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**A GUIDE TO THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND REGISTRATION RULES
FOR REGISTRATION IN THE
REGISTER OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN THE:**

- **TRAINEE SPECIALIST DIVISION (interns and postgraduate trainees)**
- **SPECIALIST DIVISION (completed recognised specialist training)**
- **GENERAL DIVISION (all other eligible medical practitioners)**

(Excludes Visiting EEA Practitioners Division – see separate Guide and Declaration Form)

**THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
MEDICAL COUNCIL REGISTRATION RULES 2010
ADDITIONAL GUIDES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR
THE PRE-REGISTRATION EXAMINATION SYSTEM (PRES) AND
THE REVIEW PROCEDURE FOR REFUSED APPLICANTS**

**THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS
TO CLARIFY THE STRUCTURE OF THE REGISTER OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND
EXPLAIN HOW A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER MAY APPLY FOR REGISTRATION AND
COMPLY WITH THE RULES AND SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AND
RETAIN THEIR NAME ON THE REGISTER OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS**

VERSION 12.0 - EFFECTIVE: November 2014

*THIS GUIDE WAS LAST UPDATED IN November 2014
PLEASE ENSURE YOU READ THE MOST UP-TO-DATE GUIDE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE*



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TSD = Trainee Specialist Division; GD = General Division; SpD = Specialist Division

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TSD = Trainee Specialist Division; GD = General Division; SpD = Specialist Division

THE REGISTER

This section contains information about:

1. Relevant legislation / why a medical practitioner is obliged to be registered
2. The structure of the Register
3. Eligibility for registration

1. RELEVANT LEGISLATION / WHY REGISTER?

1.1 Legal Obligations

The Medical Council and medical practitioners are legally bound by the provisions of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 and must comply with the Act. Part 6 of the Act provides for the registration of medical practitioners. The Medical Council is obliged to register eligible medical practitioners in the appropriate Division of the Register, on fulfilling the application requirements. All medical practitioners are obliged to be registered appropriately at all times when they practise medicine in this jurisdiction and to comply with other requirements under the Act.

1.2 Understanding the Legislation

All applicants/registrants should be aware of the legislation pertaining to registration. The legal “jargon” contained in the Act and the Registration Rules can be confusing for anyone who is not familiar with the Act or with legislation in general. In this Guide, the Medical Council has tried to interpret the Act in plain English while making references to the Act in footnotes at the bottom of each page, so that the rules and guidelines can be easily traced back to the Act, when necessary. It is important to note that, in the case of a dispute or discrepancy, the provisions of the Act or other relevant legislation take precedence over any interpretation made in this Guide.

1.3 Legislation

The [Medical Practitioners Act 2007](#) and the [Health \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 2007](#) (“**the Act**”) replaced the [Medical Practitioners Acts 1978-2002](#). Part 6 of the Act, which commenced in March 2009, deals with registration matters and also gives effect to EU Directives [2005/36/EC](#) and [2006/100/EC](#) on the recognition of professional qualifications, as amended (“**the Directive**”). The Council has made the current [Registration Rules](#) (“**the Rules**”) under section 11 of the Act. Many terms used in the Rules and in this document, for example “the State”, “member state”, “third country” and “competent authority”, is defined in section 2 of the Act and/or in the Directive.

1.4 Why should a medical practitioner be registered?

If a medical practitioner wishes to practise medicine in Ireland, they are required by law to be registered with the Medical Council. It is an indictable offence for a medical practitioner to practise medicine within the State, or to advertise their services, while unregistered, with the exception of visiting EEA practitioners attending in an emergency. Each medical practitioner is responsible for ensuring that their registration is current and appropriate for their individual circumstances and failure to do so could result in criminal proceedings being made against them.¹

¹ See sections 37, 38 and 41 of the Act for further details.

1.5 Unregistered medical practitioners

Any application for registration following a period of unregistered practise may be suspended or refused, pending or based on the decision of the Medical Council's Standards in Practice Committee (which is authorised to make decisions on non-standard applications for registration in the first instance), or other authorised person(s). An Garda Síochána (Ireland's National Police Service) will normally be informed of any unregistered medical practitioner who, to the Medical Council's knowledge, has practised medicine while unregistered.

2 THE REGISTER OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

2.1 Structure of the Register of Medical Practitioners ("the Register")

The Register of Medical Practitioners was established in March 2009² and replaced the General Register of Medical Practitioners and the Register of Medical Specialists³. The Register comprises **four Divisions**. A medical practitioner can only be registered in one Division at a time, except when a specialist is training in another specialty, for example, a medical practitioner could be registered in the Specialist Division in the specialty of General (Internal) Medicine but is also registered in the Trainee Specialist Division while training in the specialty of Gastroenterology.

Trainee Specialist Division:

Internship Registration is specifically for medical practitioners intending to practise in individually numbered, identifiable intern training posts, so that they may complete their internship training in Ireland and be awarded a Certificate of Experience⁴.

Graduates of most Irish/EU medical schools are entitled to internship registration. Each year, the Medical Council writes to students of each medical school in Ireland in the final year of their studies, informing them of the registration process. It is the responsibility of each graduate to submit a complete application for internship registration (see the "DOCUMENTATION" section of this Guide on page 15).

Trainee Specialist Registration is specifically for medical practitioners who practise in individually numbered, identifiable postgraduate training posts which are recognised by the Medical Council for training, while they are completing all or part of their medical specialist training in Ireland. Ideally, registrants will remain registered in the Trainee Specialist Division until they have completed their specialist training and are registered in the Specialist Division.⁵

Registrants will normally be registered on a training programme approved by the Medical Council for the purposes of medical specialist training. Training normally takes place in a hospital, health institution, clinic, general medical practice or other health service setting approved by the Council.⁶ NOTE: All applicants for trainee specialist registration must have been awarded a document which is at least the equivalent of a Certificate of Experience (Internship Certificate) AND pass or be exempted from the PRES. This is different to the eligibility requirements for general registration.

² The new Register of Medical Practitioners was established under section 43 of the Act

³ The previous General Register of Medical Practitioners and Register of Medical Specialists were established under the Medical Practitioners Act 1978

⁴ See "Recognised Intern Training in Ireland", the Registration Rules and section 49 of the Act for further details.

⁵ See "Recognised Postgraduate Training in Ireland/Trainee Specialist Registration", the Registration Rules and section 48 of the Act.

⁶ See sections 88(4) and 89(3) of the Act.

Specialist Division:

Specialist Registration is specifically for medical practitioners who have completed specialist training recognised by the Medical Council and can practise independently (unsupervised) as a specialist. They are not limited to practising only in that specialty.⁷

Specialist registration or eligibility for specialist registration is a Health Services Executive requirement for medical practitioners who wish to apply for consultant, temporary consultant or locum consultant posts of any duration.

