



MEDICAL & DENTAL COUNCIL, GHANA

“Guiding the professions, protecting the Public”

SPECIALIST REGISTER

SEPTEMBER, 2021



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Medical and Dental Council is the statutory agency under the Ministry of Health established under Part II of the Health Professions Regulatory Bodies Act, 2013 (Act 857) responsible for the regulation of the training and practice of medicine and dentistry in Ghana. The main object of the Council is to secure in the public interest the highest standards in the training and practice of medicine and dentistry for the public good. Accordingly, the Council is mandated under section 27 of Act 857 to compile and keep registers of practitioners who have demonstrated that they have attained and or maintained the minimum competencies required to practise medicine or dentistry safely in Ghana.

Section 32 of Act 857 provides that the Council shall have three categories of registers, namely the;

- Provisional Register
- Temporary Register, and
- Permanent Register

1.1 The Provisional Register

This register is for locally trained newly qualified and foreign trained practitioners who have passed the required examinations. The provisional registration and licence are valid for the period determined by the Board.

1.1.1 Practice Rights and Limitations

There are limitations to the practice rights of persons holding valid provisional registration and or licence.

These limitations include:

- a. **Practice Environment** - A person on the Provisional Register must practise only in an approved or accredited health facility.
- b. **Practice Rights** – A person on a Provisional Register is not an independent practitioner and as such must work under supervision; cannot do locum; cannot prescribe or store restricted medicines unless specially permitted to do so; and must not sign documents required by law to be signed by a medical or dental practitioner, among others.
- c. **Training Goals** – A person on the Provisional Register must meet the regulatory requirements of holders of that registration or licence.

1.2 The Temporary Register

The Temporary Register is for practitioners who intend to practise for not more than three months at a time in a calendar year.

1.2.1 Practice Rights and Limitations

- a. **Practice Environment** - A person on the Temporary Register must practise only in an approved or accredited health facility.

- b. **Validity of Licence** – Temporary registration is valid for a period of three consecutive years. A Temporary licence is valid for up to three months in the same calendar year but subject to renewal yearly for three consecutive years.
- c. **Practice Rights** – A person on a Temporary Register may
 - i. independently practise medicine or dentistry within the scope of their practice,
 - ii. subject to the provisions of Act 857 or any other enactment, prescribe and store dangerous and restricted medicines,
 - iii. sign a certificate or document required by law to be signed by a medical or dental practitioner, and
 - iv. recover charges or fees in a Court of law for medical or dental advice, or attendance, or for performance of an operation or procedure.

1.3 The Permanent Register

The Permanent Register is for practitioners who intend to practise permanently in Ghana.

1.3.1 Sub-Categories of the Permanent Register

In line with Section 32(1)(a) of Act 857, the Permanent Register consists of the following sub-categories:

- a. the Register of medical practitioners:
 - i. General Register for doctors
 - ii. the Specialist Register
- b. the Register of dental practitioners:

- i. General Register for dental surgeons/dentists
 - ii. the Specialist Register
- c. any other Register as the Council may deem necessary.

1.3.2 Practice Rights and Limitations

- a. **Practice Environment** - A person on the Permanent Register may practise in any registered health facility or institution in Ghana.
- b. **Validity of Licence** – A permanent licence is valid for the calendar year in which it was issued.
- c. **Practice Rights** – A person on a Permanent Register may
 - i. independently practise medicine or dentistry within the scope of their practice,
 - ii. subject to the provisions of Act 857 or any other enactment, prescribe and store dangerous and restricted medicines,
 - iii. sign a certificate or document required by law to be signed by a medical or dental practitioner,
 - iv. recover charges or fees in a Court of law for medical or dental advice, or attendance, or for performance of an operation or procedure, and
 - v. hold a post as a medical doctor or dental surgeon.
- d. **Retaining a Licence to Practise** – For a practitioner to continue to hold a valid licence to practise, he or she must
 - i. demonstrate to Council on regular basis that he or she is up-to-date in knowledge, skills and competences,
 - ii. be declared fit to practise when considered necessary, and

- iii. meet the continuing professional development and other requirements as determined by the Board.

