SPECIALIST ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE
MALTA

MINIMUM CRITERIA
FOR ENTRY TO THE SPECIALIST MEDICAL REGISTERS

ESTABLISHED BY THE
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS ACT
Chap.464 Act XII of 2003

2006

Extract from the Health Care Professions Act - Part VI

* No person shall practice as, or hold out himself to be a specialist unless his name is entered in the respective register kept for registration by the relevant Council. Art.29 (1)

* Entry onto the Register of the Specialist Register:

is in possession of a certificate issued by the Specialist Accreditation Committee for the medical profession, which shows that he has completed the prescribed specialist training for such specialty as may be prescribed; or

is in possession of a specialist qualification listed in the second schedule; or

is in possession of any specialist qualification recognized by the Specialist Accreditation Committee for the medical profession:

provided that the Specialist Accreditation committee shall deem as being in possession of the qualification concerned any professional who, being a citizen of Malta or of a Member State, and whose qualifications in the specialty do not satisfy the minimum prescribed qualifications, but who is in possession of a certificate issued by the competent authority in a Member State of which he is a citizen or of a Members State from which the person comes stating that such person has been engaged in the specialized area of the profession concerned for a period which is such period of training that is prescribed for the specialty. Art 29 (4) (a) (b) (c).
FUNCTIONS

SPECIALIST ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE:

* to issue certificates of completion of Specialist Training in the specialties listed in the relevant part of the Fifth Schedule, upon fulfillment of criteria recommended by the relevant professional associations listed in the Fourth Schedule;

* to advice the Minister and the relevant council on issues concerning specialist training and registration, and any other matter that may be referred to it.

* to act as the advisory body for training in any of the special areas of practice

* to accredit post-graduate training programmes

Part VI. Art. 30 (6) (a) (i) (ii) (iii) (iv).

- where a citizen of a Member state, who wishes to acquire specialist qualification, is required to fulfill such conditions of training that may be prescribed, the Specialist Accreditation Committee shall take into account, in whole or in part, periods of training completed by that person and attested by a qualification awarded by the state of which that person is a citizen, as well as any professional experience, additional training and continuing education which such person possesses. Part VI. Art. 7
TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

* The Specialist Accreditation Committee, after consultation with the relevant specialist society and, or the relevant professional association, shall certify as holding the qualifications for registration in the appropriate specialist register any health care professional who, before the coming into force of the relevant Part of this Act, has practiced as a specialist to the satisfaction of the Specialist accreditation committee.
Part X. Art. 53. (2)

* The Specialist Accreditation committee shall certify as holding the necessary qualifications any medical practitioner who, prior to the coming into force of this act, held an appointment with the government at consultant or senior registrar level in a government hospital or clinic.
Part X. Art. 53 (3)

- Any specialist training undergone before the coming into force of this Act, or any specialist training being undergone on the coming into force of this Act shall be taken into account for the purpose of computing the required duration of specialist training under this Act by the Specialist Accreditation Committee and the medical practitioner shall, on the coming into force of this Act, have the option of continuing such specialist training for the purpose of being certified by such committee under the system in force immediately before the coming into force of this Act. Part X. Art. 53 (4)
FIFTH SCHEDULE

SPECIALIST REGISTERS

01. Accident & Emergency Medicine
02. Anaesthetics & Intensive Care Medicine
03. Audiology/Phoniatry
04. Chemical Pathology
05. Cardiology
06. Cardio-thoracic Surgery
07. Clinical Neurophysiology
08. Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics
09. Dermato-Venereology
10. Radiology
11. Endocrinology and Diabetes
12. Family Medicine
13. Immunology
14. Forensic Medicine
15. Gastroenterology
16. General/Internal Medicine
17. Dermatology
18. General Surgery
19. Genetics
20. Geneto-Urinary Medicine
21. Geriatrics
22. Haematology
23. Histopathology & Cytopathology
24. Infectious diseases
25. Oral-Maxillo Facial Surgery
26. Microbiology/Bacteriology
27. Neonatology
28. Nephrology
29. Neurology
30. Neurosurgery
31. Nuclear Medicine
32. Obstetrics & Gynaecology
33. Occupational Medicine
34. Ophthalmology
35. Orthopaedic Surgery
37. Paediatric Surgery
38. Paediatrics
39. Palliative Medicine
40. Plastic Surgery
41. Psychiatry
42. Public Health Medicine
43. Oncology
44. Rehabilitation Medicine
45. Respiratory Medicine
46. Rheumatology
47. Urology
48. Vascular Surgery
49. Virology
50. Baromedicine
RECOGNIZED ASSOCIATIONS

FOURTH SCHEDULE  PART II

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF MALTA

MALTA COLLEGE OF FAMILY DOCTORS

ASSOCIATION OF ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS

MALTA ASOCIATION OF OPHTALMOLOGISTS

THE MALTA ASSOCIATION OF SPECIALISTS IN PSYCHIATRY

ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF MALTA
(Responsible for the following specialties :)

Cardiology
Gastroenterology
General / Internal Medicine
Infectious disease
Nephrology
Neurology
Respiratory Medicine
Rheumatology
Endocrinology & Diabetes
Clinical Neurophysiology

ASSOCIATION OF SURGEONS OF MALTA
(Responsible for the following specialties:)

Accident and Emergency Medicine
Cardio Thoracic Surgery
General Surgery
Neurosurgery
Otorinolaryngology
Paediatric Surgery
Plastic Surgery
Urology
Vascular Surgery
THE ASSOCIATION AND ORTHOPAEDIC AND TRAUMA
SURGEONS OF MALTA

MALTA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICINE

MALTA COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND
GYNAECOLOGISTS

MALTA COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS
(Responsible for the following specialties:)

Chemical Pathology
Immunology
Genetics
Haematology
Histopathology including Cytopathology
Microbiology / Bacertiology
Virology

MALTESE PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION

MALTESE RADIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

THE GERIATRIC MEDICINE SOCIETY OF MALTA

Note: the Specialist Accreditation Committee appoints sub-
committees from the above delegates to review applications for those
specialties who do not have their own association representing them
on the committee.
SPECIALIST ACCREDITATION

COMMITTEE

MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO SPECIALIST REGISTERS

(by Acquired Rights {Grandfathering})

This document specifies the grandfathering criteria which apply for the issuing of a Certificate of Medical Specialist for Doctors who started their training in Malta before 21st November 2003, in terms of Articles 53(2) and (3) of the Health Care Professions Act.

General Criteria for all Specialities:

1. Specialists must hold a licence to practice the Medical Profession in Malta and should be fully registered with the Medical Council of Malta;*

2. Those Consultants or Senior Registrars who prior to 21st November 2003 held a Government Appointment or who have held a Government appointment in the past with appropriate qualifications and/or training in that speciality will be included in the Specialist Register (HCPA 2003) according to their letter of Appointment or Call for Applications;

3. Consultants or Senior Registrars who did not apply according to the Letter of Appointment or Call for Applications have to have appropriate qualifications and training in that speciality. This criterion is not applicable to the Maltese Association of Public Health Medicine.

4. Doctors who have been appointed as Consultants or Senior Registrars in the Public Service will be automatically certified as having completed their training in their respective speciality as provided by the Health care Professions Act on the basis that:
(i) Those appointed since 1993 are eligible since the 1993 and 2001 MAM-Government agreements stipulate that doctors would only become eligible for these posts on completion of training specified, which is compliant with the minimum required by EU Directives.

(ii) Those appointed before 1993 are eligible as they have been working as specialists for over 11 years. Many of them would also have undergone full training.