General Division:

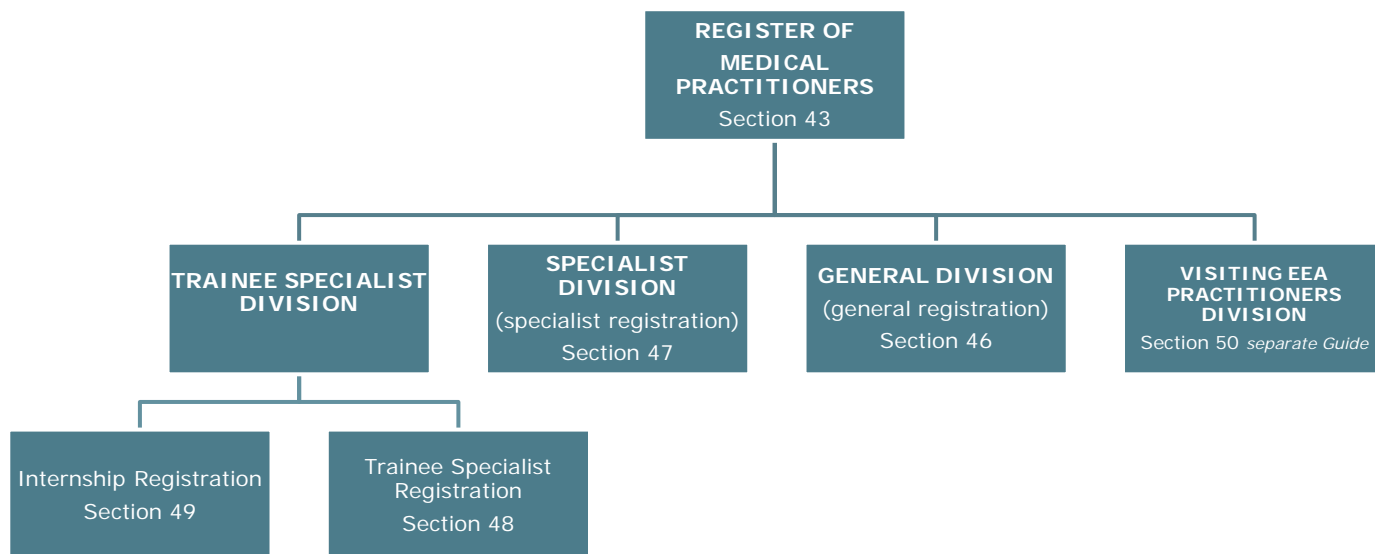
General Registration is the only form of registration available for medical practitioners who have not completed their specialist training and do not practise in individually numbered, identifiable postgraduate training posts.

Medical practitioners registered in the General Division may practise independently without supervision, but must not falsely represent themselves as being a registered specialist.⁸ NOTE: All applicants for general registration must either have a recognised basic medical degree from an Irish/EU/EEA/Swiss medical school OR have been awarded a document which is considered to be at least the equivalent of a Certificate of Experience (Internship Certificate) OR pass or be exempted from the PRES. This is different to the eligibility requirements for trainee specialist registration.

Visiting EEA Practitioners Division:

Visiting EEA Registration is only available to eligible EU/EEA/Swiss citizens who are fully established (hold "full registration" or equivalent) in another EU/EEA member state or in Switzerland and wish to practise medicine in Ireland on a temporary and/or occasional basis.⁹

Figure 1: Structure of the Register of Medical Practitioners



⁷ See "Recognised Specialist Training and Experience/Specialist Registration", the Registration Rules and section 47 of the Act.

⁸ See "General Division" below and the Registration Rules and section 46 of the Act.

⁹ See separate document: "A Guide to Visiting EEA registration" and section 50 of the Act.

3. ELIGIBILITY – WHICH DIVISION?

3.1 The Act and the Registration Rules outline the criteria for registration in each Division of the Register. Further details are also available from:

- the **eligibility maps** provided at [Appendix A of this document](#); and
- **Categories of Applicant** outlined below; and
- A helpful tool to determine eligibility can also be used on the Medical Council's website: <http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Registration/What-division-am-I-eligible-to-be-registered-in-/>

Each medical practitioner should first establish which Division of the Register they are eligible to apply for. Eligibility will be determined by the Medical Council on assessment of each application submitted, following which the applicant will be informed if they are eligible and, if so, in which Division of the Register.

3.2 Categories of Applicant

3.2.1 Trainee Specialist Division

Internship registration may only be granted to a medical practitioner who has completed successfully a course of study in the State or a Member State resulting in the award of a basic medical qualification¹⁰ and who intends to practise in an individually numbered, identifiable intern training post which has been approved by the Council for the purpose of intern training.

Trainee specialist registration may only be granted to a medical practitioner who has established an entitlement to recognition of their professional qualifications under the Act and/or EU Directive 2005/36/EC by meeting the criteria under categories Trainee 1 or Trainee 2; **or** meets the criteria under categories Trainee 3 or Trainee 4 overleaf.

Category	Who is eligible?
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Trainee 1:	Graduates of Irish medical schools approved by the Medical Council ¹¹ who have completed satisfactorily internship training in accordance with Medical Council policy on internship training and been awarded a certificate of experience. ¹²
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Trainee 2:	<p>EU/EEA/Swiss Nationals who do not meet the eligibility requirements for category Trainee 1 above and who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have been awarded a formal qualification in basic medical training recognised by the Medical Council under EU Directive 2005/36/EC and possess the required accompanying certificate (if any) listed in the aforementioned EU Directive 2005/36/EC as a requirement for formal qualification within the meaning of the Directive; or• possess a Certificate of Acquired Rights; or• graduates of medical schools who are entitled to recognition of their qualifications under the general system for recognition of evidence of training in the Directive; <p>and have completed satisfactorily internship training in accordance with Medical Council policy and been awarded a document which, in the opinion of the Council, is at least the equivalent of a certificate of experience.¹³</p>
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¹⁰ See section 2 of the Act for the definition of a basic medical qualification

¹¹ Medical schools within the State are approved under section 88(2)(a)(i) of the Act

¹² See section 48(1) of the Act

¹³ See section 48(2) of the Act

- Trainee 3:** Nationals of a Third Country (non-EU/EEA/Swiss) who:
- have been awarded a formal qualification in basic medical training that would be recognised by the Medical Council under EU Directive 2005/36/EC if they were an EU/EEA/Swiss national and possess the required accompanying certificate (if any) referred to in the Directive as a requirement for formal qualification within the meaning of the Directive; **or**
 - possess a Certificate of Acquired Rights; **and** have completed satisfactorily internship training in accordance with Medical Council policy and been awarded a document which, in the opinion of the Council, is at least the equivalent of a certificate of experience.¹⁴
- Trainee 4:** Medical practitioners not listed in any of the above categories who have completed satisfactorily internship training in accordance with Medical Council policy **and** been awarded a certificate of experience or equivalent **and** who either pass or are exempt from the Pre-Registration Examination System ("PRES")¹⁵.

3.2.2 General Division

General Registration may only be granted to a medical practitioner who has established an entitlement to recognition of their professional qualifications under the Act or EU Directive 2005/36/EC by meeting the criteria under categories General 1 or General 2 **or** meets the criteria under categories General 3 or General 4 overleaf:

Category	Who is eligible?
General 1:	Graduates of Irish medical schools approved by the Medical Council ¹⁶ who have completed satisfactorily internship training in accordance with Medical Council policy on internship training and been awarded a certificate of experience. ¹⁷
General 2:	EU/EEA/Swiss Nationals who do not meet the eligibility requirements for category General 1 above and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have been awarded a formal qualification in basic medical training recognised by the Medical Council under EU Directive 2005/36/EC and possess the required accompanying certificate (if any) listed in the aforementioned EU Directive 2005/36/EC as a requirement for formal qualification within the meaning of the Directive; or • possess a Certificate of Acquired Rights; or graduates of medical schools who are entitled to have their qualifications assessed under the general system for the recognition of evidence of training under the Directive.¹⁸
General 3:	Nationals of a Third Country (non-EU) who have been awarded a formal qualification in basic medical training that would be recognised by the Medical Council under the above Directive if they were an EU/EEA/Swiss national and possess the required accompanying certificate (if any) referred to in the Directive as a requirement for formal qualification within the

¹⁴ See section 48(3)(a)(ii) of the Act

¹⁵ See section 48(3)+(4) of the Act

¹⁶ Medical schools within the State are approved under section 88(2)(a)(i) of the Act

¹⁷ See section 46(b)(ii) of the Act

¹⁸ See section 46(b)(iii) of the Act

meaning of the Directive **or** possess a Certificate of Acquired Rights.¹⁹

- General 4:** Medical practitioners not listed in any of the above categories who have:
- completed satisfactorily internship training in accordance with Medical Council policy²⁰ and been awarded a certificate of experience or equivalent²¹; **or**
 - have passed or are exempt from the Pre-Registration Examination System ("PRES")²².