Note: All persons registered must note that it is their responsibility to ensure that they do not work outside the scope of their registration and or licence.

Further, a practitioner who does not intend or no longer intends to practise medicine or dentistry may choose to hold a registration only with Council.

2. HOW TO GET ONTO THE REGISTER

There are different ways to apply for registration with a licence to practise in Ghana. These will depend upon one's nationality, country of training and qualification (primary or specialist qualifications).

Generally, the details required for getting onto the registers include the following:

- a. the name and address of the practitioner
- b. the date or dates of registration
- c. the qualifications held by such persons,
- d. whether they hold a valid licence to practise, and
- e. whether they have a fitness to practise or disciplinary issue.

3. QUALIFICATION AND PROCEDURE FOR REGISTRATION

It is important that persons seeking to register with the Council first satisfy themselves that they hold qualifications from institutions recognised by Council. They must also ascertain whether the qualifications are registrable with Council. In addition, they must ensure that they understand the registration procedures and must follow the requirements appropriate to the class of register they are seeking to be registered on.

3.1 Qualification for Registration

A person seeking to register with Council must

- a. hold a primary qualification from an institution recognised by Council,
- b. pass or be exempted from the registration examination, and
- c. satisfy any other registration requirements as determined by the Board.

3.2 Procedure for registration

- a. Application for registration on any of the registers shall be made to the Registrar using the appropriate form.
- b. The applicant must attach the original or certified true copy of the certificate or documents of his or her qualification and either submit in person or by post or electronically.
- c. The applicant must pay the fee payable on registration and satisfy any other conditions as determined by the Board.

3.3 Non-Citizens

In addition to the requirements for registration as stated above, non-citizens seeking to be registered are required by law to show evidence of

- a. a valid work permit, or
- b. entitlement to work in gainful employment in Ghana, and
- c. intention to permanently practise in Ghana for those seeking to be placed on the permanent register.

4. THE SPECIALIST REGISTER

4.1 Introduction

Council has been concerned about some practitioners indulging in practices completely outside their areas of competence and others passing themselves off as possessing expertise they do not have leaving patients insufficiently protected.

As part of the Council's commitment to professional accountability and transparency, this Specialist Register serves to provide information about the qualifications and competencies of the various categories of practitioners as registered with the Council to aid patient decision making about the choice of practitioner.

The Specialist Register consists of a list of doctors and dental surgeons recognised by the Board and eligible to be specialists.

In Ghana, there are two grades of specialists

- Membership level or equivalent (an exit but non-terminal grade only), and
- Fellowship level or equivalent (exit and terminal grade)

If a practitioner is on the Specialist Register, this will be shown as part of their status on the General Register for practitioners. Additional information on the specialty or sub-specialty areas they are qualified in, and the date they joined the Specialist Register would be required.

Specialists must always practise within the scope of their area of specialisation to the extent appropriate to their grade (Membership or Fellowship level).

4.2 Definitions

- a. The “**specialist register**” is a register of medical and dental practitioners who are recognised by the Medical and Dental Council, Ghana as Specialists.
- b. A “**specialist**” means a medical or dental practitioner who has been registered as a specialist in a speciality or related specialities and sub-specialty (if any) recognised in terms of these regulations and who confines his or her practice

- to such speciality or related specialities and sub-speciality (if any).
- c. A “**specialty**” means one of the disciplines of medicine or dentistry recognised by the Medical and Dental Council as contained in the attached list which may be amended from time to time by the Council.
 - d. A “**sub-specialty**” means one of the subdivisions of a specialty recognised by the Medical and Dental Council as contained in the attached list which may be amended from time to time by the Council.

