



# THE DENTAL SPECIALIST REGISTRATION/ RECOGNITION

MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL  
2025





# **THE DENTAL SPECIALIST REGISTRATION/ RECOGNITION MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL**

*This guideline was approved by the Malaysian Dental Council (MDC) at its 15th Meeting held on 23 September 2024. It shall come into effect for applications received from 1 January 2025 onwards. The guideline was subsequently refined and endorsed at the 17th MDC Meeting convened on 7 April 2025.*

**This guideline was approved by the Malaysian Dental Council (MDC) at its 15th Meeting held on 23 September 2024. It shall come into effect for applications received from 1 January 2025 onwards. The guideline was subsequently refined and endorsed at the 17th MDC Meeting convened on 7 April 2025.**



## Table of Contents

### **PART A: REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

1. Introduction..... 1
2. Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee ..... 3

### **PART B: CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS FOR EVALUATION**

3. Criteria for evaluation of postgraduate qualification ..... 5

### **PART C: EVALUATION PROCESS**

4. Flowchart for Assessing Qualifications in Dental Specialist Registration/  
Recognition ..... 9
5. Flowchart for Dental Specialist Registration ..... 10
6. Flowchart for Application of TPC as a Dental Specialist..... 11

### **PART D: APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

7. Application for Registration as Dental Specialist (Regulation 39)..... 12
8. Application for TPC as Dental Specialist ..... 12

### **PART E: APPEAL PROCEDURE**

9. Application for Appeal ..... 13
10. Hearing of the Appeal by Council ..... 13
11. Flowchart for Appeal Process..... 14

### **Appendix 1**

# THE DENTAL SPECIALIST REGISTRATION/ RECOGNITION MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL

## **PART A: REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. Introduction**

The Dental Act 2018 [Act 804], which came into force on January 1st, 2022, introduces new provisions related to the registration and recognition of dental specialists. Section 34 of the Act outlines the regulatory prerequisites for registration as a dental specialist, while Section 40 provides provision for non-Malaysian citizens who hold a specialist qualification to practice as a dental specialist.

#### **1.1 Registration as dental specialist (dental surgeon registered in Division I)**

Registration as a dental specialist is provided under section 34 of the Act.

#### **34. Registration as dental specialist**

- (1) A practitioner whose name does not appear in the Specialist Division of the Dental Register shall not practice as a dental specialist in that specialty.
- (2) A dental surgeon may apply to be registered as a dental specialist if—
  - (a) he is registered in Division I of the Dental Register;
  - (b) he holds any post-graduate specialist qualification as specified by the Council;
  - (c) he fulfills the requirements of and has been recommended as a specialist by the Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee; and
  - (d) he has proven to the satisfaction of the Dental Registrar that he is a fit and proper person and is of good character.
- (3) An application for registration as a dental specialist shall be made to the Dental Registrar in the prescribed form together with such documents, information and particulars as may be determined by the Council and such application shall be accompanied by the fee as prescribed in the Fourth Schedule.
- (4) Upon receiving the application under subsection (3), the Dental Registrar shall submit the application to the Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee for assessment and recommendation.
- (5) The Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee shall consider the application under subsection (3) and may require the applicant to produce further information or documents in support of the application.
- (6) The Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee shall make recommendations to the Dental Registrar whether the application may be approved or refused.
- (7) Where the Dental Registrar approves the application under subsection (3), the Dental Registrar shall issue a certificate of registration as a dental specialist to the applicant and enter his name in the Specialists' Division of the Dental Register.

- (8) Where the Dental Registrar refuses the application under subsection (3), the Dental Registrar shall notify the applicant of his decision by a notice in writing.
- (9) Any person who is aggrieved by the decision of the Dental Registrar under subsection (8) may, within thirty days of the date of the notice in subsection (8), appeal in writing to the Council and appear before the Council and be heard personally or through his advocate and solicitor.
- (10) Any dental practitioner who is eligible to be registered in the Specialist Division of the Dental Register and is registered with the National Specialist Register shall be exempted from the fee as prescribed in the Fourth Schedule.

## **1.2 Recognition of Dental Specialist (non-Malaysian Citizen)**

- (i) Under section 40 of the Act, a non-Malaysian citizen may apply to the Dental Registrar for a temporary practicing certificate (TPC) to practice dentistry in Malaysia.
- (ii) The Dental Registrar may issue a TPC as a dental specialist to any person who holds a specialist qualification specified under subsection 40(7) and 40(8) of the Act.