3.2.3 Specialist Division

Specialist registration may only be granted to a medical practitioner who is entitled to recognition of their specialist training under the Act or EU Directive 2005/36/EC by meeting the criteria under categories A to D; **or** by meeting the criteria under category Specialist E below:

Category	Who is eligible?
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Specialist A:	Graduates of higher specialist training programmes supervised by postgraduate training bodies recognised by the Medical Council ("recognised postgraduate training body/ies") ²³ who have completed satisfactorily higher specialist training and been awarded a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training ("CSCST") by that training body ²⁴ .
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Specialist B:	Graduates of higher specialist training programmes supervised by postgraduate training bodies in Member States who have been awarded a Certificate of Specialist Training which meets the requirements of EU Directive 2005/36/EC ²⁵ .
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Specialist C:	Graduates of higher specialist training programmes in Member States who have been awarded a Certificate of Acquired Rights in specialised medicine which meets the requirements of EU Directive 2005/36/EC ²⁶ .
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Specialist D:	Graduates of higher specialist training programmes completed in a Third Country who have been awarded a Certificate of Specialist Training / Acquired Rights and/or are established and recognised as a specialist by the competent authority of a Member State and have the same rights as specialists who have trained in that member state under EU Directive 2005/36/EC and have lawfully practised medicine for at least the required period specified in the Directive. In any case, Article 3(3) of EU Directive 2005/36/EC will apply ²⁷ .
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Specialist E:	Medical practitioners who do not meet any of the above criteria but whose specialist training and experience is assessed by the Medical Council and deemed to be equivalent for the purposes of specialist registration. ²⁸
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¹⁹ See section 48(b)(ii) of the Act

²⁰ See paragraph 12 – Recognised intern training in Ireland and equivalence / Internship registration

²¹ See section 46(b)(iv) of the Act

²² See section 46(b)(i) + (ii) of the Act

²³ Postgraduate training bodies in Ireland are recognised by the Medical Council under section 89(3)(a)(ii) of the Act

²⁴ See section 47(1)(b) of the Act

²⁵ See section 47(1)(c) of the Act

²⁶ See section 47(1)(d) of the Act

²⁷ See section 47(1)(e) of the Act

²⁸ Applicants must meet the criteria under section 47(1)(a) and 47(1)(f) of the Act

APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION

This section contains information about:

- 4 The application process
- 5 The assessment process
- 6 The decision-making process

4. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

4.1 The application process works as follows:

1. Find out if you are eligible to be registered in Ireland and, if so, in **which Division of the Register**. There is a helpful tool for doing this on our website at: <http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Registration/What-division-am-I-eligible-to-be-registered-in/>

Eligibility is based on your stage of medical education and training – you can broadly identify which Division is appropriate for you from the table below:

✓ Recently completed a basic (primary) medical qualification within the EU/EEA and are about to commence internship training	→	Internship registration in the Trainee Specialist Division
✓ Have a recognised primary/basic medical qualification; and ✓ completed internship training/equivalent; <u>and</u> ✓ passed/exempt from the PRES; and ✓ registered on a recognised postgraduate training programme with an approved Irish postgraduate training body and practise in recognised training posts	→	Trainee specialist registration in the Trainee Specialist Division
✓ Have completed specialist medical training (subject to recognition of that training by the Medical Council)	→	Specialist Division
✓ Have a recognised primary/basic medical qualification; <u>and</u> ✓ Completed internship training/equivalent <u>or</u> passed/exempt from the PRES; <u>and</u> ✓ Do not fit any of the above circumstances	→	General Division

The above is a broad outline, but the various categories of eligibility for each Division are based mainly on legislation and rules and further details are contained within this document.

2. Complete the relevant **Application Form**. You will only be required to complete the sections of the form which are relevant to the Division of the Register appropriate for your personal circumstances, as indicated on the form.

3. Gather together all required **documentation**, passport-sized **photo(s)** and **application fee** for your application, as outlined on the application form. Where **notarised/attested** copy documents are required, bring all originals with an exact photocopy of the original to an appropriate person to have the photocopy notarised or attested. [See paragraph 9.1.]
4. Submit your complete application with all required documentation and fees by **post** to the Medical Council in the required format.
5. Request all relevant competent authorities (registration/regulatory bodies) with whom you have been registered in the past five years to provide a **Certificate of Good Standing / Certificate of Current Professional Status** directly to the Medical Council. [You are required to provide this certificate even if you have not worked there in the past five years, or never.]
6. On receipt of your application, it will be **acknowledged** by email and you will be issued with an application **reference number** which should be quoted in all future transactions with the Medical Council. [If you are granted registration, this will eventually become your registration number.] Please allow a reasonable time for your application to reach the Medical Council by post before receiving an acknowledgement.
7. Your application will be **assessed** and your documentation may be **verified** directly with other bodies/institutions, e.g. medical school/university, competent authority, referees, etc. You will normally be informed promptly if there are any **outstanding documents** which you are required to submit.
8. Once the Medical Council is satisfied that all required documentation has been received and it has verified the documentation, a **decision** will be made on your application.
9. If you are required to pass the **Pre-Registration Examination System** ("PRES"), you will be informed how to enrol for the examination.
10. If the Medical Council decides you are eligible for registration, you will be informed of the **Division** in which you may be registered and requested to pay the **registration fee**, if not already submitted with your application.
11. When you have paid the registration fee, you will be **registered** and issued with a **Certificate of Registration**, which will expire at the end of the current registration year. You should read your Certificate and inform the Medical Council immediately if it contains any errors or omissions. Always store your Certificate in a safe place. You will be required to produce your Certificate to your employer and you are legally obliged to **display** it at your principal place of medical practice while registered. You are also legally obliged to include your **registration number on all medical documents**, prescriptions, reports and clinical records.

5. THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

5.1 Assessment Levels 1-5

There are five different levels to the application process. The levels a medical practitioner is required to complete will depend on which Division of the Register they are applying for and whether or not they are exempt from that Level (see Table 1):

ALL APPLICANTS

LEVEL 1 – submission of an application form, fee and required documentation for assessment and verification by the Medical Council. This level applies to **all applicants** for registration.

AND

PRES APPLICANTS ONLY

LEVEL 2* – currently in the form of a Multiple Choice Questions (“MCQ”) examination which examines the candidate’s factual knowledge in the main clinical disciplines. This level applies to certain applicants for **trainee specialist registration and general registration only**.*

PRES APPLICANTS ONLY

LEVEL 3* – currently in the form of an examination of the candidate’s clinical skills. This level applies to certain applicants for **trainee specialist registration and general registration only**.²⁹

NOTE: Applicants who are not required to pass the PRES prior to being registered in the General Division may be required to pass the PRES if they wish to be registered in the Trainee Specialist Division.

TRAINEE SPECIALIST OR GENERAL DIVISION APPLICANTS ONLY

LEVEL 4 – an evaluation of the applicant’s internship training to establish whether or not they have been granted a document which is considered to be at least the equivalent of a Certificate of Experience (Internship Certificate). This level applies only to applicants for **trainee specialist registration** who were granted general registration on or after 1st January 2011 and who have not yet provided this evidence³⁰ or applicants for **general registration** who wish to be exempt from the PRES under section 46(b)(iv) of the Act on this basis.