4.3 Duration of Training

4.3.1 Locally Trained

4.3.1.1 Basic Specialist Qualification

- a. Basic Medical or Dental Qualification
- b. Certified Housemanship [2 years duration]
- c. Minimum of three (3) years education and training and successful completion of the Membership examination.

4.3.1.2 Higher Specialist Qualification

- a. Minimum of two (2) years additional education and training and successful completion of the Fellowship examination.

4.3.2 Foreign Trained

4.3.2.1 Basic Specialist Qualification

- a. Basic Medical or Dental Qualification
- b. Certified Internship/Housemanship [where applicable]

- c. Minimum of three (3) years education and training and successful completion of the Membership or equivalent examination.
- d. This must be fully registered and licenced by, or registrable in, the country of origin as a specialist qualification.

4.3.2.2 Higher Specialist Qualification

- a. Minimum of two (2) years additional education and training and successful completion of the Fellowship or equivalent examination.
- b. This must be fully registered and licenced by, or registrable in, the country of origin as a specialist qualification.

4.4 Content of Training

- a. The content of the training programmes will be guided by the content of programmes of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, West Africa Colleges and other Colleges or Organisations recognised by the Medical and Dental Council, Ghana.
- b. The overall duration of the training programmes will be detailed in each specialty curriculum.
- c. The content will be the basis for the assessment of the training programme outside Ghana and West Africa.

1.1 List of Specialties, Field of Specialty Practice and Related Specialist Titles

This is the list of specialties, fields of specialty practice and related specialist titles as recognised by the Medical and Dental Council, Ghana.

NB:

Please note that certain sub-specialties may appear under different specialties or occur as standalone sub-specialties.

1.1.1 Medicine

SPECIALTY	SPECIALIST TITLES/ DESIGNATION	SUB-SPECIALTY
Anaesthesia	Physician/Doctor Anaesthetist Specialist in Anaesthesia Anaesthesiologist	1. Regional Anaesthesia & Interventional Pain Management 2. Critical Care Medicine 3. Obstetric Anaesthesia 4. Cardiothoracic Anaesthesia 5. Neuroanaesthesia Paediatric Anaesthesia
Emergency Medicine	Emergency Physician Specialist	
Family Medicine	Specialist in Family Medicine Family Physician	1. Palliative Medicine 2. Sports, Exercise & Rehabilitation Medicine 3. Geriatric/Elderly Care 4. Travel & International Health 5. Adolescent Medicine 6. Women's Health 7. Mental Health 8. Integrative Medicine 9. Occupational Medicine 10. Preventive and Lifestyle Medicine 11. Chronic Disease Medicine 12. General Family Medicine 13. Urgent Care

SPECIALTY	SPECIALIST TITLES/ DESIGNATION	SUB-SPECIALTY
Internal Medicine	Physician Specialist Specialist in Internal Medicine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cardiology 2. Clinical genetics 3. Clinical Pharmacology 4. Pain Medicine 5. Palliative Medicine 6. Dermatology 7. Endocrinology 8. Gastroenterology and Hepatology 9. Geriatric/Elderly Care Medicine 10. Infectious Diseases 11. Medical Oncology 12. Nephrology 13. Neurology 14. Nuclear Medicine 15. Respiratory and/or Sleep Medicine 16. Rheumatology 17. Rehabilitation Medicine 18. Sexual Health Medicine Sport and Exercise Medicine
Laboratory Medicine/Pathology	Laboratory Physician/Pathologist Specialist in Anatomic Pathology Specialist in Haematology Specialist in Chemical Pathology Specialist in Clinical Microbiology	<u>Anatomic Pathology</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Anatomic Pathology 2. Bone & Joint Pathology 3. Breast Pathology 4. Cardiovascular Pathology 5. Cytopathology 6. Dermatopathology 7. Endocrine Pathology 8. Forensic Pathology 9. Gastrointestinal Pathology 10. Genitourinary Pathology 11. Gynaecologic Pathology 12. Head and Neck Pathology 13. Hepatobiliary Pathology 14. Immunology 15. Molecular Pathology/ Cytogenetics 16. Neuroapathology 17. Paediatric Pathology 18. Pulmonary Pathology 19. Renal Pathology 20. Soft Tissue Pathology