### **40. Temporary practicing certificate**

- (1) A non-Malaysian citizen may apply to the Dental Registrar for a temporary practicing certificate to practice dentistry in Malaysia if he fulfils the following conditions:
  - (a) he is registered outside Malaysia as a dental surgeon or the equivalent of a dental surgeon;
  - (b) he –
    - (i) has passed the Professional Qualifying Examination; or
    - (ii) holds a qualification granted by an accredited local training institution and has been certified by the Dental Qualifying Committee to have fulfilled the requirements of the Professional Qualifying Examination;
  - (c) he has proven to the satisfaction of the Dental Registrar that he is a fit and proper person and is of good character; and
  - (d) he proves to the satisfaction of the Dental Registrar that he has an offer of employment or sponsorship.
- (2) A non-Malaysian citizen may apply to the Dental Therapists Registrar for a temporary practicing certificate to practice dentistry in Malaysia if he fulfils the following conditions:
  - (a) he is registered outside Malaysia as a dental therapist or the equivalent of a dental therapist;
  - (b) he holds any of the recognized qualifications listed in the Second Schedule, granted by an institution specified in relation to that qualification;
  - (c) he has proven to the satisfaction of the Dental Therapists Registrar that he is a fit and proper person and is of good character; and
  - (d) he proves to the satisfaction of the Dental Therapists Registrar that he has an offer of employment or sponsorship.

- (3) A temporary practicing certificate shall be in force for a maximum period of twelve months.
- (4) The holder of temporary practicing certificate shall not have more than one practicing address except with the approval of the Council or the Board, as the case may be.
- (5) The Dental Registrar or the Dental Therapists Registrar may at any time cancel the temporary practicing certificate granted under this section and such certificate shall lapse from the date of cancellation.
- (6) The holder of a temporary practicing certificate shall, while the temporary practicing certificate remains in force and subject to the conditions and restrictions specified in the temporary practicing certificate, be deemed to be registered as a dental surgeon or a dental therapist, as the case may be.
- (7) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(b), the Dental Registrar may issue a temporary practicing certificate to any person who holds a specialist qualification, subject to such terms and conditions as the Dental Registrar may determine.
- (8) The Dental Registrar may, if he thinks fit, allow the holder of a temporary practising certificate to practice as a dental specialist by stating on the temporary practising certificate the specialty he is allowed to practice.

## **2. Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee**

All applications, either to register or to be recognised as a dental specialist, shall be submitted to the Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee (DSEC) for assessment and recommendation as provided for in Part IV of the Dental Regulations 2021 under Regulation 33 and 34.

### **33. Establishment of the Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee**

- (1) The Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee shall consist of members appointed by the President as follows:
  - (a) a Director of the Oral Health Programme as a chairman;
  - (b) four dental specialists employed in the accredited local training institutions as recommended by the Malaysian Dental Dean Council;
  - (c) three dental specialists as recommended by the Registrar; and
  - (d) three dental specialists employed in the Ministry of Health Malaysia as recommended by the Registrar.
- (2) The members of the Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee shall not be a member of the Council.
- (3) The members of the Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee shall be appointed for a term of not exceeding three years and the members so appointed are eligible for reappointment.
- (4) In the absence of the chairman at any meeting of the Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee, for any reason, a member of the Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee shall be appointed by the members who are present to preside at the meeting.
- (5) The quorum for the meeting shall be six.
- (6) The chairman may invite any person to advise the members on any matter as he thinks fit.

- (7) The Secretary of the Council shall be the Secretary of Dental Specialists Evaluation Committee.
- (8) In the case of the first members appointed to the Dental Specialists Evaluation Committee referred to in subregulation (1), every such member shall, within three months from the date the Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee is first established, be registered under the relevant provisions of the Act as Dental Specialists and the Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee shall be deemed to be duly and properly established notwithstanding that the first members so appointed are not dental specialists when they are initially appointed to the Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee.

#### **34. Functions of the Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee**

- (a) to determine the standard of proficiency required from dental surgeons to be recognized as a specialist;
- (b) to formulate guidelines on the standards of practice for each specialty and recommend the guidelines to the Council;
- (c) to recommend to the Council the specialties to be recognized under the Act;
- (d) to recommend to the Council the criteria for registration for each of the specialties;
- (e) to recommend the postgraduate qualifications for recognition by the Council for registration of specialists;
- (f) to recommend to the Dental Registrar any dental surgeons who are eligible to be registered in the Specialist Division of the Dental Register; and
- (g) to recommend to the Dental Registrar any holders of temporary practicing certificates who are eligible to practice as specialists.