SPECIALIST DIVISION APPLICANTS ONLY

LEVEL 5 – an assessment of the applicant’s postgraduate education, training, qualifications and experience to establish the applicant’s eligibility for specialist registration. This level applies to applicants for **specialist registration only**.³¹

5.2 Duration of the Application/Assessment Process

Applications are processed as promptly as possible once the applicant has strictly adhered to the application requirements and submitted a complete application. Medical practitioners must not commence medical practice within the State unless and until they are registered in the appropriate division.

²⁹ See paragraph 15 of this Guide – “Pre-Registration Examination System”

³⁰ In accordance with section 48 of the Act, Applicants must have been awarded a Certificate of Experience/ Internship Certificate or equivalent document, in order to be eligible for trainee specialist registration.

³¹ See “Recognised Specialist Training and/or Experience / Specialist Registration”

Table 1: Summary of the Application Process	Trainee Specialist Division	General Division	Specialist Division
Establish which division you are eligible to apply for (see Appendix A)	•	•	•
Read the Registration Rules and the Guide	•	•	•
Complete the appropriate application form; submit application with <u>all</u> the required documentation in the specified format.	•	•	•
LEVEL 1 Document examination for all applicants	•	•	•
LEVEL 2* Currently MCQ (where applicable)	•	•	
LEVEL 3* Currently OSCE (where applicable)	•	•	
LEVEL 4 Evaluation of internship (where applicable)	•	•	
LEVEL 5° Assessment of postgraduate education, training, qualifications and experience			•

* See paragraph 15 of this Guide – “[Pre-Registration Examination System](#)”

° See section 14 of this Guide – “[Recognised Specialist Training and Experience/Specialist Registration](#)”

6. THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

6.1 The Decision-Making Process

The decision-making process is outlined overleaf. All standard applications are processed by Medical Council staff. Non-standard issues/applications are referred to the Council's Registration Working Group for a recommendation to the Council's Standards in Practice Committee. The Working Group considers the application in detail and makes a recommendation to the Committee. The Committee is authorised by the Council to make decisions in the first instance.

6.2 Refusing Registration – Your Rights

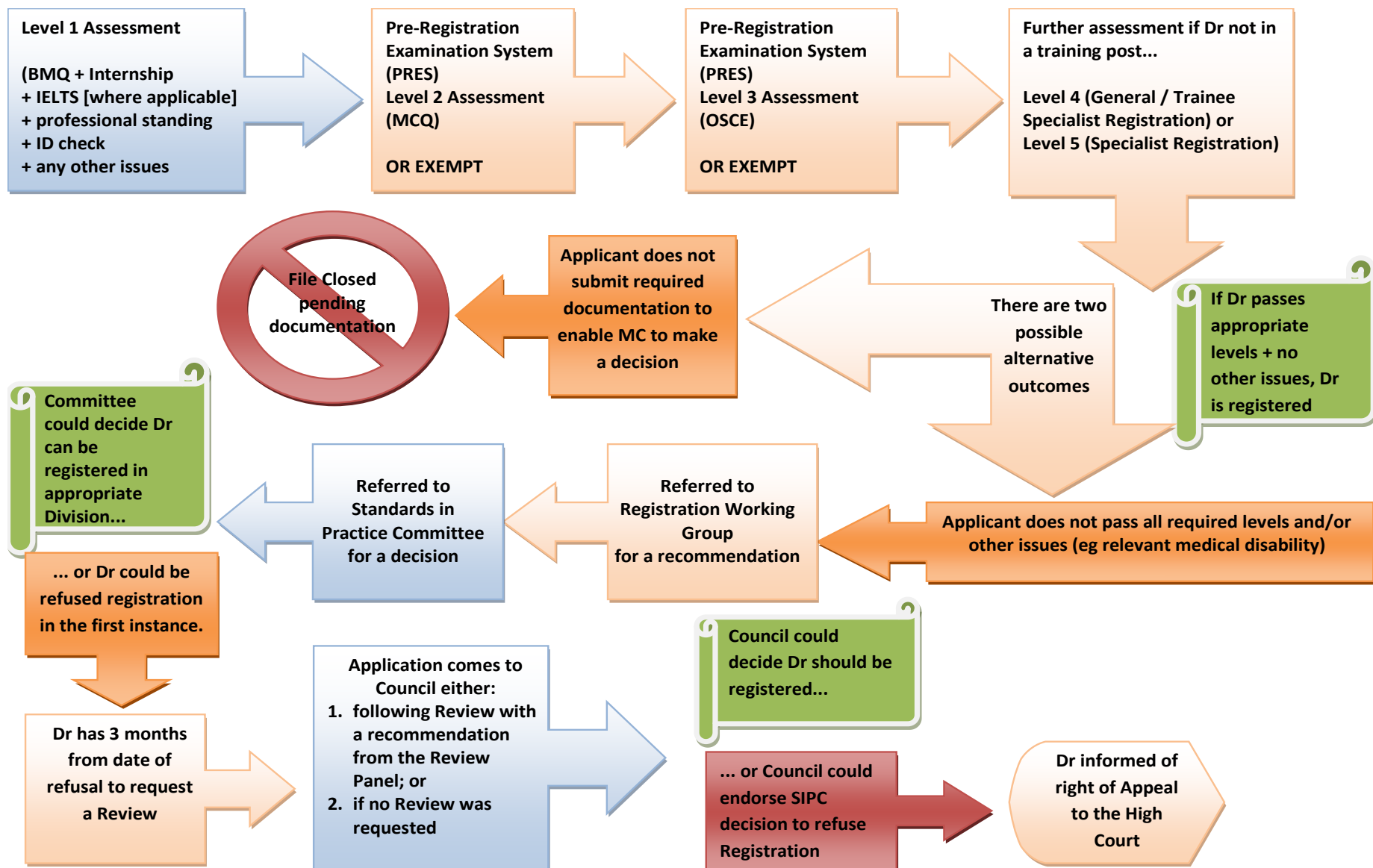
If an applicant is refused registration in the first instance by the Standards in Practice Committee, they may, within three months of the date of the decision, request in writing that the decision be reviewed prior to a final decision being made on their application by Council.³² The Council makes a final decision on the application, either following a requested review, or on expiry of the window within which the applicant is allowed to request a review. If, following review, the Medical Council decides to endorse the original decision to refuse the applicant registration, the applicant may appeal to the Courts against the decision³³.

6.3 Invalid Applications

Failure to comply with the Medical Council's registration requirements will preclude the granting of registration. Applicants who fail to submit a complete application for registration within a reasonable time period will be declared **invalid** and are not considered to have been refused registration in the first instance. The review process does not apply in such circumstances, as they may re-submit an application for registration at any time.

³² See *A Guide to the Review Procedure*.

³³ See Section 54 of the Act



DOCUMENTATION

This section contains information about:

7. Documentation required to apply
8. Application forms for different types of application
9. Required format of supporting documentation
10. Fees

7. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED TO APPLY

7.1 When making an application for registration a medical practitioner is required to provide the following documentation:

- completed application form, as specified by the Medical Council (see below);
- notarised/attested evidence of identification as specified by the Medical Council (see below);
- original Certificate of Current Professional Status/Good Standing, dated within the last three months, to be sent directly from all relevant competent authorities with whom the applicant has been registered within the last five years;
- notarised/attested copy basic medical qualification;
- notarised/attested copy Certificate of Experience (Internship) or equivalent if the applicant is applying for general or trainee specialist registration and did not graduate from an Irish/EU medical school;
- notarised/attested copy relevant certificate(s) confirming the applicant's higher specialist qualification, if appropriate;
- any other documentation deemed by the Medical Council to be appropriate in the circumstances.