SPECIALTY	SPECIALIST TITLES/ DESIGNATION	SUB-SPECIALTY
		<p><u>Haematology</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transfusion Medicine 2. Haemoglobinopathies 3. Coagulopathies 4. Haematopathology 5. Haematologic Oncology (Malignant Haematology) 6. General Haematology 7. Paediatric Haematology 8. Red cell Haematology 9. Obstetric Haematology 10. Bone Marrow Transplant medicine 11. Bleeding Disorders <p><u>Clinical Microbiology</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical Bacteriology 2. Clinical Virology 3. Clinical Mycology 4. Clinical Parasitology 5. Clinical Immunology 6. Infection Prevention 7. Infection Epidemiology 8. Antimicrobial Stewardship <p><u>Chemical Pathology</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Metabolic Medicine 2. Enzymology 3. Medical Toxicology and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring 4. Endocrine Biochemistry
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Specialist in Obstetrics & Gynaecology Obstetrician/Gynaecologist	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maternal–Foetal Medicine (Feto-Maternal Medicine) 2. Gynaecological Oncology 3. Urogynaecology (Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery) 4. Reproductive Health and Family Planning 5. Minimally Invasive Surgery Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility 6. Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

SPECIALTY	SPECIALIST TITLES/ DESIGNATION	SUB-SPECIALTY
Ophthalmology	Specialist in Ophthalmology Ophthalmologist	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paediatric Ophthalmology 2. Surgical Retina 3. Medical Retina 4. Anterior Segment 5. Comprehensive Ophthalmology 6. Orbit and Oculoplastics 7. Glaucoma 8. Ophthalmic Oncology 9. Neuro-Ophthalmology
Otorhinolaryngology		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology 2. Otology 3. Neurology and lateral skull base surgery 4. Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery 5. Laryngology 6. Rhinology, Endoscopic Sinus and Skull Base Surgery 7. Airway Reconstruction 8. Salivary Gland Surgery 9. Surgical Treatment of Sleep and Snoring Disorders 10. Paediatric ENT Surgery 11. Hearing and Balance
Paediatrics and Child Health	Specialist in Paediatrics Paediatrician	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical Genetics 2. Community Paediatrics 3. General Paediatrics 4. Neonatal and Perinatal Medicine 5. Paediatric Cardiology 6. Paediatric Clinical Pharmacology 7. Paediatric Emergency Medicine 8. Paediatric Endocrinology 9. Paediatric Gastroenterology and Hepatology 10. Paediatric Infectious Diseases 11. Paediatric Intensive Care Medicine 12. Paediatric Oncology 13. Paediatric Nephrology

SPECIALTY	SPECIALIST TITLES/ DESIGNATION	SUB-SPECIALTY
		14. Paediatric Neurology 15. Paediatric Nuclear Medicine 16. Paediatric Palliative Medicine 17. Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine 18. Paediatric Respiratory and Sleep Medicine 19. Paediatric Rheumatology 20. Paediatric Intensive Care Medicine 21. Adolescent Medicine
Public Health Medicine	Public Health Physician/ Specialist in Public Health Medicine	1. Disease Control and Prevention (including Epidemiology) 2. Family and Reproductive Health 3. Health Policy, Management and Leadership 4. Social and Behavioural Sciences 5. Occupational and Environmental Medicine 6. Nutrition 7. Biostatistics
Psychiatry	Specialist in Psychiatry/ Psychiatrist	1. Addiction Psychiatry 2. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 3. Consultation Liaison Psychiatry 4. Forensic Psychiatry 5. Psychiatry of Old Age (Geriatric Psychiatry) 6. Community and Social Psychiatry 7. Rehabilitation Psychiatry 8. Neuropsychiatry 9. Perinatal Psychiatry 10. Trans-cultural (Ethno) Psychiatry 11. Academic Psychiatry