## **PART B: CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS FOR EVALUATION**

### **3. Criteria for evaluation of postgraduate qualification**

To be eligible for registration/ recognition as a dental specialist, postgraduate qualifications must meet the following criteria:

#### **3.1. Training Duration**

- (i) The training duration shall:
  - (a) not be less than four (4) years full-time; or
  - (b) where the training is less than four (4) years but not less than three (3) years, the applicant must fulfil the equivalent of the four (4) years specialty clinical practise, which must be mentored by a specialist approved by the Council
- (ii) For Forensic Odontology (FOD), Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology (OMR) and Dental Public Health (DPH), the minimum training duration is two (2) years, and the applicant must fulfil the equivalent of the four (4) years specialty clinical practise, which must be mentored by a specialist approved by the Council

#### **3.2. Training Standard**

- (i) The training must be designed to enable trainees to attain the skills necessary, be proficient in the theoretical and clinical aspects of the relevant specialty and in research.
- (ii) The postgraduate qualification must be recognised as a specialist qualification in the awarding country.
- (iii) Qualifications from distant learning/online programmes will not be considered.

#### **3.3. Assessment & Recognition**

- (i) Foreign qualifications that meet the above criteria will be listed in the Schedule B (Recognized Qualifications).
- (ii) A qualification from a training programme that is not listed in Schedule B will be assessed by the DSEC, on the recommendation of the relevant Dental Specialist Sub-committee (DSSC) on a case-by-case basis

### 3.4. Fulfilment of equivalency of four (4) years training duration

Applicants with training of less than four (4) years that fulfil the training standard in 3.2(i), may be considered if they fulfil the additional requirements as follows:

- (i) Additional attachment at a recognised **clinical attachment facility\*** under a **mentor\*** appointed by the Council (e.g. if the full-time training is for three (3) years, must undergo at least one (1) year).
- (ii) Proof of attachment as stipulated by the respective DSSC, must include a record of work done during the period of attachment, endorsed by the appointed mentor.

\*Refer to the secretariat for the criteria for clinical attachment facility and mentor for specific specialty.

### 3.5. Fulfilment of research component

Applicants with qualifications from postgraduate programme that provides training of clinical skills necessary for a specialist, **without a research component**, may be considered if they fulfil the following criteria:

- (i) Endorsement of clinical work and research activity done within the attachment at the respective recognised attachment centre(s) must be by the mentor appointed by the Council, who shall be a dental specialist registered under the Dental Act 2018.
- (ii) Evidence of research activity and output (For example, research report, manuscript, conference paper etc) under the mentorship of the registered specialist must be provided.

### 3.6. Exemptions

Applicants with at least five (5) years of specialist work experience may be considered for exemption from the fulfilment of four (4) years equivalency and research component requirement on a case-by-case basis.

### 3.7. Non-Malaysian Citizen Applying for TPC as Dental Specialist

As specified in the Guidelines for Application of Temporary Practising Certificates (Dental Act 2018), a TPC as Dental Specialist may be granted to a practitioner in the following categories:

- A. Exchange practitioner in the public sector
- B. Academic staff in the Institution of Higher Education (IHE)
- C. External examiner invited by IHE

- D. Practitioner attending a hands-on clinical course
- E. Practitioner employed in private healthcare facilities (spouse of Malaysian or permanent residents)
- F. Expert engaged in the transfer of skills and knowledge
- G. Contract and collaborating practitioner in private IHE to conduct dental clinical research

### **3.7.1 Requirement for Category B - Lecturer in Institution of Higher Education (IHE)**

Applicants must comply with all standard criteria and provide additional verification of qualifications as well as work experience. Fulfilment of the **equivalency of four (4) years** training and/or research component may be carried out as follows:

- (i) Undergo one (1) or two (2) year attachment at a recognized clinical attachment facility under a mentor appointed by the Council.
- (ii) The IHE may choose to offer a clinical attachment programme where a registered candidate is allowed to practice under the Dental Act 2018 Section 50 (1).
- (iii) Endorsement of clinical work and/or research activity done within the attachment at the IHE must be by the mentor, who shall be a dental specialist in the same field or a related field, registered under the Dental Act 2018.
- (iv) The applicant and the mentor who endorsed the additional one- or two-year clinical training and/or research activity must both be working at the same organisation at the point the endorsement is done.
- (v) Evidence of research activity and output (For example, research report, manuscript, conference paper etc) under the mentorship of the registered dental specialist must be provided

Applicants with at least five (5) years of specialist work experience may be considered for exemption from the fulfilment of four (4) years equivalency and research component requirement on a case-by-case basis.

### **3.7.2 Requirement for Categories A, C, D, F and G**

- (i) Applicants will be assessed on a case-to-case basis by the relevant DSSC with final recommendations made by the DSEC.

