SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL
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SMC CIRCULAR NO. 1/2026

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See Distribution List

REVISIONS TO THE CRITERIA FOR FULL REGISTRATION

The Singapore Medical Council (SMC) has reviewed and revised the criteria for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) under Conditional Registration (C-reg) to convert to Full Registration (F-reg).

2. The revised criteria are applicable to all conditionally registered IMGs, with the **exception of conditionally registered specialists**. The criteria for conditionally registered specialists to convert to F-reg remain unchanged.

3. Unless otherwise indicated, the changes will take effect from **1 October 2026** and will be applicable to both existing and newly registered doctors.

(A) IMGs Granted C-reg via Registrable Basic Medical Qualifications

Minimum Period of Supervised Practice under C-reg

4. IMGs who have obtained C-reg by virtue of a basic medical qualification listed in the Second Schedule of the Medical Registration Act 1997 (MRA) may be considered for F-reg after they have completed at least **2 years** of full-time supervised practice or equivalent under C-reg, regardless of their nationality.

5. However, those who did *not* complete Postgraduate Year 1 (PGY1) under provisional registration in Singapore are required to complete at least 12 months of broad-based practice (**Annex A**) with satisfactory performance under C-reg before they may be considered for F-reg. These 12 months of broad-based practice may be completed as part of the 2-year minimum period of supervised practice under C-reg.

(B) IMGs Granted C-reg via Registrable Postgraduate Medical Qualifications

6. Doctors who have obtained C-reg by virtue of a postgraduate qualification registrable with SMC[1] may be considered for F-reg after they have fulfilled the requirements in one of the following three pathways[2]:

Pathway 1

a) Hold one of the following postgraduate qualifications:
   - A registrable postgraduate qualification in Internal Medicine or Family Medicine, ***or***
   - A Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine (GDFM), ***or***
   - A Graduate Diploma in Hospital Practice (GDHP) via the Hospital Clinician scheme; **and**

b) Complete at least 2 years of full-time supervised practice or equivalent under C-reg that includes 12 months of broad-based practice (**Annex A**) with satisfactory performance.

Pathway 2

Obtain accreditation by the Specialists Accreditation Board (SAB) and registration by the SMC as a specialist[3] *in a core specialty[4] via a **local** residency training programme*.

Pathway 3

a) Hold a registrable postgraduate qualification in Family Medicine; **and**
b) Obtain accreditation by the Family Physicians Accreditation Board (FPAB) and registration by the SMC as a Family Physician; **and**
c) Complete at least 2 years of full-time supervised practice or equivalent under C-reg (inclusive of both General Practice and Family Physician practice periods).

POSTINGS WITH LIMITED SCOPE OR PATIENT CONTACT

7. For postings with limited scope or patient contact, there will be a cap on the length of practice to be recognised for F-reg. A maximum of 6 months at *each* of the following practice places may be recognised towards fulfilling the requirements for F-reg:

a) Health Promotion Board (HPB) Youth Preventive Health Service
b) Health Sciences Authority (HSA) Blood Services Group

[1] This includes doctors who were granted C-reg by virtue of an SMC-approved Staff Registrar Scheme (SRS) Diploma or a Graduate Diploma in Clinical Practice (GDCP).
[2] Components of each pathway may be pursued concurrently.
[3] Refers to specialists without restrictions (e.g., on practice scope) or conditions imposed on their Specialist Registration.
[4] Excludes the subspecialties recognised by the SAB.

8. A *combined* maximum of 12 months across the following practice places may be recognised towards fulfilling the requirements for F-reg[5]:

a) HPB Youth Preventive Health Service
b) HSA Blood Services Group
c) Diagnostic Radiology departments
d) Laboratory Medicine departments
e) Pathology departments

OTHER CRITERIA FOR F-REG CONSIDERATION

9. The revised F-reg eligibility criteria will continue to subject all C-reg doctors to the following before they may be considered for F-reg:

a) The doctor has obtained consistently satisfactory assessment reports on their performance during the period of C-reg;
b) The doctor has been on Level 2 supervision for at least 6 months; and
c) The doctor has taken the SMC Physician's Pledge.

10. Doctors who fulfil all relevant requirements specified in paragraphs 4 to 9(b) may be invited to take the SMC Physician's Pledge.