5. Those doctors considered to be still in training have the option of finishing their training programme until the year 2010, when they will become eligible to enter the Specialist Register. The SAC will advise them on areas of competencies and skills which they should acquire during this period.

6. If training was or is being carried out in a country where certification is enforced, such certificates from the competent authority where the training was carried out must be produced.

*: Non-EU doctors registered on the Temporary List with the Medical Council of Malta are considered to be fully registered as specialists for a period not exceeding two years under the same conditions as laid down by the Medical Council of Malta.

**: Specialist registration will cease once a temporary licence is no longer registered with the Medical Council of Malta.
1. ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Criteria formulated by Association of Surgeons of Malta

(i) All health care professionals who prior to the 21st November 2003 held an appointment with the Government at Consultant or Senior Registrar level in a Government hospital or clinic, in the relevant speciality may qualify as long as s/he has appropriate qualifications and experience in relevant speciality;

(iia) For those applicants who have not applied for specialities according to their Letter of Appointment or Call for Applications, the applicant has to provide evidence that s/he has had appropriate qualifications and training in that speciality according to the criteria as set out by UEMS.

AND

(iib) must be in possession of a post-graduate diploma in the specified speciality, FRCS or equivalent qualification recognized as such in the EU or a Post-Graduate diploma in the relevant speciality;

AND

(iic) must have worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least three years out of the last five years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iii) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced. If training is being carried out in a non-EU country, training should be compatible to that of EU standard.
2. ANAESTHETICS AND INTENSIVE CARE MEDICINE

Criteria formulated by Association of Anesthesiologists of Malta:

(*As defined by the Anaesthesiology Section of the UEMS the areas of expertise of Anaesthesiology are: Anaesthesia, Emergency Medicine, Intensive Care, Pain Medicine and Reanimation.)

Consultants and Senior Registrars
Specialists, who hold, or who have held in the past, a Government appointment as Consultants or Senior Registrars in Anaesthesia, having the appropriate qualifications and training in Anaesthesia, will be eligible for inclusion to the Specialist Register (Refer to General Criteria No. 2 above).

All other Specialists must be in possession of the following:

I. A license to practice the Medical Profession in Malta and should be fully registered with the Medical Council of Malta

AND

II. A higher post-graduate qualification in Anesthesia (e.g. D.E.A.A., F.R.C.A. or other such qualification recognized in the European Union.)

AND

III. A Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training by the Specialist Training Authority of the EU country where they completed their training;

OR

Evidence of completion of a recognized training programme in Anaesthesia of at least 3 years full time duration (or pro-rata for part-time), which must be supported by certificates and/or testimonials (photocopies to be included with the applications, originals to be produced on request).
Notes:

a. The Specialist Accreditation Committee can ask for more information;

b. Applications together with a Curriculum Vitae and the names of 2 referees should be submitted to the SAC. This is not necessary for those who apply as Senior Registrars or Consultants and those holding a Certificate of Completion of Training from an EU state.

c. Medical Practitioners, who are not included in the categories specified above, may apply for individual consideration.
3. AUDIOLOGY / PHONIATRY

Criteria formulated by...

Pending.
4. CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY

Criteria formulated by Malta College of Pathologists

Applicants must:

(i) have a First Degree in Medicine;
AND

(ii) hold full registration with the Medical Council of Malta;
AND

(iii) be in possession of a postgraduate qualification, accepted by the College in any of the specialities of pathology or any of its subspecialities;

OR

(iv) be in possession of a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training by the competent authority in any EU member State or a Certificate from a State outside the EU, deemed by the College as being of an equivalent standard;

OR

(v) have been employed as a Consultant or Senior Registrar by the Department of Health within the speciality or subspeciality of Pathology, prior to 21st November 2003;

OR

(v) a minimum of 8 yrs (full time or pro rata) working in a speciality or subspeciality of pathology to a standard that satisfies the Specialist Accreditation Committee on the recommendation of the MCP.
5. CARDIOLOGY

Criteria formulated by ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF MALTA:

This 'grandfather clause' is being introduced for the purposes of the new Health Care Professions Act and the requirements thereof. It will address the requirements of those specialists in Medicine and its' subspecialities who do not currently hold an 'Exit diploma' in the speciality but are fully registered with the Malta Medical Council. It is proposed that this exercise is of a transient and once-only nature.

Those eligible for specialist registration include:

(i) Those Consultants or Senior Registrars who at present hold a Government Appointment or who have held a Government appointment in the past with appropriate qualifications and /or training in that speciality will be included in the Specialist Register according to their letter of Appointment or Call for Applications in that speciality or sub-speciality;

(ii) any medical practitioner who was unable or who did not, for some reason or another enter a formal postgraduate training course, or complete a formal postgraduate training course, and who therefore does not possess the necessary 'Exit Diploma', shall be considered by the Council of the Association for the purpose of registration as a specialist in Medicine or one of its subspecialities. Those eligible for consideration under this section shall include any medical practitioner who has practiced in the speciality for at least twice the number of years of the duration of the defined postgraduate training course in the discipline. Those who fall short of the required period will be allowed to complete the required duration, whereupon they shall become eligible to apply for registration;
Cardiology contd.

(iii) any medical practitioner who has worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least four years out of the last seven years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iv) Council will also consider applications from those specialists practicing independently in the speciality;

(v) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced.
6. CARDIO-THORACIC SURGERY

Criteria formulated by Association of Surgeons of Malta

(i) All health care professionals who prior to the 21st November 2003 held an appointment with the Government at Consultant or Senior Registrar level in a Government hospital or clinic, in the relevant speciality may qualify as long as s/he has appropriate qualifications and experience in relevant speciality;

(iiia) For those applicants who have not applied for specialities according to their Letter of Appointment or Call for Applications, the applicant has to provide evidence that s/he has had appropriate qualifications and training in that speciality according to the criteria as set out by UEMS.

AND

(iiib) must be in possession of a post-graduate diploma in the specified speciality, FRCS or equivalent qualification recognized as such in the EU or a Post-Graduate diploma in the relevant speciality;

AND

(iic) must have worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least three years out of the last five years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iii) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced. If training is being carried out in a non-EU Country, training should be compatible to that of EU Standard.
7. CLINICAL NEUROPHYSIOLOGY

Criteria formulated by Association of Physicians of Malta

This 'grandfather clause' is being introduced for the purposes of the new Health Care Professions Act and the requirements thereof. It will address the requirements of those specialists in Medicine and its' subspecialities who do not currently hold an 'Exit diploma' in the speciality but are fully registered with the Malta Medical Council. It is proposed that this exercise is of a transient and once-only nature.

Those eligible for specialist registration include:

(i) Those Consultants or Senior Registrars who at present hold a Government Appointment or who have held a Government appointment in the past with appropriate qualifications and /or training in that speciality will be included in the Specialist Register according to their letter of Appointment or Call for Applications in that speciality or sub-speciality;

(ii) any medical practitioner who was unable or who did not, for some reason or another enter a formal postgraduate training course, or complete a formal postgraduate training course, and who therefore does not possess the necessary 'Exit Diploma', shall be considered by the Council of the Association for the purpose of registration as a specialist in Medicine or one of its subspecialities. Those eligible for consideration under this section shall include any medical practitioner who has practiced in the speciality for at least twice the number of years of the duration of the defined postgraduate training course in the discipline. Those who fall short of the required period will be allowed to complete the required duration, whereupon they shall become eligible to apply for registration,
(iii) any medical practitioner who has worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least four years out of the last seven years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iv) Council will also consider applications from those specialists practicing independently in the speciality;

(iv) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced.
8. **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS**

Criteria formulated by sub-committee SAC

Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics encompasses all aspects of drug therapy in clinical practice, from basic mechanisms to practical prescribing. Training in research and research methods equips clinical pharmacologists to plan, conduct and interpret experimental and observational studies of drug treatment, and to contribute to safe and effective drug use for the community. The clinical emphasis on rational therapeutics, drug safety, and poisoning provides the skills to care for individual patients with complex therapeutic problems. (JCHMT HMT Curriculum July 2003)*.