The Medical Council reserves the right to seek further information or documentation from an applicant or make any enquiry/ies with anybody/ies or person(s) in pursuance of an application for registration.

7.2 Specialist Registration

Medical Practitioners who wish to apply for specialist registration are required to submit the relevant documentation listed at [Appendix G](#). Medical practitioners reapplying, having previously applied for specialist registration should submit a complete application, as their previous application may be out of date and/or archived.

8. APPLICATION FORMS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF APPLICATION

8.1 Medical practitioners applying for registration for the **first time after 16th March 2009** should complete the **Generic Application Form** UNLESS they are applying for specialist registration, in which case they should complete the **Specialist Application Form**.

8.2 Applicants for internship registration should complete the Application **Form IR**.

8.3 Applicants applying to **transfer** to the Specialist Division should complete the **Specialist Application Form**, although they are not required to re-submit all documentation already provided as a first-time applicant for registration.

8.4 Applicants applying to **restore** their name to the Register having **voluntarily withdrawn or been removed from the Register for failure to pay fees on or after 16th March 2009** should complete the **RestoreApp Form**. They are not required to re-submit copies of their basic (primary) degree and other qualifications. For example, a medical practitioner applying to restore their name to the Register would not normally be required to re-submit their basic medical qualification and internship certificate. If they have completed specialist

training since last registered, they could apply for specialist registration once their name has been restored to the Register.

- 8.5 Applicants should follow the instructions on the relevant form. Each section of the form should be completed unless instructed not to do so by virtue of the type of registration the applicant is applying for. Applicants should ensure that they:
- write legibly,
 - affix a recent passport-sized colour photograph to their application form,
 - personally sign and date the Declaration, and
 - submit all required documentation in the exact format specified on the application form.

Failure to provide all documentation in the required format will result in a delay in processing an application. Providing documentation which is not relevant to the application is discouraged as it may only lead to confusion and delay the application.

9. THE REQUIRED FORMAT OF THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

9.1 What is an acceptable Notarised/Attested Copy?

All copy documents must be notarised by a Notary Public or attested by a Justice of the Peace/Commissioner for Oaths/Member of An Garda Síochána (documents signed by a Police Officer from another State are not acceptable). They should confirm that the copy is a true copy of the original document, provide their full name and sign, date and officially stamp each copy document. Documents which are not stamped clearly or have not been properly notarised/attested cannot be accepted and will cause a delay in the processing of an application. With the exception of IELTS Certificates and Certificates of Current Professional Status / Good Standing, **original documentation should not be submitted with an application**. The Medical Council will not be responsible for original documentation lost or mislaid in transit or at the Medical Council's offices. The Medical Council reserves the right to verify any documentation submitted in support of an application for registration.

9.2 What is an acceptable English Language Translation?

All documents which are not in the English language must be attached to an English language translation issued and officially stamped by an official translator. The name and address of the translator used must be included, to allow for verification. Failure to do so could result in a delay in processing an application for registration.

9.3 Evidence of Identification

Applicants should submit a notarised/attested copy of their current passport, which should be valid for at least another three months for Category 1, 2 or 3 applicants, or six months for Category 4 applicants. The copy should clearly display their photograph; the same name as displayed on the applicant's basic (primary) medical qualification ("carton degree") (or State Marriage Certificate / Deed Poll, where the names are different); date of birth; nationality; gender; and passport number and expiry date. If an applicant can only provide their original passport, they must attend the Medical Council's offices in person with the original passport, so that an ID check may be carried out. Medical practitioners who have been granted refugee status within the State must submit with their application a notarised/attested copy of their current Garda National Immigration Bureau card and travel document, both of which clearly display their refugee status.

9.4 **Certificate of Current Professional Status / Certificate of Good Standing**

Original certificate(s) ("CCPS/COGS") must be **dated within the last three months** and sent directly from the relevant competent authority/ies to the Medical Council. Submitting certificates with an application will cause a delay in the application process. Certificates must be provided from all competent authorities where the applicant has been **registered** within the past **five years**, even if they have not practised medicine in that jurisdiction.

9.5 **Certifying Periods of unregistered medical practice in other jurisdictions**

Applicants must submit a sworn Declaration accounting for any unregistered periods while practising medicine and provide alternative satisfactory evidence that they are in good professional standing in that jurisdiction. If the applicant has not practised medicine in the past five years, they must submit a statement explaining how they have been occupied and may be required to provide evidence of same and of their attendance at Continuing Medical Education/Continuing Professional Development ("CME/CPD") courses.

9.6 **Evidence of Basic (Primary) Medical Qualification**

Applicants must submit a notarised/attested copy of the degree awarded to them on conferral of their basic (primary) medical qualification (commonly known as a "carton degree"), clearly displaying the full date of conferral. If the applicant cannot provide a copy of their carton degree, a duplicate may be submitted for consideration. Some basic medical qualifications will be verified directly with the medical school.

Graduates of Irish medical schools

Graduates of Irish medical schools are not required to provide a copy of their basic (primary) medical qualification as the Medical Council receives sealed Conferral lists directly from all Irish medical schools/awarding bodies as evidence of their qualification. In some cases, graduates of EU/EEA/Swiss medical schools may also be required to provide a Certificate confirming that their qualification and training are in accordance with the relevant Articles of the Directive.³⁴

9.7 **Evidence of Higher Specialist Qualification**

Applicants for specialist registration are required to provide evidence of their postgraduate education, training, qualifications and experience, which may be submitted to the relevant postgraduate training body for examination (assessment) as to their appropriateness for specialist registration. This should include evidence of Membership(s) or Fellowship(s) of postgraduate training bodies (if any), e.g. M/FRCSI, M/FRCPI, etc and recently-dated references from employers. Instructions are provided on the Application Form and on the website. Applicants for trainee specialist registration who wish to be exempt from the PRES on the basis of having a recognised Higher Qualification are also required to provide evidence of same.³⁵

9.8 **Other Documentation Appropriate to the Applicant's Circumstances**

In certain circumstances, applicants are required to provide additional documentation. Some examples of additional documentation that have been required by the Medical Council in the past are:

- Evidence that the applicant's basic or specialist medical qualification meets the requirements of the Directive;
- Where the applicant has a history of a relevant medical disability which may affect their competence as a medical practitioner³⁶, the applicant should request their treating GP/Consultant to provide a recently-dated report(s) directly to the Medical Council;
- Evidence of CME/CPD, for example, where a medical practitioner has had a prolonged period of absence from clinical practice;

³⁴ See paragraph 4 of this Guide for accepted basic medical qualifications.

³⁵ See Appendix G of this Guide for required evidence of specialist qualification(s).

³⁶ See paragraph 11

- Where the applicant has a history of disciplinary proceedings in another jurisdiction, they are required to provide full details of those proceedings;
This is merely a sample and not a comprehensive list of additional documentation that may be required. The Council also reserves the right to request a doctor to attend its offices for an appointment where a personal interview is seen as appropriate to their application.

9.9 **Incomplete Applications**

Applicants should follow all instructions on the application form and ensure that they submit all required documentation in the requested format.³⁷ A complete application should be submitted in order for the Medical Council to consider the applicant's eligibility for registration. The Medical Council reserves the right to return incomplete applications to the applicant at the correspondence address provided on their application. The Medical Council reserves the right to declare an application invalid if the applicant submits an incomplete application form and fails to provide the outstanding documentation within a specified time period, or if the Medical Council is unable to verify the documentation submitted in support of an application for registration. Invalid applications will be returned to the applicant at the correspondence address provided on the application form. If the applicant wishes to re-apply, they must submit a new, complete application.