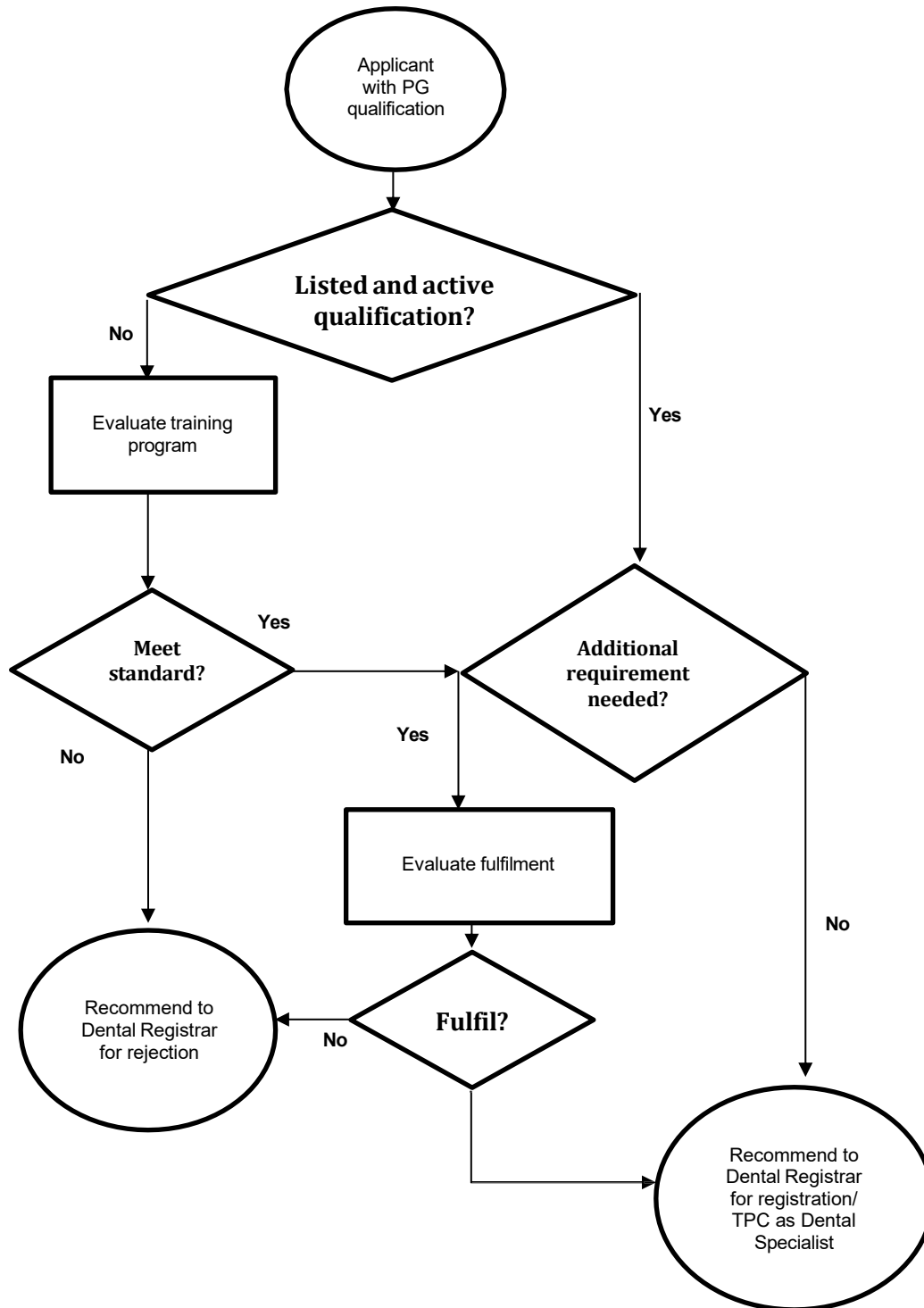
- (ii) Exemption of the fulfilment for the equivalent of four (4) years training and/or research component (where applicable) is given to the applicants.

### **3.7.3 Requirement for Category E - Practitioner Employed in Private Healthcare Facilities (Spouse of Malaysian or Permanent Residents)**

Applicants must comply with all standard criteria and provide additional verification of qualifications as well as work experience. Fulfilment of the equivalency of four (4) years training and/or research component may be carried out as outlined in para 3.4 and 3.5.