Criteria for entry into the specialist register under the **grandfather clause** for the speciality of Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics:

1) All general criteria applicable to all specialities as approved by the SAC.

AND

2a) Besides a basic medical degree be in possession of a Ph.D in Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*, plus four years working as a specialist and four years or pro-rata equivalent in the speciality of Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*, in a department and at a training grade recognised by the Specialist Accreditation Committee.

OR

2b) Having completed basic medical training be in possession of a suitable post-graduate qualification and higher specialist training of at least 4 years full-time or part-time equivalent.
Such higher training should consist of training in the respective speciality of Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*, in

3) All applicants should have practised in the speciality of Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*, to a standard satisfactory to the SAC. The Sub-committee may ask applicants for other information related to their application.
Criteria for entry into the specialist register under the acquired rights clause for the specialities of Dermatology and Dermato-venerology:

1) All general criteria applicable to all specialities as approved by the SAC.

AND

2a) (i) Completion of basic medical training (common trunk) as evidenced by attainment of the MRCP (UK) or equivalent qualification

AND

(ii) higher specialist training of at least 4 years full-time or pro-rata equivalent. Such higher training should consist of training at registrar level in the respective speciality in a department recognised for this purpose. or

2b) In possession of a recognized postgraduate qualification in the speciality plus six years full time or pro rata equivalent at registrar level in the speciality in a department recognized for higher specialist training. or

2c) those who have worked for eight years full time or pro-rata equivalent as a specialist.

AND

3) All applicants should have practised in the speciality to a standard satisfactory to the SAC on the recommendation of the Malta Association of Dermatology.
10. RADIOLOGY

Criteria formulated by the Maltese Radiological Association

(i) First degree in Medicine;

(ii) Full registration with the Medical Council of Malta;

(iii) Postgraduate qualification in radiology (FRCR or EU equivalent);

AND

(iv) At least four years full time or pro-rata equivalent training experience in general radiology in a supervised training post. Their practice should have been broad enough to cover general radiology and the subspecialties of CT, MR, US, angiography, interventional radiology, breast and paediatrics;

(v) Applicants on a training scheme abroad should obtain the CCST from their training authority before registering in Malta.
11. ENDOCRINOLOGY AND DIABETES

Criteria formulated by Association of Physicians of Malta.

This 'grandfather clause' is being introduced for the purposes of the new Health Care Professions Act and the requirements thereof. It will address the requirements of those specialists in Medicine and its' subspecialities who do not currently hold an 'Exit diploma' in the speciality but are fully registered with the Malta Medical Council. It is proposed that this exercise is of a transient and once-only nature.

Those eligible for specialist registration include:

(i) Those Consultants or Senior Registrars who at present hold a Government Appointment or who have held a Government appointment in the past with appropriate qualifications and/or training in that speciality will be included in the Specialist Register according to their letter of Appointment or Call for Applications in that speciality or sub-speciality;

(ii) any medical practitioner who was unable or who did not, for some reason or another enter a formal postgraduate training course, or complete a formal postgraduate training course, and who therefore does not possess the necessary 'Exit Diploma', shall be considered by the Council of the Association for the purpose of registration as a specialist in Medicine or one of its subspecialities. Those eligible for consideration under this section shall include any medical practitioner who has practiced in the speciality for at least twice the number of years of the duration of the defined postgraduate training course in the discipline. Those who fall short of the required period will be allowed to complete the required duration, whereupon they shall become eligible to apply for registration;
Endocrinology and Diabetes contd.

(iii) any medical practitioner who has worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least four years out of the last seven years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iv) Council will also consider applications from those specialists practicing independently in the speciality;

(v) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced.
12. FAMILY MEDICINE

CRITERIA FORMULATED BY MALTA COLLEGE OF FAMILY MEDICINE

(i) Either 3 years Full-Time (40 hr/ wk) Family Medicine Work (Health Centre or Private; Clinical; Academic or Administrative); OR
(ii) part-time FM work as above, min. 20 hrs/wk to equate total hours above (e.g. 20 hrs /wk FM work = 50% time = 2x (6 Years) work experience to qualify; OR
(iii) 6 months to a maximum of 1 year SHO grade post-registration hospital attachments in the departments of General Medicine, General Surgery, Paediatrics, Obs. & Gynae., Psychiatry, E&A, ENT, Ophthalmology or Dermatology, and other specialities relevant to Family Medicine's work maximum 3 months in any one; plus additional years full/ part-time GP / FM work (minimum 20 hours /wk) to equate to same total hours as 3 years full time FM at 40 hour week. However, 6 months to 1 year of the latter FM work must be full time (40-hr wk min.) to allow use of equivalent period of hospital attachments in lieu of FM work.

For a family doctor to be issued an additional certificate of compliance in line with EU Directives, he/ she must:

a) be accepted and registered in the Register of Specialists in Family Medicine

AND (b or c)

b) have worked for a minimum of 6 months at SHO or higher grade in a hospital post relevant to general practice or in a health centre post-registration OR
Specialist Accreditation Committee  - Criteria

Family Medicine contd.

(c) have obtained the CME points equivalent to 2 years CME from the MCFD, or have obtained a recognised diploma/higher qualification relevant to general practice or have published a research article relevant to general practice or have presented a research presentation at a general practice conference or other equivalent academic activities as recommended by the MCFD and accepted by the SAC.
13. IMMUNOLOGY

Criteria formulated by Malta College of Pathologists

Applicants must:

(i) have a First Degree in Medicine;

AND

(ii) hold full registration with the Medical Council of Malta; and

AND

(vi) be in possession of a postgraduate qualification, accepted by the College in any of the specialities of pathology or any of its subspecialities;

OR

(vii) be in possession of a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training by the competent authority in any EU member State or a Certificate from a State outside the EU, deemed by the College as being of an equivalent standard;

OR

(v) have been employed as a Consultant or Senior Registrar by the Department of Health within the speciality or subspeciality of Pathology, prior to 21st November 2003;

OR

(vi) a minimum of 8 yrs (full time or pro rata) working in a speciality or subspeciality of pathology to a standard that satisfies the Specialist Accreditation Committee on the recommendation of the MCP.
14. FORENSIC MEDICINE

Criteria formulated by Malta college of Pathologists

Applicants must:

(i) have a First Degree in Medicine;

AND

(ii) hold full registration with the Medical Council of Malta;

AND

(iii) be in possession of a postgraduate qualification, accepted by the College, in any of the branches of Forensic Medicine;

OR

(iv) be in possession of a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training by the competent authority in any EU member State or a Certificate from a State outside the EU, deemed by the SAC as being of an equivalent standard;

OR

(v) have been employed full time as a specialist in any branch of Forensic Medicine as a Consultant or Senior Registrar in an EU Member State prior to 21st November 2003 or in any other state outside the EU, deemed by the College as of equivalent standard;

OR

(vi) have been working as a specialist in any branch of Forensic Medicine in Malta as a Court Expert.
15. GASTROENTEROLOGY

Criteria formulated by Association of Physicians of Malta

This 'grandfather clause' is being introduced for the purposes of the new Health Care Professions Act and the requirements thereof. It will address the requirements of those specialists in Medicine and its' subspecialities who do not currently hold an 'Exit diploma' in the speciality but are fully registered with the Malta Medical Council. It is proposed that this exercise is of a transient and once-only nature.