9.10 **Forged/falsified documentation/misrepresentation**

If an applicant provides documentation in support of an application for registration which is found to be a forgery, it is likely that the applicant will be refused registration³⁸. This means that the Medical Council will remove from the Register the name of all/any medical practitioners who were registered due to fraud or misrepresentation.

10. **FEES**

Each applicant must pay the appropriate fee, by a method acceptable to the Medical Council, prior to completing each level of the application process. **Fees are non-refundable.** Applicants for specialist registration should note that if their application is referred to a postgraduate training body for advice, they will be subject to a fee charged by the training body, which is separate to the Medical Council's fee. The fee will be requested directly by the training body and should not be sent to the Medical Council. Once the applicant has completed Level 1 and either passed or been exempted from Levels 2 and 3 and, if applicable, passed Level 4 or 5 of the application process, they must pay the appropriate registration fee prior to their name being entered in the Register. A reduced registration fee is available to medical practitioners who are registered in the latter half of a registration year. Medical practitioners pay a reduced annual retention fee if they are over the age of 65. Declined credit or laser card payments will cause a delay in the processing of an application. For further information about fees and acceptable methods of payment, please consult the Medical Council's website at: www.medicalcouncil.ie/registration/fees.

³⁷ See Appendix F and G and the Application Form.

³⁸ The provisions of section 55(1) of the Act will apply.

RECOGNISED QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING³⁹

This section contains information about:

- 11. Recognised Basic Medical Qualifications
- 12. Recognised Intern Training in Ireland and Equivalence
- 13. Recognised Postgraduate Training in Ireland/Trainee Specialist Registration
- 14. Recognised Specialist Training and/or Experience/Specialist Registration

11. RECOGNISED BASIC MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS

11.1 Graduates of Medical Schools in Ireland

The Medical Council approves programmes of basic medical education and training and medical schools delivering these programmes⁴⁰. The Medical Council currently approves the basic medical qualifications awarded within the State and medical schools delivering programmes of basic medical education and training listed at [Appendix B](#).

11.2 Graduates of EU/EEA/Swiss Medical Schools

In addition to the basic medical qualifications listed at paragraph 11.1, the Medical Council recognises formal medical qualifications awarded within the EU/EEA/Switzerland listed at [Appendix C](#) of this document. Medical practitioners who were awarded their basic medical qualification prior to the “reference date” in the Directive are required to provide a Certificate from the competent authority confirming that their basic/formal medical qualification and training comply with Article 24 and Annex V, V.1, 5.1.1 of the Directive. Where additional documentation is required to accompany their basic medical qualification (see [Appendix C](#) – this does not apply to all EU countries), if a medical practitioner cannot provide this additional documentation they may be only eligible for internship registration, unless they can prove to the satisfaction of the Medical Council that they have been awarded a document which is equivalent to a Certificate of Experience (Internship Certificate) (see Level 4 Assessments).

11.3 Graduates of Third Country Medical Schools (outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland)

The Medical Council currently recognises basic medical qualifications which are at least the equivalent of a basic medical qualification awarded within the State. In general, the Medical Council recognises basic medical qualifications awarded by schools listed in the current edition of the World Health Organisation (“WHO” or “AVICENNA”) Directory of Medical Schools and/or the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (“FAIMER”) International Medical Education Directory (“IMED”).⁴¹

12. RECOGNISED INTERN TRAINING IN IRELAND AND EQUIVALENCE / INTERNSHIP REGISTRATION

12.1 Approved/recognised Internship Training

For the purposes of approving/recognising internship training and awarding a Certificate of Experience, internship training must comply with the Council's “*Standards for Training and Experience required for the Granting of a Certificate of Experience to an intern*”. This document can be downloaded from the Medical Council's website here:

[://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Professional-Development/Standards-Guidelines-/](http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Professional-Development/Standards-Guidelines-/)

³⁹ For recognised Higher Qualifications see exemptions from the PRES

⁴⁰ See section 88(2)(a)(i) of the Act

⁴¹ For further information see useful links at the end of this document.

12.2 Individually Numbered, Identifiable Posts

The HSE is obliged to assess annually the number of intern training posts required by the health service and put a proposal to the Medical Council. The Medical Council then specifies the number of intern training posts approved for the purposes of intern training. As at July 2010, there were 512 intern training posts approved for this purpose. Employment in these posts is arranged centrally by the HSE. Applicants are required to follow the application procedures outlined by the HSE. For further information, contact Medical Education and Training at the HSE directly.

12.3 Gaps Before and During Internship Training

Internship training should normally be commenced immediately after graduation and completed within one calendar year, but may, in exceptional circumstances, be completed over a period of more than one calendar year (normally no longer than two years), during which time an aggregate period of twelve months' internship training must be completed satisfactorily.

12.4 Obtaining a Certificate of Experience

Prior to commencement of Part 6 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007, a Certificate of Experience could only be issued by the Head/Dean of the medical school where the medical practitioner completed their basic (primary) medical qualification. From 1st June 2011 Certificates of Experience are issued by the Medical Council and can be obtained by submitting a request form along with the relevant fee.

12.5 Graduates of EU/EEA/Swiss medical schools

The Medical Council recognises evidence of formal qualifications in basic medical training that meet the requirements of Article 24 and Annex V, V.1, 5.1.1 of the Directive, for the purposes of trainee specialist registration and/or general registration only if accompanied by the required certificate listed in the Directive (if any). The documentation required as evidence of formal qualification varies from one member state to another and is listed at [Appendix C](#). For example, graduates of Irish medical schools must provide satisfactory evidence of their basic (primary) medical qualification (degrees awarded since 20th December 1976) and a Certificate of Experience (Internship), whereas graduates of some member states are not required to provide any documentation in addition to their basic (primary) medical degree. The Medical Council strongly recommends that every medical practitioner undergoes internship training as described [here](#). Medical practitioners who graduated from an EU/EEA/Swiss medical school and completed internship training in a third country or a Member State other than the Member State where they were awarded their basic medical qualification should read paragraph 12.5 below.

12.6 Other Internship Training Completed Outside the State

In order to be eligible for trainee specialist registration (or exempt from the PRES if applying for general registration), internship training completed outside the State must be at least equivalent to the internship training described in the Council's "*Standards for Training and Experience required for the Granting of a Certificate of Experience to an intern*".

The Medical Council recognises a number of overseas internships as being equivalent to an Irish internship and a current list can be viewed on the Medical Council's website.

NOTE: Applicants who completed their internship training in Pakistan are required to submit a Certificate of Experience from the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council and should not submit the certificate(s) issued to them by the hospital where they completed their training, unless requested to do so.

13. RECOGNISED POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SPECIALIST TRAINING IN IRELAND/ TRAINEE SPECIALIST REGISTRATION

13.1 Recognised specialties

The Medical Council currently recognises the medical specialties listed at [Appendix D](#) for the purposes of granting trainee specialist and specialist registration.⁴²

13.2 Approved Postgraduate Training Bodies

The Medical Council currently approves the postgraduate training bodies listed at [Appendix E](#) for the purposes of granting evidence of specialist training in relation to medical specialties.⁴³ Medical practitioners wishing to undergo medical specialist training should register with the relevant approved postgraduate training body.

13.3 Individually numbered, Identifiable Posts

The HSE is obliged to assess annually the number and type of specialist medical training posts required by the health service and put a proposal to the Medical Council. The Medical Council then specifies the number of specialist medical training posts approved for the purposes of specialist training. As at July 2010, there were 3044 specialist training posts approved for this purpose. Employment in the majority of these posts is arranged by the HSE and/or relevant postgraduate training body. For further information, you should contact them directly.⁴⁴

13.4 Limitations of Trainee Specialist Registration

Trainee specialist registration in individually numbered, identifiable training posts only permits the practice of medicine within the clinical site/health service setting stated on the Certificate of Registration or clinics/health service settings formally connected with that training post. Trainee specialist registration permits the prescribing of drugs only for those patients of the clinical site/health service setting in which the medical practitioner is employed. These limitations do not apply where, in the final year of their training, a trainee specialist is acting up at Consultant grade in that specialty, or a GP Registrar is acting up as a General Practitioner, for a period of up to three months. Conditions of employment in training posts, including cross cover, are a matter between the employer and employee. Medical practitioners should not receive or take up any offer of locum appointments outside of their training programme, in a non-training capacity.