## PART C: EVALUATION PROCESS

### 4. Flowchart for Assessing Qualifications in Dental Specialist Registration/ Recognition



## 5. Flowchart for Dental Specialist Registration

**Responsibility**

Dental Registrar

**MDC Secretariat**

7 working days

**Maximum duration 4 months**

All documents are complete and in order

**Dental Act 2018 & Dental Regulations 2021:**

Section 34(2)

Section 34(3)

Section 34(4)

Section 34(5)

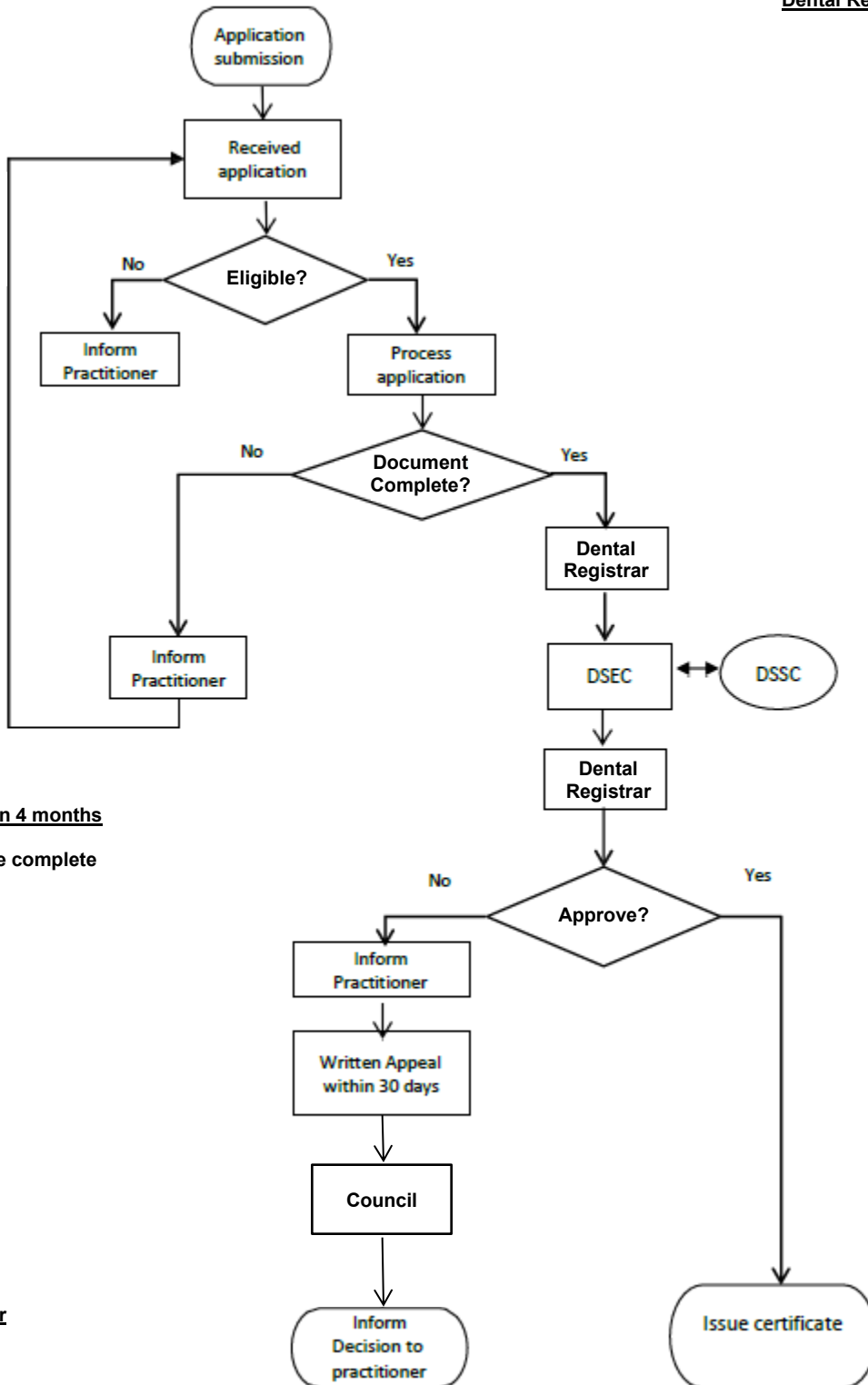
Section 34(6)

Section 34(7)

Section 34(8)

Section 34(9)