Those eligible for specialist registration include:

(i) Those Consultants or Senior Registrars who at present hold a Government Appointment or who have held a Government appointment in the past with appropriate qualifications and /or training in that speciality will be included in the Specialist Register according to their letter of Appointment or Call for Applications in that speciality or sub-speciality;

(ii) any medical practitioner who was unable or who did not, for some reason or another enter a formal postgraduate training course, or complete a formal postgraduate training course, and who therefore does not possess the necessary 'Exit Diploma', shall be considered by the Council of the Association for the purpose of registration as a specialist in Medicine or one of its subspecialities. Those eligible for consideration under this section shall include any medical practitioner who has practiced in the speciality for at least twice the number of years of the duration of the defined postgraduate training course in the discipline. Those who fall short of the required period will be allowed to complete the required duration, whereupon they shall become eligible to apply for registration;
Specialist Accreditation Committee - criteria

Gastroenterology

(iii) any medical practitioner who has worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least four years out of the last seven years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iv) Council will also consider applications from those specialists practicing independently in the speciality;

(v) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced.
16. GENERAL / INTERNAL MEDICINE

Criteria formulated by Association of Physicians of Malta

This 'grandfather clause' is being introduced for the purposes of the new Health Care Professions Act and the requirements thereof. It will address the requirements of those specialists in Medicine and its' subspecialities who do not currently hold an 'Exit diploma' in the speciality but are fully registered with the Malta Medical Council. It is proposed that this exercise is of a transient and once-only nature.

Those eligible for specialist registration include:

(i) Those Consultants or Senior Registrars who at present hold a Government Appointment or who have held a Government appointment in the past with appropriate qualifications and /or training in that speciality will be included in the Specialist Register according to their letter of Appointment or Call for Applications in that speciality or sub-speciality;

(iii) any medical practitioner who was unable or who did not, for some reason or another enter a formal postgraduate training course, or complete a formal postgraduate training course, and who therefore does not possess the necessary 'Exit Diploma', shall be considered by the Council of the Association for the purpose of registration as a specialist in Medicine or one of its subspecialities. Those eligible for consideration under this section shall include any medical practitioner who has practiced in the speciality for at least twice the number of years of the duration of the defined postgraduate training course in the discipline. Those who fall short of the required period will be allowed to complete the required duration, whereupon they shall become eligible to apply for registration;
Specialist Accreditation Committee – criteria

General / Internal Medicine contd.

(iii) any medical practitioner who has worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least four years out of the last seven years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iv) Council will also consider applications from those specialists practicing independently in the speciality;

(v) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced.
17. DERMATOLOGY

Criteria formulated by sub-committee SAC

1) All general criteria applicable to all specialities as approved by the SAC.

(A) AND

2a) (i) Completion of basic medical training (common trunk) as evidenced by attainment of the MRCP (UK) or equivalent qualification

(B) AND

(ii) higher specialist training of at least 4 years full-time or pro-rata equivalent. Such higher training should consist of training at registrar level in the respective speciality in a department recognised for this purpose.

OR

2b) In possession of a recognized postgraduate qualification in the speciality plus six years full time or pro rata equivalent at registrar level in the speciality in a department recognized for higher specialist training.

(C) OR

2c) those who have worked for eight years full time or pro-rata equivalent as a specialist.

AND

3) All applicants should have practised in the speciality to a standard satisfactory to the SAC on the recommendation of the Malta Association of Dermatology and Venerology. The SAC may ask applicants for other information related to their application.
18. GENERAL SURGERY

Criteria formulated by Association of Surgeons of Malta

(i) All health care professionals who prior to the 21st November 2003 held an appointment with the Government at Consultant or Senior Registrar level in a Government hospital or clinic, in the relevant speciality may qualify as long as s/he has appropriate qualifications and experience in relevant speciality;

(ii) For those applicants who have not applied for specialities according to their Letter of Appointment or Call for Applications, the applicant has to provide evidence that s/he has had appropriate qualifications and training in that speciality according to the criteria as set out by UEMS.

AND

(iib) must be in possession of a post-graduate diploma in the specified speciality, FRCS or equivalent qualification recognized as such in the EU or a Post-Graduate diploma in the relevant speciality;

AND

(iic) must have worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least three years out of the last five years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iii) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced. If training is being carried out in a non-EU Country, training should be compatible to that of EU Standard.
19. GENETICS

Criteria formulated by Malta College of Pathologists

Applicants must:

(i) have a First Degree in Medicine;

AND

(ii) hold full registration with the Medical Council of Malta; and

AND

(viii) be in possession of a postgraduate qualification, accepted by the College in any of the specialities of pathology or any of its subspecialities;

OR

(ix) be in possession of a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training by the competent authority in any EU member State or a Certificate from a State outside the EU, deemed by the College as being of an equivalent standard;

OR

(v) have been employed as a Consultant or Senior Registrar by the Department of Health within the speciality or subspeciality of Pathology, prior to 21st November 2003;

OR

(vi) a minimum of 8 yrs (full time or pro rata) working in a speciality or subspeciality of pathology to a standard that satisfies the Specialist Accreditation Committee on the recommendation of the MCP.
Criteria for entry into the specialist register under the acquired rights clause for the speciality of Genito-urinary medicine:

1) All general criteria applicable to all specialities as approved by the SAC.

AND

2a) Having completed basic medical training (common trunk) as evidenced by attainment of the MRCP(UK) or equivalent qualification eg: MRCOG and higher specialist training of at least 4 years full-time or part-time equivalent. Such higher training should consist of training in the respective speciality in a department and at a grade recognised for this purpose.

OR

2b) In possession of a recognised relevant post-graduate qualification in the speciality plus 8 years working in the speciality.

3) All applicants should have practised in the speciality to a standard satisfactory to the SAC. The SAC may ask applicants for other information related to their application.
21. GERIATRICS

Criteria formulated by The Association of Physicians of Malta

This 'grandfather clause' is being introduced for the purposes of the new Health Care Professions Act and the requirements thereof. It will address the requirements of those specialists in Medicine and its' subspecialities who do not currently hold an 'Exit diploma' in the speciality but are fully registered with the Malta Medical Council. It is proposed that this exercise is of a transient and once-only nature.

Those eligible for specialist registration include:

(i) Those Consultants or Senior Registrars who at present hold a Government Appointment or who have held a Government appointment in the past with appropriate qualifications and /or training in that speciality will be included in the Specialist Register according to their letter of Appointment or Call for Applications in that speciality or sub-speciality;

(ii) any medical practitioner who was unable or who did not, for some reason or another enter a formal postgraduate training course, or complete a formal postgraduate training course, and who therefore does not possess the necessary 'Exit Diploma', shall be considered by the Council of the Association for the purpose of registration as a specialist in Medicine or one of its subspecialities. Those eligible for consideration under this section shall include any medical practitioner who has practiced in the speciality for at least twice the number of years of the duration of the defined postgraduate training course in the discipline. Those who fall short of the required period will be allowed to complete the required duration, whereupon they shall become eligible to apply for registration;
Geriatrics contd.