11. The changes to the criteria for F-reg are detailed in **Annex B**.

12. This circular should be brought to the attention of all relevant staff in your institution or organisation. For any queries, please email SMC@spb.gov.sg.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



PROFESSOR KENNETH MAK
REGISTRAR
SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

[5] Doctors who have commenced local Diagnostic Radiology and Pathology residency programmes prior to 1 October 2026 will be granted exemption from this requirement.

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12 Months of Broad-Based Practice

The 12 months of broad-based practice are to be completed prospectively following the grant of C-reg and need not be completed consecutively. It can be fulfilled in the form of 1 of the following 4 options:

Option 1
At least 12 months in General Medicine or Family Medicine[1].

Option 2
i) 6 months in General Medicine or Family Medicine, **and**
ii) 6 months in an Internal Medicine-related specialty[2].

Option 3
i) 6 months in General Medicine or Family Medicine, **and**
ii) 6 months in one of the following specialties: Emergency Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, or Paediatric Medicine.

Option 4
i) 6 months of clinical posting in a Community Hospital[3], **and**
ii) 6 months in either (a) General Medicine[4] or (b) Family Medicine in an acute hospital[5].

[1] Family Medicine postings must be in Family Medicine departments or Family Medicine practices recognised under the Family Physicians Accreditation Board for training or specifically recognised by SMC (e.g., Accredited Learning Institutions). The primary supervisor must be a registered Family Physician approved by SMC.

[2] Cardiology, dermatology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, geriatric medicine, haematology, infectious diseases, medical oncology, neurology, rehabilitation medicine, renal medicine, respiratory medicine, or rheumatology.

[3] Ang Mo Kio-Thye Hua Kwan Hospital, Jurong Community Hospital, Outram Community Hospital, Ren Ci Community Hospital, Sengkang Community Hospital, St Andrew's Community Hospital, St Luke's Hospital, or Yishun Community Hospital.

[4] Must be in General Medicine and not Internal Medicine-related specialties such as cardiology, gastroenterology, etc.

[5] Unlike Options 1 to 3, Family Medicine postings recognised towards fulfilling Option 4 is restricted to those in acute hospitals only. For example, a Polyclinic posting will not be considered as a Family Medicine posting in an acute hospital.

Summary of Policies for Conversion from C-Reg to F-Reg with effect from 1 October 2026

Table B1

Summary of revised policies for conversion from C-reg to F-reg

Granted C-reg by virtue of:	Where was PGY1 completed?	F-reg Eligibility Criteria[1]
Registrable **basic** medical qualification	Singapore	Complete at least 2 years of C-reg (*regardless of nationality*)
	Overseas	Complete at least 2 years of C-reg, inclusive of 12 months of broad-based practice (*regardless of nationality*)
Registrable **postgraduate** medical qualification	N.A.	Fulfil the requirements of 1 of the 3 pathways specified in Table B2 below

[1] The F-reg eligibility requirements of having obtained consistently satisfactory assessment reports on their performance during the period of C-reg, been on Level 2 supervision for at least 6 months, and taken the SMC Physician's Pledge will continue to apply to all C-reg doctors.

Table B2

F-reg eligibility criteria for doctors who were granted C-reg by virtue of a registrable postgraduate medical qualification

Pathway 1	**Pathway 2: Specialist route**	**Pathway 3: Family Physician route**
i. Hold a: a) Registrable postgraduate qualification in Internal Medicine or Family Medicine; **OR** b) Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine (GDFM); **OR** c) Graduate Diploma in Hospital Practice (GDHP) via the Hospital Clinician scheme **AND** ii. Complete at least 2 years of C-reg, inclusive of 12 months of broad-based practice with satisfactory performance • Broad-based postings prior to 1 October 2026 will be counted towards fulfilment of the required period of broad-based practice	Obtain accreditation by SAB and registration by SMC as a specialist* in a core specialty via a local residency training programme **Refers to specialists without restrictions (e.g., on practice scope) or conditions imposed on their Specialist Registration*	i. Hold a registrable postgraduate qualification in Family Medicine; **and** ii. Obtain accreditation by FPAB and registration by SMC as a Family Physician; **and** iii. Complete at least 2 years of C-reg (inclusive of both general practice and Family Physician practice periods)