August 2020. At the time of the raid, she found that Dr. R failed to show any evidence that he was registered with the Malaysian Dental Council under the Dental Act 1971.
- Verification from the Malaysian Dental Council (MDC) found that although he is a registered dental practitioner, he was at the time required to carry out compulsory service at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Malaya. Thus, in his 2020 Annual Practising Certificate (APC), only the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Malaya is stated as a place of practice.

THE FINDINGS OF THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE(PIC)

After two (2) hearings, two (2) exhibits and two (2) witnesses adduced by C, the committee found that the statements support the allegation and framed the charge against Dr. R.

CHARGES AGAINST THE RESPONDENT

After due deliberation by PIC 1, on 10 August 2022 the committee framed one (1) head in the charge against Dr. R.

Head 1

That you have practiced dentistry at (*the Place of Dental Practice*) without a valid practicing certificate. Therefore, you have breached Code of Professional Conduct (2008) particularly,

5.3 Registration and Annual Practising Certificate

Clause 5.3 (a) which states “In order to practice, a dental practitioner shall be duly registered under the Dental Act, and be in possession of a valid Annual Practising Certificate.”

Clause 5.3 (b) which states “In accordance with the Dental Act, the dental practitioner shall cause his original certificate of registration to be displayed at his principal place of practice and his current Annual Practising Certificate to be displayed at every place of practice.”

And in relation to the facts alleged you may be found guilty of infamous conduct in a professional respect under section 32(2)(b) and punishable under section 33 of the Dental Act 1971.

THE RESPONDENT'S EXPLANATION

- Dr. R pleaded not guilty to the charge.
- Dr. R explained that at that time he was at the clinic to manage administrative affairs of the clinic and not to treat patients. At the time of the incident, he was informed by the clinic assistant that there was a patient who insisted on speaking with a male dentist. He thought the patient wanted to make a complaint. Therefore, he went out to the registration counter to meet the patient. Dr. R denied the allegation of the witness who stated that Dr. R carried out dental consultation on him.
- He also denied the allegation from the witness who stated that he conducted treatment on him. Dr. R stated that the treatment was done by another dentist. In addition, there was no physical evidence submitted by C and the witnesses that showed that Dr. R treated the patient other than their oral evidence.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PIC

After taking Dr. R's defense into consideration and considering the evidence, the members of the PIC unanimously agreed that there is a case to answer to the charge and recommended Council to hold an inquiry as provided for in Regulation 29 (Dental Regulation 1976).

VERDICT OF THE COUNCIL

The Council, having considered the PIC report, the evidence adduced and the statement by the practitioner, found the practitioner guilty of charge. The practitioner was suspended for **ONE (1) YEAR** under section 33(1)(b) of the Act. **ONE (1) YEAR under section 33(1)(b) of the Act**

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

CASE 2

THE FACTS OF THE COMPLAINT

- A complaint was received from C dated 29 June 2020 against Dr. R who is a private dental practitioner and who has a registered practice.
- C stated that her daughter had an appointment on 12 June 2020 at Dr. R's clinic. On 11 June 2020, she was required to fill up a Covid-19 survey form prior to the appointment.
- On the appointment date, C stated that she was unable to attend because a family member had passed away, and C requested to change the appointment.
- C claimed that the clinic staff asked for a further explanation in regards to the change of appointment, and C also claimed that the clinic staff replied in an unethical manner.
- C claimed that she filed a complaint to the Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri on 18 June 2020. Dr. R has responded regarding the complaint and plans to file a suit for civil defamation.

THE FINDINGS OF THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE (PIC)

After two (2) hearings and eight (8) exhibits adduced by C, and after due deliberation made by PIC 2, the committee framed a charge against Dr. R on the 17 June 2022.

CHARGES AGAINST THE RESPONDENT

That you Dr. R have breached the Code of Professional Conduct in neglect or disregard of professional responsibilities, particularly:

Head 1

Communicating with Patients

Clause 1.5(a) which states *“the dental practitioner should act correctly, sympathetically and courteously towards patients at all times”*.

Head 2

Quality of Care

Clause 1.6(a) which states *“A patient is entitled to expect that a dental practitioner will provide a high standard of care which is evidence based. The practitioner should not undertake treatment which exceeds his training, competence and expertise. The Council is liable to take a serious view of any neglect of a practitioner’s professional responsibilities to patients for their care and treatment.”*

Head 3

Maintaining Integrity of the Profession

Clause 2.1 which states that the “*dental practitioner should maintain the integrity of the profession by refraining from any action which may compromise that integrity.*”

And in relation to the facts alleged you **may** be found guilty of infamous conduct in a professional respect under section 32(2) (b), which is punishable under section 33 of the Dental Act 1971.

THE RESPONDENT’S EXPLANATION

- Dr. R pleaded not guilty to the three heads.
- Dr. R claimed that C was being rude when his staff asked for an explanation of why she wanted to change the appointment. Dr. R told his staff to react accordingly depending on the patient’s attitude.
- Dr. R stated that his clinic had provided the best service and treatment to the patient. Dr. R claimed that the patient was satisfied with the treatment rendered. Dr. R also informed that the consent was taken before the tooth extraction.
- Dr. R claimed that patients need to respect us and in turn for us to respect them.

RECOMMENDATION OF PIC

After taking Dr. R’s defense and considering the evidence, the members of PIC 2 unanimously agreed that there was a case to answer to the charge and recommended that Council hold an inquiry as provided for in Regulation 27(7) (b).

VERDICT OF THE COUNCIL

The Council, having considered the PIC report, the evidence adduced and the statement by the practitioner, found the practitioner guilty of the charge. The practitioner was reprimand under Section 33(1)(c) of the Dental Act 1971.

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