(iii) any medical practitioner who has worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least four years out of the last seven years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iv) Council will also consider applications from those specialists practicing independently in the speciality;

(v) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced.
22. HAEMATOLOGY

Criteria adopted by Malta College of Pathologists

Applicants must:

(i) have a First Degree in Medicine;

AND

(ii) hold full registration with the Medical Council of Malta; and

AND

(x) be in possession of a postgraduate qualification, accepted by the College in any of the specialities of pathology or any of its subspecialities;

OR

(xi) be in possession of a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training by the competent authority in any EU member State or a Certificate from a State outside the EU, deemed by the College as being of an equivalent standard;

OR

(v) have been employed as a Consultant or Senior Registrar by the Department of Health within the speciality or subspeciality of Pathology, prior to 21st November 2003;

OR

(vi) a minimum of 8 yrs (full time or pro rata) working in a speciality or subspeciality of pathology to a standard that satisfies the Specialist Accreditation Committee on the recommendation of the MCP.
23. HISTOPATHOLOGY INCLUDING CYTOPATHOLOGY

Criteria formulated by Malta College of Pathologists

Applicants must:

(i) have a First Degree in Medicine;

AND

(ii) hold full registration with the Medical Council of Malta; and

AND

(xii) be in possession of a postgraduate qualification, accepted by the College in any of the specialities of pathology or any of its subspecialities;

OR

(xiii) be in possession of a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training by the competent authority in any EU member State or a Certificate from a State outside the EU, deemed by the College as being of an equivalent standard;

OR

(v) have been employed as a Consultant or Senior Registrar by the Department of Health within the speciality or subspeciality of Pathology, prior to 21st November 2003;

OR

(vi) a minimum of 8 yrs (full time or pro rata) working in a speciality or subspeciality of pathology to a standard that satisfies the Specialist Accreditation Committee on the recommendation of the MCP.
24. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Criteria formulated by Association of Physicians of Malta

This 'grandfather clause' is being introduced for the purposes of the new Health Care Professions Act and the requirements thereof. It will address the requirements of those specialists in Medicine and its' subspecialities who do not currently hold an 'Exit diploma' in the speciality but are fully registered with the Malta Medical Council. It is proposed that this exercise is of a transient and once-only nature.

Those eligible for specialist registration include:

(i) Those Consultants or Senior Registrars who at present hold a Government Appointment or who have held a Government appointment in the past with appropriate qualifications and/or training in that speciality will be included in the Specialist Register according to their letter of Appointment or Call for Applications in that speciality or sub-speciality;

(ii) any medical practitioner who was unable or who did not, for some reason or another enter a formal postgraduate training course, or complete a formal postgraduate training course, and who therefore does not possess the necessary 'Exit Diploma', shall be considered by the Council of the Association for the purpose of registration as a specialist in Medicine or one of its subspecialities. Those eligible for consideration under this section shall include any medical practitioner who has practiced in the speciality for at least twice the number of years of the duration of the defined postgraduate training course in the discipline. Those who fall short of the required period will be allowed to complete the required duration, whereupon they shall become eligible to apply for registration;
SPECIALIST ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE - CRITERIA

Infectious Disease contd.

(iii) any medical practitioner who has worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least four years out of the last seven years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iv) Council will also consider applications from those specialists practicing independently in the speciality;

(v) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced.
25. ORAL-MAXILLO-FACIAL SURGERY

Criteria adopted by Association of Surgeons of Malta

NOTE; Extract from Legal Notice 105 of 2006 (Art.2. (1).
No medical doctor or dentist can be registered or practice his profession concurrently with another health-care profession, except in the exceptional case of the specialty of oro-maxillo-facial surgery.

Registration both as a doctor and a dental surgeon is necessary.

(i) All health care professionals who prior to the 21st November 2003 held an appointment with the Government at Consultant or Senior Registrar level in a Government hospital or clinic, in the relevant speciality may qualify as long as s/he has appropriate qualifications and experience in relevant speciality;

(ii) For those applicants who have not applied for specialities according to their Letter of Appointment or Call for Applications, the applicant has to provide evidence that s/he has had appropriate qualifications and training in that speciality according to the criteria as set out by UEMS.

AND

(iiia) must be in possession of a post-graduate diploma in the specified speciality, FRCS or equivalent qualification recognized as such in the EU or a Post-Graduate diploma in the relevant speciality;

AND

(iib) must have worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least three years out of the last five years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iii) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification
Oral-maxillo facial Surgery contd.

was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced. If training is being carried out in a non-EU Country, training should be compatible to that of EU Standard.
26. MICROBIOLOGY / BACTERIOLOGY

Criteria formulated by the Malta College of Pathologists

Applicants must:

(i) have a First Degree in Medicine;

AND

(ii) hold full registration with the Medical Council of Malta; and

AND

(iii) be in possession of a postgraduate qualification, accepted by the College in any of the specialities of pathology or any of its subspecialities; or

(iv) be in possession of a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training by the competent authority in any EU member State or a Certificate from a State outside the EU, deemed by the College as being of an equivalent standard; or

(v) have been employed as a Consultant or Senior Registrar by the Department of Health within the speciality or subspeciality of Pathology, prior to 21st November 2003; or

(v) a minimum of 8 yrs (full time or pro rata) working in a speciality or subspeciality of pathology to a standard that satisfies the Specialist Accreditation Committee on the recommendation of the MCP.
Criteria formulated by SAC Subcommittee

I) NEONATOLOGY

The minimum Entry Criteria for entry to the Register of Neonatology by Acquired Rights (SAC document dated 6th July, 2004), shall include the following:

i. all applicants must hold a license to practice and be registered with the Medical Council of Malta,

and

ii. all consultants and Senior Registrars, who prior to the 21st November 2003, held a formal Government appointment as Specialists in Neonatology or consultants/Senior Registrars with a special interest in neonatology/neonatal intensive care according to their letter of appointment or call for applications.

Or

iii. Any doctor who has been appointed Consultant or Senior Registrar in the Public Service in Neonatology will be automatically certified as having completed their training in Neonatology in Malta as provided by the Health Care Professions Act 2003 on the basis that:

a. those appointed since 1993 are eligible on the basis of the 1993 and 2001 MAM-Government agreements which stipulate that doctors would only have become eligible for the neonatology post on completion of their training in neonatology in Malta, which is compliant with the minimum training required by the EU Directives.

b. all doctors appointed before 1993 as specialists in Neonatology as specified in their letter of appointment or call for applications and have been working as Neonatologists in Malta for over 11 years are considered to have completed their full training in neonatology in Malta.

Or

4. Doctors considered to be still in-training in Malta have the option of completing their training syllabus by 2010 when they shall be recommended to the SAC for
Neonatology contd.

inclusion in the specialist register of Neonatology. The SAC shall advise them on areas of competence and skills which they should acquire during this period of training.
28. NEPHROLOGY

Criteria formulated by Association of Physicians of Malta

This 'grandfather clause' is being introduced for the purposes of the new Health Care Professions Act and the requirements thereof. It will address the requirements of those specialists in Medicine and its' subspecialities who do not currently hold an 'Exit diploma' in the speciality but are fully registered with the Malta Medical Council. It is proposed that this exercise is of a transient and once-only nature.