13.5 Registration while undertaking postgraduate training overseas

Medical practitioners can only hold trainee specialist registration while occupying individually numbered, identifiable training posts within the State. If eligible, a medical practitioner can apply to have their name transferred to another appropriate Division of the Register while they undertake training/research in another country. **Fuller details regarding applications for trainee specialist registration are available from the Medical Council's website at:**

<http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Registration/First-Time-Applicants/Trainee-Specialist-Registration/Trainee-Specialist-Registration.html>

⁴² Specialties are recognised in accordance with sections 89(1) and (7) of the Act

⁴³ Postgraduate training bodies are recognised in accordance with section 89(3)(a)(ii) of the Act

⁴⁴ Medical practitioners intending to practise in a postgraduate training post must have first been issued with an Acceptance Letter prior to August 2010 which states that they are eligible for trainee specialist registration, or be registered in the General Division; and must have passed a **Level 4** Assessment of their internship training.

14. RECOGNISED SPECIALIST TRAINING AND/OR EXPERIENCE / SPECIALIST REGISTRATION

14.1 Completion of Approved Specialist Training in Ireland

Medical practitioners who complete postgraduate training under the supervision of a postgraduate training body within the State which is approved by the Medical Council must submit a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) or equivalent with their application.

14.2 Eligibility on the Basis of Recognition of Specialist Training under the Directive

EU/EEA/Swiss citizens who hold the appropriate specialist qualifications which meet the requirements of the Directive must submit with their application the specialist qualifications listed at [_](#) of this document. The qualifications must be awarded in accordance with Article 25 and Annex V, 5.1.2 / 5.1.3; or Article 28 and Annex V, 5.1.4 for General Practice. If the Articles and Annexes of the Directive are not referenced explicitly on the Certificate of Specialist Training, the Certificate must be accompanied by a statement from the relevant competent authority attesting that the applicant's training is in accordance with the relevant Articles and Annexes.

14.3 Eligibility on the Basis of Recognition of Acquired Rights under the Directive

EU/EEA/Swiss citizens who have "acquired rights" to recognition which meet the requirements of the Directive must submit with their application an attestation from the relevant competent authority, in the member state where the applicant has trained, stating that the applicant has acquired rights to recognition as a specialist in accordance with:

- (a) Article 23 or 27 for medical specialties. The attestation must state that the applicant's qualifications are treated as the qualifications listed in Annex V, 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 of the Directive.
- (b) Article 30 for General Practice. The attestation must state that the applicant's qualifications are treated as the qualifications listed in Annex V, 5.1.4 of the Directive and the training, leading to the award of the qualifications, complies with Article 30.

14.4 Eligibility on the Basis of Establishment in the EU under the Directive

EU/EEA/Swiss citizens whose specialist training took place outside the EU but who are established and recognised as a specialist in another member state should provide an attestation from the relevant competent authority in the member state where they first obtained recognition as a specialist. The attestation should state that:

- (a) the specialist training equates to training that meets the requirements of Articles 25 or 28 of Directive 2005/36/EC;
- (b) the applicant's training is treated as equivalent to the qualifications listed at Annex 5.1.2 or 5.1.4 (General Practice), in accordance with Article 2(2);
- (c) the applicant is treated as a specialist by the competent authority of the said member state; and
- (d) has practised the profession concerned for three consecutive years in the said member state in compliance with Article 3(3) of the Directive.

14.5 Assessment by an Approved Postgraduate Training Body

Medical practitioners who do not meet the requirements for recognition of their specialist qualifications under the Directive (generally they have completed all or most of their specialist training in a third country or have completed self-structured training) must submit structured evidence of completion of their specialist training and experience, which will be referred to the relevant approved postgraduate training body in Ireland (see [Appendix E](#)) for assessment of the equivalence or otherwise of their specialist training and experience to that of a medical practitioner who completes an approved, structured training programme

within the State, leading to the award of a CSCST or equivalent certificate. Applicants will be considered under three broad scenarios:

- (i) completion of a structured higher specialist training programme;
- (ii) completion of self-structured training comparable to that of a formal, structured training programme;
- (iii) a combination of (i) and (ii) above.

The emphasis is on the competencies a medical practitioner needs to attain in order to meet the requirements for specialist registration. Competencies are the typical suite of skills that the medical practitioner must attain in each specialty area in order to be recognised as a specialist. For further information on competencies in general and on competencies in a chosen specialist area, contact the relevant postgraduate training body for further information.

Fuller details regarding applications for specialist registration are available from the Medical Council's website at:

<http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Registration/First-Time-Applicants/Specialist-Registration/Categories-of-entry-into-Specialist-Division.html>.

PRE-REGISTRATION EXAMINATION SYSTEM

This section contains information about:

15.The Pre-Registration Examination (PRES)

16.Exemptions from the PRES

15. PRE-REGISTRATION EXAMINATION SYSTEM (PRES)

15.1 Trainee Specialist and/or General Registration

Applicants for **trainee specialist registration and general registration** are required to pass or be exempted from the Pre-Registration Examination System ("PRES"). Applicants may be exempted from the examination(s) if they satisfy the criteria for exemption specified below. Non-exempt applicants for **trainee specialist or general registration** must complete the examinations known as **Level 2 and Level 3** of the application process.

15.2 LEVEL 2*

This examination tests the candidate's factual knowledge in the main clinical disciplines. It currently consists of an MCQ examination of 2½ hours' duration. A pass in the Level 2 examination is valid for a period of **two years** from the date of passing. Level 2 is available electronically at centres in Egypt, India, Pakistan and in Ireland. Once a medical practitioner has been declared eligible to sit Level 2, he or she will be provided with details of how and where to schedule their examination. The examination must be passed within **two years** from the date of a candidate being declared eligible.

15.3 LEVEL 3*

This examination is primarily a test of clinical skills in the main clinical disciplines. The examination is normally at least 2 hours' duration. Level 3 is usually offered in a centre in Ireland. There are currently no overseas centres for Level 3.

*Further information about Level 2 and 3 examinations is available in the [PRES Handbook](#).

16. EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PRES

Applicants are **exempt** from the PRES if they meet the eligibility criteria below:

16.1 General Registration

- (a) The applicant was registered in Ireland (in any Division of the Register) prior to the introduction of new Registration Rules in January 2011. Medical practitioners who were registered in Ireland prior to the new Registration Rules are not normally required to pass the PRES if they apply to restore their name to the Register having been unregistered for a period of time; or
- (b) The applicant meets the eligibility requirements for general registration under Category General 1 (see paragraph 3.2.2, i.e. they are a graduate of an Irish medical school and have completed internship training and been awarded a satisfactory Certificate of Experience; or
- (c) The applicant meets the eligibility requirements for general registration under Category General 2 or 3 (see paragraph 3.2.2), i.e. they are a graduate of an EU medical school and are entitled to automatic recognition of their professional qualifications under EU legislation or, in the case of Category General 3, would be entitled if they were an EU citizen; or
- (d) The applicant meets the eligibility requirements for general registration under Category General 4 and has been awarded a document which is considered by the Medical Council to be at least the equivalent of a Certificate of Experience (Internship Certificate),⁴⁵ **or**

⁴⁵ See paragraph 5 for further details – an applicant would be required to undergo a Level 4 Assessment of their internship training.