SPECIALTY	SPECIALIST TITLES/ DESIGNATION	SUB-SPECIALTY
Radiology	Specialist in Radiology/ Radiologist	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Radiology 2. Neuroradiology 3. Paediatric Radiology 4. Musculoskeletal Radiology 5. Body Imaging 6. Cardiovascular Radiology 7. Chest Radiology 8. Gastrointestinal Radiology 9. Genitourinary Radiology 10. Breast and Women Imaging 11. Interventional Radiology
Oncology & Radiation Therapy	Specialist in Radiation Oncology / Radiation Oncologist	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Radiotherapy and Oncology 2. Clinical Oncology 3. Radiation Oncology
Surgery	Specialist in Surgery/ Surgical Specialist Surgeon	<p><u>Fellowship in a Specialty of Surgery:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Surgery 2. Paediatric Surgery 3. Orthopaedic Surgery 4. Neurosurgery 5. Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery 6. Urology 7. Cardiothoracic Surgery <p><u>Fellowship in a Specialty of Surgery above with an additional training in a particular aspect of that specialty</u></p> <p><u>General Surgery</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hepato-Biliary 2. Vascular 3. Endocrine 4. Gastrointestinal or Upper GIT 5. Colorectal 6. Transplant 7. Trauma <p><u>Paediatric Surgery</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paediatric Urology 2. Paediatric Colorectal 3. Paediatric Hepato-biliary 4. Paediatric Surgical Oncology 5. Paediatric Trauma 6. Paediatric Gynaecology

SPECIALTY	SPECIALIST TITLES/ DESIGNATION	SUB-SPECIALTY
		<p><u>Neurosurgery</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paediatric Neurosurgery 2. Base of Skull 3. Functional 4. Vascular 5. Spine <p><u>Orthopaedic</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery 2. Spine 3. Sports 4. Reconstruction 5. Trauma <p><u>Urology</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paediatric Urology 2. Andrologist 3. Endo-urologist 4. Urological Oncology 5. Reconstructive Urology <p><u>Cardiothoracic Surgery</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paediatric Cardiac Surgery 2. Adult Cardiac Surgery 3. General Thoracic Surgery 4. Vascular Surgery <p><u>Plastic Surgery</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Craniofacial 2. Breast 3. Cleft Burns, Hand, Aesthetic, Lower Limb, Genitalia

4.5.2 Dentistry

SPECIALTY	SPECIALIST TITLES/ DESIGNATION	SUB-SPECIALTY
Restorative Dentistry	Specialist in Restorative Dentistry Specialist in Endodontics Specialist in Conservative Dentistry Specialist in Removable Prosthodontics Specialist in Fixed Prosthodontics Specialist in Geriatric Dentistry	1. Dental Implants 2. Endodontic Microsurgery 3. Aesthetic Dentistry 4. Maxillofacial Prosthodontics Special Needs Dentistry
Oral Medicine	Specialty in Oral Medicine	Oral Microbiology
Oral Pathology	Specialist in Oral Pathology	Forensic Odontology
Orthodontics	Specialist in Orthodontics	Lingual Orthodontics Invasalin
Paedodontics (Child Dental Health)	Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry	Special Needs Dentistry
Periodontics	Specialist in Periodontics	Dental Implantology
Public Health Dentistry (Community Dentistry)	Specialist in Public Health Dentistry	
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	Specialist in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Specialist in Oral Surgery	1. Dental Implantology 2. Paediatric Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 3. Orthognathic Surgery 4. Maxillofacial Prosthodontics 5. Craniofacial Surgery Cleft Surgery
Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	Specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	
Implant Dentistry	Specialist in Dental Implantology	
General Dental Practice (Family Dentistry)	Specialist in General Dental Practice	