Those eligible for specialist registration include:

(i) Those Consultants or Senior Registrars who at present hold a Government Appointment or who have held a Government appointment in the past with appropriate qualifications and/or training in that speciality will be included in the Specialist Register according to their letter of Appointment or Call for Applications in that speciality or sub-speciality;

(ii) any medical practitioner who was unable or who did not, for some reason or another enter a formal postgraduate training course, or complete a formal postgraduate training course, and who therefore does not possess the necessary 'Exit Diploma', shall be considered by the Council of the Association for the purpose of registration as a specialist in Medicine or one of its subspecialities. Those eligible for consideration under this section shall include any medical practitioner who has practiced in the speciality for at least twice the number of years of the duration of the defined postgraduate training course in the discipline. Those who fall short of the required period will be allowed
Nephrology contd.

to complete the required duration, whereupon they shall become eligible to apply for registration;

(iii) any medical practitioner who has worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least four years out of the last seven years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iv) Council will also consider applications from those specialists practicing independently in the speciality;

(v) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced.
29. NEUROLOGY

Criteria formulated by Association of Physicians of Malta

This 'grandfather clause' is being introduced for the purposes of the new Health Care Professions Act and the requirements thereof. It will address the requirements of those specialists in Medicine and its' subspecialities who do not currently hold an 'Exit diploma' in the speciality but are fully registered with the Maltese Medical Council. It is proposed that this exercise is of a transient and once-only nature.

Those eligible for specialist registration include:

(i) Those Consultants or Senior Registrars who at present hold a Government Appointment or who have held a Government appointment in the past with appropriate qualifications and /or training in that speciality will be included in the Specialist Register according to their letter of Appointment or Call for Applications in that speciality or sub-speciality;

(ii) any medical practitioner who was unable or who did not, for some reason or another enter a formal postgraduate training course, or complete a formal postgraduate training course, and who therefore does not possess the necessary 'Exit Diploma', shall be considered by the Council of the Association for the purpose of registration as a specialist in Medicine or one of its subspecialities. Those eligible for consideration under this section shall include any medical practitioner who has practiced in the speciality for at least twice the number of years of the duration of the defined postgraduate training course in the discipline. Those who fall short of the required period will be allowed to complete the required duration, whereupon they shall become eligible to apply for registration;
Neurology contd.

(iii) any medical practitioner who has worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least four years out of the last seven years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iv) Council will also consider applications from those specialists practicing independently in the speciality;

(v) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced.
30. NEUROSURGERY

Criteria formulated by Association of Surgeons of Malta

(i) All health care professionals who prior to the 21st November 2003 held an appointment with the Government at Consultant or Senior Registrar level in a Government hospital or clinic, in the relevant speciality may qualify as long as s/he has appropriate qualifications and experience in relevant speciality;

(iiia) For those applicants who have not applied for specialities according to their Letter of Appointment or Call for Applications, the applicant has to provide evidence that s/he has had appropriate qualifications and training in that speciality according to the criteria as set out by UEMS.

AND

(iiib) must be in possession of a post-graduate diploma in the specified speciality, FRCS or equivalent qualification recognized as such in the EU or a Post-Graduate diploma in the relevant speciality;

AND

(iic) must have worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least three years out of the last five years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iii) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced. If training is being carried out in a non-EU Country, training should be compatible to that of EU Standard.
31. NUCLEAR MEDICINE

Criteria formulated by SAC sub-committee

Criteria for entry into the specialist register under the acquired rights clause for the speciality of Nuclear Medicine:

1) All general criteria applicable to all specialities as approved by the SAC.

AND

2a) the completion of basic medical training (common trunk) as evidenced by attainment of the MRCP (UK), FRCR or MRCPaed or suitable post-graduate qualification and higher specialist training of at least 4 years full-time or part-time equivalent. Such higher training should consist of training in the respective speciality in a department and at a grade recognised for this purpose. Up to one year working in radiology will be recognised.

OR

2b) In possession of a recognised post-graduate qualification in the speciality such as a Masters degree plus eight years or pro-rata equivalent working as a specialist in nuclear medicine.

AND

3) All applicants should have practised in the speciality to a standard satisfactory to the SAC. The SAC may ask applicants for other information related to their application.
32. OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

Criteria adopted by Malta College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists

As advised by the MCOG in line with recommendations by the EBCOG and the UEMS, Medical Practitioners eligible for inclusion in the Maltese Specialist Register under the acquired rights clause must meet one of the following criteria:

(i) Medical Practitioners with a recognized postgraduate qualification in Obstetrics and Gynaecology such as the MRCOG or European equivalent, together with at least another 3 years full-time experience in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (or an equivalent time in part time post) in a supervised hospital training post after having obtained the said postgraduate qualification. The Malta College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists must recognize these posts in a rank and at a standard satisfactory to the College Council.

OR

(ii) Medical practitioners without a postgraduate qualification in Obstetrics and Gynaecology such as the M.R.C.O.G. or the European equivalent, but working in a recognized hospital post in Obstetrics and Gynaecology with at least 10 years experience in a regulated training programme in a teaching hospital deemed to be equivalent to a full training programme in Obstetrics and Gynaecology may be recommended for inclusion in the Maltese Specialist Register.

OR

(iii) Medical practitioners who have undergone 6 years of training under supervision and have obtained a postgraduate qualification in obstetrics and gynaecology obtained at any stage during the training period.

The Malta College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists will make recommendations to the SAC for entry to
the Maltese Specialist Register of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. A minimum of 5 members of the MCOG Council will constitute a quorum for the Adjudicating Sub-committee.
33. OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

Criteria formulated by SAC sub-committee

(SAC subcommittee established at SAC meeting of 27 April 2004)

Criteria applying to doctors who have received their warrant before 21st November 2003:

1) Postgraduate qualification in occupational medicine (certificate, diploma or degree) and post-graduate training in occupational medicine of a minimum of four years duration.

And / or

2) At least eight (8) years experience in the speciality (full-time or pro-rata equivalent. A minimum of 20 hours weekly is required). Experience claimed should be within the breadth of the speciality as described in UEMS Occupational Medicine Section and to a standard satisfactory to the SAC.

Or

3) For those who have not completed four years of training, a combination of training and experience will be accepted. In lieu of 1 year training, double the years of experience is required. Experience claimed should be within the breadth of the speciality and to a standard satisfactory to the SAC. Experience is full-time or pro-rata equivalent (20 hours a week minimum is required). The SAC may ask applicants for other information related to their application.
Criteria formulated by Malta Association of Ophthalmologists

Criteria applying to doctors who have received their warrant before 21st November 2003:

1. All general criteria applicable to all specialities as approved by the SAC.
   AND

2. Registration with the Medical Council of Malta.
   AND

3. In possession of a postgraduate degree or diploma in the speciality
   AND

   Evidence of completed specialist training / work in a recognised institution.

OR

4. In full time practice as specialists in Malta for a minimum duration of ten years.

All applicants should have practised in the speciality to a standard satisfactory to the SAC. The SAC may ask applicants for other information related to their application.
35. ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

Criteria formulated by The Association of Orthopaedic and Trauma surgeons.

(i) All health care professionals who prior to the 21st November 2003 held an appointment with the Government at Consultant or Senior Registrar level in a Government hospital or clinic, in the relevant speciality may qualify as long as s/he has appropriate qualifications and experience in relevant speciality;

(ii) For those applicants who have not applied for specialities according to their Letter of Appointment or Call for Applications, the applicant has to provide evidence that s/he has had appropriate qualifications and training in that speciality according to the criteria as set out by UEMS.