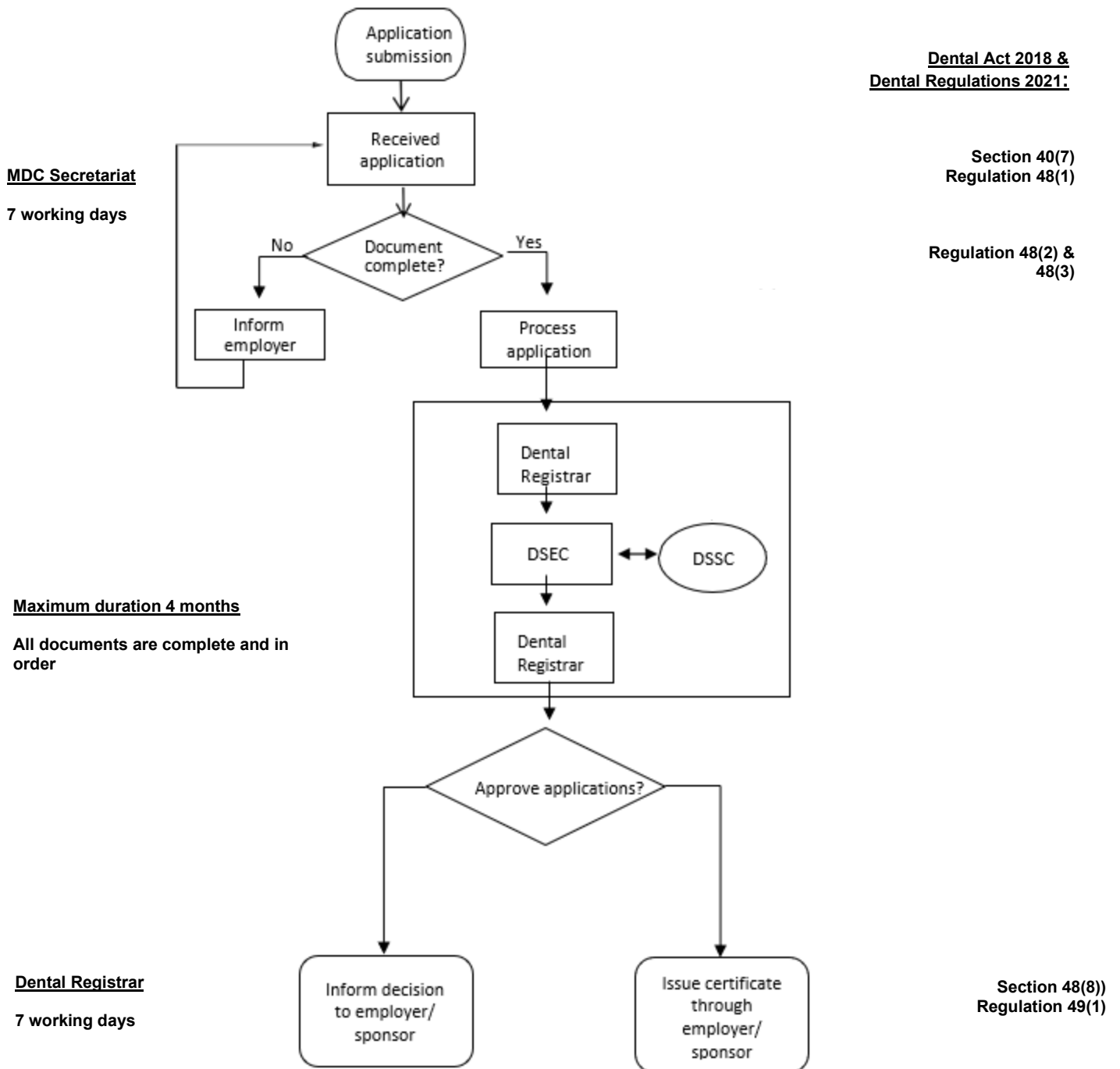
Regulation 40



**Dental Registrar**

7 working days

## 6. Flowchart for Application of TPC as a Dental Specialist



## **PART D: APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

### **7. Application for Registration as Dental Specialist (Regulation 39)**

- 7.1. Any dental surgeon who intends to be registered as a dental specialist under section 34 of the Act shall make an application to the Dental Registrar in Form 19 of the First Schedule and such application shall be accompanied by a fee as prescribed in the Fourth Schedule of the Act which is RM 1,200 per specialty.
- 7.2. The applicant may request to be registered in a specialty that is recognised by the Council.
- 7.3. The applicant shall have postgraduate qualifications approved by the Council. The list of recognised qualifications is available on the Malaysian Dental Council (MDC) [website](#).
- 7.4. All applications shall be accompanied by the following documents:
- (a) a certified true copy of a postgraduate specialist qualification;
  - (b) Personal Declaration Form;
  - (c) two passport photographs;
  - (d) proof of payment of registration fee as prescribed in the Fourth Schedule of the Act; and
  - (e) Letter of Good Standing from the relevant regulatory body, if the applicant obtained the postgraduate specialist qualification more than two years prior to the application.
- The original documents of all certified copies are to be produced at time of registration.
- 7.5. If the applicant's qualification is not on the list of postgraduate qualifications approved by the Council, the application must be accompanied with relevant supporting documents as specified in **Appendix 1**.
- 7.6. Where the Dental Registrar approves the application, the Dental Registrar shall issue a certificate of registration as a dental specialist (Form 20 of the Dental Regulations 2021) to the applicant and enter his name in the Specialists' Division of the Dental Register.