AND

(iiib) must be in possession of a post-graduate diploma in the specified speciality, FRCS or equivalent qualification recognized as such in the EU or a Post-Graduate diploma in the relevant speciality;

AND

(iic) must have worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least three years out of the last five years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iii) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced. If training is being carried out in a non-EU Country, training should be compatible to that of EU Standard.
36. OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY

Criteria formulated by Association of Surgeons of Malta

(i) All health care professionals who prior to the 21st November 2003 held an appointment with the Government at Consultant or Senior Registrar level in a Government hospital or clinic, in the relevant speciality may qualify as long as s/he has appropriate qualifications and experience in relevant speciality;

(ii) For those applicants who have not applied for specialities according to their Letter of Appointment or Call for Applications, the applicant has to provide evidence that s/he has had appropriate qualifications and training in that speciality according to the criteria as set out by UEMS.

AND

(iib) must be in possession of a post-graduate diploma in the specified speciality, FRCS or equivalent qualification recognized as such in the EU or a Post-Graduate diploma in the relevant speciality;

AND

(iic) must have worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least three years out of the last five years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iii) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced. If training is being carried out in a non-EU Country, training should be compatible to that of EU Standard.
37. PAEDIATRIC SURGERY

Criteria formulated by Association of Surgeons of Malta

(i) All health care professionals who prior to the 21st November 2003 held an appointment with the Government at Consultant or Senior Registrar level in a Government hospital or clinic, in the relevant speciality may qualify as long as s/he has appropriate qualifications and experience in relevant speciality;

(iiia) For those applicants who have not applied for specialities according to their Letter of Appointment or Call for Applications, the applicant has to provide evidence that s/he has had appropriate qualifications and training in that speciality according to the criteria as set out by UEMS.

AND

(iiib) must be in possession of a post-graduate diploma in the specified speciality, FRCS or equivalent qualification recognized as such in the EU or a Post-Graduate diploma in the relevant speciality;

AND

(iic) must have worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least three years out of the last five years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iii) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced. If training is being carried out in a non-EU Country, training should be compatible to that of EU Standard.
38. **PAEDIATRICS**

Criteria adopted by The Maltese Paediatric Association

"The Maltese Paediatric Association shall ordinarily recommend for inclusion in the Specialist Register of Paediatrics of Malta those medical practitioners:

i) who are registered with the Medical Council of Malta

AND

ii) who have attained the status of Registrar Grade or higher in the Department of Paediatrics of St. Luke's Hospital Malta and who have worked under supervision on a full-time basis in the said Department for a minimum of 6 years at Registrar grade or higher prior to the day in which the Health Care Professions Act came into force on the 21st November 2003.

OR

iii) who came in possession of the MRCP (UK)/ MRCPCH / EU equivalent degree in Paediatrics prior to the day in which the Health Care Professions Act came into force on the 21st November 2003 AND who have commenced their formal full-time training in the Department of Paediatrics of St. Luke's Hospital of Malta prior to the day in which the Health Care Professions Act came into force on the 21st November 2003 AND upon the completion of a minimum of 4 years formal full-time training in the Department of Paediatrics of St. Luke's Hospital of Malta i.e. the completion of a minimum of 4 years formal full-time training by no later than the 20th November 2007 (as per Article 53 Clause 4 of the HCPA 2003).

All applicants should have practiced in the speciality to a standard satisfactory to the SAC. The SAC may ask applicants for other information related to their application.
Palliative medicine is the speciality, which deals with patients with advanced, progressive and life-threatening illnesses. The aim of palliative medicine is to enhance patients' quality of life by good symptom management, psychological, social and spiritual care, as part of a multi-professional team.

Criteria for entry into the specialist register under the acquired rights clause for the specialities of Palliative Medicine:

1) All general criteria applicable to all specialities as approved by the SAC.

AND

2a) Having completed basic medical training (common trunk) as evidenced by attainment of the MRCP (UK) or other appropriate qualification and higher specialist training of at least 4 years full-time or part-time equivalent. Such higher training should consist of training in the respective speciality in a department and at a grade recognised for this purpose by the SAC.

OR

2b) In possession of an appropriate post-graduate qualification in the speciality plus six years or pro-rata equivalent working in the speciality in a department recognised by the SAC. Experience and training claimed from related specialities such as oncology may also be accepted up to a maximum of two years. Up to six months from each of the following specialities will also be accepted, up to a total of one year: anaesthesia, accident & emergency medicine, acute medicine and surgery or family medicine.
PALLIATIVE MEDICINE - contd.

or

2c) Those not in possession of a recognised post-graduate qualification may qualify if they have worked for a minimum of four years or pro-rata equivalent in that area. They should also have worked for four years in a supervised position in a recognised palliative care institution. Experience and training claimed from related specialities such as oncology may also be accepted up to a maximum of two years. Up to six months from each of the following specialities will also be accepted, up to a total of one year: anaesthesia, accident & emergency medicine, acute medicine and surgery or family medicine.

3) All applicants should have practised in the speciality to a standard satisfactory to the SAC. The Sub-committee may ask applicants for other information related to their application.
40. PLASTIC SURGERY

Criteria formulated by the Association of Surgeons of Malta

(i) All health care professionals who prior to the 21\textsuperscript{st} November 2003 held an appointment with the Government at Consultant or Senior Registrar level in a Government hospital or clinic, in the relevant speciality may qualify as long as s/he has appropriate qualifications and experience in relevant speciality;

(ii) For those applicants who have not applied for specialities according to their Letter of Appointment or Call for Applications, the applicant has to provide evidence that s/he has had appropriate qualifications and training in that speciality according to the criteria as set out by UEMS.

AND

(iib) must be in possession of a post-graduate diploma in the specified speciality, FRCS or equivalent qualification recognized as such in the EU or a Post-Graduate diploma in the relevant speciality;

AND

(iic) must have worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least three years out of the last five years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iii) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced. If training is being carried out in a non-EU Country, training should be compatible to that of EU Standard.
41. PSYCHIATRY

Criteria formulated by The Malta Association of Specialists in Psychiatry.

Criteria For entry to the specialist register under the acquired rights provision for psychiatry:

1) All general criteria applicable to all specialities as approved by the SAC.

2) Medical Practitioners with at least four years training in the psychiatric department of a recognised teaching hospital and who has the appropriate exit qualification.

OR

A medical practitioner who has worked for at least eight years (full time or pro-rata equivalent) in the breadth of the speciality to a standard that satisfies the SAC on the recommendation of the MASP.

The SAC may ask applicants for other information related to their application.
42. PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICINE

Criteria formulated by Malta Association of Public Health Medicine.

Criteria for Specialist Registration in Public Health:

(1) Applicants must be in possession of an MSc degree in public health or equivalent (DPH prior to 1985);

AND

must have practised in public health medicine for a minimum of four years full-time or pro-rata equivalent;

OR

(2) Applicants must have worked in the full breadth of the speciality for a minimum of eight years to a standard satisfactory to the SAC on the recommendation of MAPHM.
Criteria formulated by SAC subcommittee

Criteria for entry to the specialist register under the acquired rights clause for oncology and radiotherapy:

1) all general criteria applicable to all specialities as approved by the SAC

and

2) postgraduate qualification in oncology and radiotherapy e.g. FRCR or EU equivalent.

And

3a) postgraduate supervised training in oncology and radiotherapy of a minimum of four years duration whole time or part-time equivalent.

Or

3b) in possession of a post-graduate qualification in oncology and radiotherapy e.g. FRCR or EU equivalent, and has been working in the area of specialization for at least twice the difference between the minimum duration of training required and the actual training period undertaken. Experience claimed should be within the breadth of the speciality and to a standard satisfactory to the SAC.

The SAC may ask applicants for other information related to their application.
44. REHABILITATION MEDICINE

Criteria formulated by SAC sub-committee

Criteria for entry to the specialist register under the acquired rights clause for rehabilitation medicine:

1) All general criteria applicable to all specialities as approved by the SAC.

AND

2) Postgraduate qualification in rehabilitation medicine

AND

3) Post-graduate supervised training in Rehabilitation medicine of a minimum of four years duration whole time or part-time equivalent. This can include periods of rotation in the orthopaedic department, surgery, general medicine, geriatric medicine, rheumatology and neurology up to a total of one year.

OR

At least eight years experience in the speciality. Experience claimed should be within the breadth of the speciality and to a standard satisfactory to the SAC.

OR

For those who have not completed four years of training, a combination of training and experience will be accepted. In lieu of 1 year training, double the years of experience is required. Experience claimed should be within the breadth of the speciality.

The SAC may ask applicants for other information related to their application.
45. RESPIRATORY MEDICINE

Criteria formulated by Association of Physicians of Malta.

This 'grandfather clause' is being introduced for the purposes of the new Health Care Professions Act and the requirements thereof. It will address the requirements of those specialists in Medicine and its' subspecialities who do not currently hold an 'Exit diploma' in the speciality but are fully registered with the Malta Medical Council. It is proposed that this exercise is of a transient and once-only nature.

Those eligible for specialist registration include:

(i) Those Consultants or Senior Registrars who at present hold a Government Appointment or who have held a Government appointment in the past with appropriate qualifications and /or training in that speciality will be included in the Specialist Register according to their letter of Appointment or Call for Applications in that speciality or sub-speciality;

(ii) any medical practitioner who was unable or who did not, for some reason or another enter a formal postgraduate training course, or complete a formal postgraduate training course, and who therefore does not possess the necessary 'Exit Diploma', shall be considered by the Council of the Association for the purpose of registration as a specialist in Medicine or one of its subspecialities. Those eligible for consideration under this section shall include any medical practitioner who has practiced in the speciality for at least twice the number of years of the duration of the defined postgraduate training course in the discipline. Those who fall short of the required period will be allowed to complete the required duration, whereupon they shall become eligible to apply for registration;
(iv) any medical practitioner who has worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least four years out of the last seven years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(v) Council will also consider applications from those specialists practicing independently in the speciality;

(vi) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced.
46. RHEUMATOLOGY

Criteria formulated by Association of Physicians of Malta.

This 'grandfather clause' is being introduced for the purposes of the new Health Care Professions Act and the requirements thereof. It will address the requirements of those specialists in Medicine and its' subspecialities who do not currently hold an 'Exit diploma' in the speciality but are fully registered with the Maltese Medical Council. It is proposed that this exercise is of a transient and once-only nature.

Those eligible for specialist registration include:

(i) Those Consultants or Senior Registrars who at present hold a Government Appointment or who have held a Government appointment in the past with appropriate qualifications and /or training in that speciality will be included in the Specialist Register according to their letter of Appointment or Call for Applications in that speciality or subspeciality;

(ii) any medical practitioner who was unable or who did not, for some reason or another enter a formal postgraduate training course, or complete a formal postgraduate training course, and who therefore does not possess the necessary 'Exit Diploma', shall be considered by the Council of the Association for the purpose of registration as a specialist in Medicine or one of its subspecialities. Those eligible for consideration under this section shall include any medical practitioner who has practiced in the speciality for at least twice the number of years of the duration of the defined postgraduate training course in the discipline. Those who fall short of the required period will be allowed to complete the required duration, whereupon they shall become eligible to apply for registration;
(iv) any medical practitioner who has worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least four years out of the last seven years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(v) Council will also consider applications from those specialists practicing independently in the speciality;

(vi) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced.
47. UROLOGY

Criteria formulated by Association of Surgeons

(i) All health care professionals who prior to the 21st November 2003 held an appointment with the Government at Consultant or Senior Registrar level in a Government hospital or clinic, in the relevant speciality may qualify as long as s/he has appropriate qualifications and experience in relevant speciality;

(ii) For those applicants who have not applied for specialities according to their Letter of Appointment or Call for Applications, the applicant has to provide evidence that s/he has had appropriate qualifications and training in that speciality according to the criteria as set out by UEMS.

AND

(iib) must be in possession of a post-graduate diploma in the specified speciality, FRCS or equivalent qualification recognized as such in the EU or a Post-Graduate diploma in the relevant speciality;

AND

(iic) must have worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least three years out of the last five years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iii) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced. If training is being carried out in a non-EU Country, training should be compatible to that of EU Standard.
48. VASCULAR SURGERY

Criteria formulated by Association of Surgeons of Malta.

(i) All health care professionals who prior to the 21st November 2003 held an appointment with the Government at Consultant or Senior Registrar level in a Government hospital or clinic, in the relevant speciality may qualify as long as s/he has appropriate qualifications and experience in relevant speciality;

(iia) For those applicants who have not applied for specialities according to their Letter of Appointment or Call for Applications, the applicant has to provide evidence that s/he has had appropriate qualifications and training in that speciality according to the criteria as set out by UEMS.

AND

(iiib) must be in possession of a post-graduate diploma in the specified speciality, FRCS or equivalent qualification recognized as such in the EU or a Post-Graduate diploma in the relevant speciality;

AND

(iic) must have worked after obtaining the post-graduate higher qualification for at least three years out of the last five years full-time or pro-rata equivalent in a post recognized by the Association in a position and at a standard satisfactory to the Association Council;

(iii) If training was carried out or is being carried out in a country where at the time certification was enforced, such certificates where training is being / was performed by the competent recognized authority where the training was performed, must be produced. If training is being carried out in a non-EU Country, training should be compatible to that of EU Standard.
49. VIROLOGY

Criteria formulated by Malta College of Pathologists.

Applicants must:

(i) have a First Degree in Medicine;

AND

(ii) hold full registration with the Medical Council of Malta; and

AND

(xiv) be in possession of a postgraduate qualification, accepted by the College in any of the specialities of pathology or any of its subspecialities;

OR

(xv) be in possession of a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training by the competent authority in any EU member State or a Certificate from a State outside the EU, deemed by the College as being of an equivalent standard;

OR

(v) have been employed as a Consultant or Senior Registrar by the Department of Health within the speciality or subspeciality of Pathology, prior to 21st November 2003;

OR

(vi) a minimum of 8 yrs (full time or pro rata) working in a speciality or subspeciality of pathology to a standard that satisfies the Specialist Accreditation Committee on the recommendation of the MCP.
50. BAROMEDICINE

Criteria formulated by Association of Public Health Medicine

Specialist Registration Criteria (acquired rights) for Baromedicine

1a. Applicants must be in possession of a Postgraduate Degree or Diploma in Baromedicine and active training in Baromedicine which jointly encompass a minimum of **four** years

OR

1b. Applicants must be in possession of a Postgraduate degree preferably in Internal Medicine, Critical Care, Anesthesiology, Occupational Medicine or equivalent degree and have documented evidence of experience and training in intensive care in the hyperbaric environment and documented experience and training in both the Diving and the Hyperbaric fields of Baromedicine

AND

Have been continuously active in the clinical and/or research areas of Baromedicine on a full-time (or pro-rata equivalent) for **five** years.

OR

1c. Applicants must have worked in the full breadth of the speciality for a minimum of **eight** years up to a standard satisfactory to the SAC on the recommendation of MAPHM