### **8. Application for TPC as Dental Specialist**

The information for the application for TPC Dental Specialist can be obtained from the latest Guideline for Application of Temporary Practising Certificate (TPC).

## **PART E: APPEAL PROCEDURE**

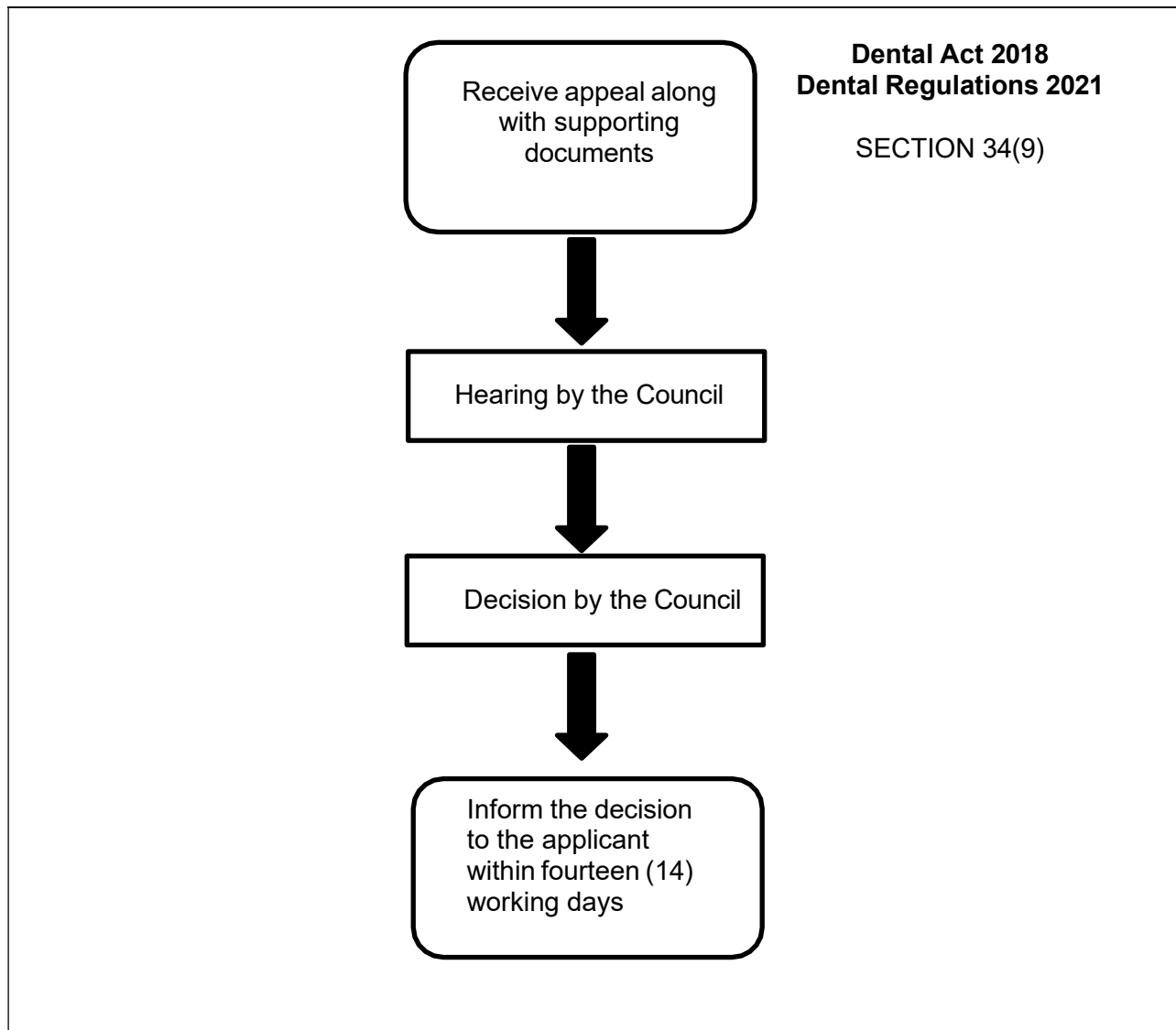
### **9. Application for Appeal**

- 9.1.** The applicant whose application for registration as a dental specialist is rejected will be notified by a notice in writing.
- 9.2.** If an applicant intends to appeal, a written application must be made to the MDC within thirty (30) days of the date of the notice in 9.1.
- 9.3.** The applicant must submit justification and other relevant document(s) that has not been submitted at the application stage to support the appeal.

### **10. Hearing of the Appeal by Council**

- 10.1.** The Council shall hear the appeal by the rejected applicant.
- 10.2.** The applicant is called on a fixed date for the hearing.
- 10.3.** The quorum of the Council hearing shall be nine.
- 10.4.** One of the Council members shall be elected to be the chair of the hearing.
- 10.5.** The Council's decisions shall be made by majority vote and endorsed by the President.
- 10.6.** In the event of an equality of votes, the chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 10.7.** The Council may invite any person to advise the members on any matter as they deem fit. The invited person shall not be a member of the Dental Specialists' Evaluation Committee (DSEC) or Dental Specialty Sub-Committee (DSSC).
- 10.8.** A Council member shall be prohibited from attending or participating in an appeal hearing if –
  - (a) he is related, either professionally or personally with the applicant
  - (b) he is a member of the Dental Specialty Sub-Committee relevant to the applicant

## 11. Flowchart for Appeal Process



## APPENDIX 1

If the applicant's qualification is not on the list of postgraduate qualifications approved by the Council, the application must be accompanied with relevant supporting documents:

NO	DOCUMENTS	REMARKS
1.	<p>Programme book containing information on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) duration of training</li> <li>b) mode of training</li> <li>c) training module/component</li> <li>d) student learning time for the programme</li> <li>e) percentage of clinical training</li> <li>f) curriculum of the program of study</li> <li>g) scope of training, assessment, and clinical requirements</li> <li>h) thesis/dissertation</li> <li>i) assessment, and</li> <li>j) clinical requirements</li> </ul>	
2.	<p>Proof that qualification is registrable as a specialist in the awarding country (Provide supporting documents from university or regulatory body).</p>	
3.	<p>Case portfolio/ logbook of treatment after graduation (refer to secretariat of each specialty for format for each specialty)</p> <p>Submit four (4) case portfolios, which can be from during or post-specialty training. The cases submitted must reflect complexity at specialist level, or, a letter of endorsement of clinical skill as a specialist from a registered specialist** in the same field in the Specialist Division of the Dental Register is accepted.</p>	
4.	<p>Curriculum vitae (CV) of the applicant</p> <p>CV must contain details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Working experience in academia or in clinical practice in the specialty (including duration)</li> <li>● Experience in undergraduate teaching and learning (including subjects and duration of teaching)</li> <li>● Experience in any postgraduate teaching in dentistry at level 7 (master) and level 8 (doctorate) MQF</li> <li>● List of publications in dental or health sciences journal</li> <li>● Experience in supervising research at the undergraduate or postgraduate level</li> </ul>	

## **MEMBERS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE**

1. Prof. Dr. Noor Hayaty binti Abu Kasim
2. Prof. Dr. Noorliza Mastura binti Ismail
3. Prof. Madya Dr. Mohd Fadhli bin Khamis
4. Prof. Madya Dr. Annapurny Venkiteswaran
5. Prof. Madya Dr. Wan Nurazreena binti Wan Hassan
6. Dr. Rasidah bt Ayob
7. Dr. Nurshaline Pauline bt Hj Kipli
8. Dr. Sutina bt Kohir
9. Dr. Mohamed Muzafar Bin Hamirudin
10. Dr. Lam Jac Meng

### **Secretaries of the Working Committee**

Dr. Norfarhana binti Md Daud  
Dr. Nur Hamizah binti Abu Bakar



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**The committee records its appreciation to the Dental Registrar of MDC, Dr. Fauziah binti Ahmad; Secretary of MDC, Dr. Nurul Syakirin binti Abdul Shukor; Dental Specialty Sub-Committee (DSSC); and the secretariat of the DSSC for their contributions and assistance in the preparation of this document.**

Malaysian Dental Council  
Ministry of Health Malaysia  
E301, Level 3, Block 3440  
Enterprise Building 1, CoPlace 12  
Jalan Teknokrat 3  
63000 Cyberjaya, Selangor, Malaysia.  
Tel. : 03-8318 6440  
<https://hq.moh.gov.my/ohp/mdc/>