- (e) Applicants may be exempt from the PRES (if they are being registered in the General Division) by virtue of having a Higher Qualification which is recognised by the Medical Council for the purposes of exemption from the PRES. The Higher Qualifications listed in Appendix A of the Registration Rules (Appendix I of this Guide) are currently recognised for the purpose of exemption from the PRES for doctors being registered in the General Division. The Medical Council may recognise Higher Qualifications awarded by other postgraduate training bodies outside the State, where the relevant Irish training body deems them to be equivalent to their own. **In order to be granted an exemption from the PRES on the grounds of having a recognised Higher Qualification, the applicant must also have:**
- completed an internship of a minimum of one year supervised practice (to include at least three months in medicine and three months in surgery) which can be verified by an appropriate certificate from the competent authority where the internship was completed,
 - or**
 - The applicant must have completed a minimum of three years in an accredited training programme, which can be verified by the applicant providing a signed certificate of a satisfactory completion of a three year programme – the certificate must be signed by the programme director and must indicate the accreditation body that oversees and/or approves the programme.

NOTE: All applicants for general registration must either meet the eligibility requirements under Categories General 1, 2 or 3 OR have been awarded a document which is considered to be at least the equivalent of a Certificate of Experience (Internship Certificate) OR pass or be exempted from the PRES. This is different to the eligibility requirements for trainee specialist registration.

16.2 Trainee Specialist Registration

- (a) The applicant was registered in Ireland (in any Division of the Register) prior to the introduction of new Registration Rules in January 2011 – the new Rules are not retrospective; or
- (b) The applicant meets the eligibility requirements for trainee specialist registration under Category Trainee 1 (see paragraph 3.2.1), i.e. they are a graduate of an Irish medical school and have completed internship training and been awarded a satisfactory Certificate of Experience; or
- (c) The applicant meets the eligibility requirements for trainee specialist registration under Category Trainee 2 or Trainee 3 (see paragraph 3.2.1), i.e. they are a graduate of an EU medical school and are entitled to automatic recognition of their professional qualifications under EU legislation or, in the case of Category Trainee 3, would be entitled if they were an EU citizen; or
- (d) The applicant meets the eligibility requirements for trainee specialist registration under Category Trainee 4 and has been awarded a Higher Qualification which is recognised for the purposes of exemption from the PRES (see [Appendix I](#)). **In order to be granted an exemption from the PRES on the grounds of having a recognised Higher Qualification, the applicant must have:**
- (i) completed an internship of a minimum of one year supervised practice (to include at least three months in medicine and three months in surgery) which can be verified by an appropriate certificate from the competent authority where the internship was completed,
 - OR**
 - (ii) completed a minimum of three years in an accredited training programme, which can be verified by the applicant providing a signed certificate of a satisfactory completion

of a three year programme – the certificate must be signed by the programme director and must indicate the accreditation body that oversees and/or approves the programme.

- (e) The applicant meets the eligibility requirements for special exemption from the PRES (see below).

NOTE: All applicants for trainee specialist registration must have been awarded a document which is considered to be at least the equivalent of a Certificate of Experience (Internship Certificate) AND pass or be exempted from the PRES. This is different to the eligibility requirements for general registration.

16.3 Special Exemption from the PRES – Trainee Specialist Registration only

16.3.1 Participation in recognised exempted training programmes

Participants in a limited number of higher specialist training programmes which are recognised by the Medical Council by virtue of meeting criteria identified by the Medical Council are exempt from the PRES (see Appendix J of this Guide). Applications for recognition of such programmes for the purpose of exemption from the PRES will only be considered on application from the relevant Irish postgraduate training body to the Council's Professional Development Committee. Programmes likely to be granted an exemption from the PRES would typically be for a limited duration. **In order to be granted an exemption from the PRES on the grounds of having been accepted into an exempted training programme, the applicant must also meet the specific criteria outlined at paragraph 16.3.2 below.**

16.3.2 Specific Criteria for Special Exemptions – TRAINEE SPECIALIST DIVISION

- The applicant must have been accepted into a training programme by virtue of demonstrating the necessary competence for the specialty at that level (the relevant postgraduate training body should confirm this in writing to the Medical Council);
- In the case of exempted training programmes, exemption from the PRES does not extend beyond recognised training posts associated with the relevant exempted training programme and any registrant who wishes to practice outside of that training programme will be required to pass the PRES;
- The applicant must have applied for registration at least six months in advance of commencing the training post/programme, to allow the Medical Council sufficient time to consider their application fully and must provide up-to-date Certificates of Good Standing prior to being granted registration.

- 16.3.3 Applicants who are granted a special exemption from the PRES and who cease to practise in recognised postgraduate training posts will be registered in the General Division⁴⁶.

⁴⁶ See section 48(6) of the MPA 2007

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

This section contains information about:

- 17. Refugee Medical Practitioners
- 18. Medical Practitioners with a relevant medical disability
- 19. Engaging in independent medical practice
- 20. Professional Indemnity Insurance Cover
- 21. Moving to Ireland

17. REFUGEE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

17.1 Medical practitioners who have been **granted refugee status** within the State and who can satisfy the Medical Council that they meet the criteria for at least one of the above categories are eligible to apply for trainee specialist registration. They must:

- submit with their application a notarised/attested copy of their current Garda National Immigration Bureau card and travel document, both of which clearly display their refugee status; and
- indicate on their application form the documents they are unable to produce as a result of their refugee status (if any); and
- make every attempt to provide alternative satisfactory evidence in place of the missing documentation.

The Medical Council must be satisfied that the applicant's education, training, qualifications and professional standing are appropriate for the granting of trainee specialist registration.⁴⁷

18. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS WITH A RELEVANT MEDICAL DISABILITY

18.1 Applicants for registration are obliged to declare on application if they have/had any relevant medical disability⁴⁸. A "relevant medical disability" means a physical or mental disability (including addiction to alcohol or drugs) which may impair the medical practitioner's ability to practise medicine or a particular aspect thereof. Any applicant for registration who indicates that they have a relevant medical disability should request their treating doctor to submit directly a recently-dated report, giving a history of the applicant's condition(s) and expressing their opinion as to whether or not the applicant is fit to practise medicine. The applicant may also be required to attend an independent medical practitioner of the Medical Council's choice, for an assessment of their condition(s). The Medical Council may decide that it is appropriate to only grant registration to the applicant subject to certain conditions. In such circumstances, the applicant will be requested to agree, in writing, to the attachment of the proposed conditions to their registration. If the applicant agrees, the conditions may be entered in the Register and published.⁴⁹ If the applicant does not agree to the attachment of the proposed conditions, the Medical Council may decide to refuse to register the applicant.⁵⁰

19. INDEPENDENT MEDICAL PRACTICE

19.1 Applicants are advised not to engage in independent medical practice unless and until they have completed a significant period of medical specialist training and experience at Senior House Officer level (or equivalent or higher).

⁴⁷ See section 48(4) of the Act.

⁴⁸ See section 53 of the Act

⁴⁹ Subject to the provisions of section 43(6) of the Act

⁵⁰ See paragraph 13 "Refusing Registration".

20. PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

- 20.1 Employing authorities require registered medical practitioners to hold professional indemnity insurance. Medical practitioners should ensure that they have adequate professional indemnity cover prior to engaging in the practise of medicine within the State⁵¹. The Medical Council cannot advise medical practitioners on how/where to obtain professional indemnity insurance cover.

21. MOVING TO IRELAND

- 21.1 Although the Medical Council does not provide information about living and working in Ireland, there are many informative websites about Ireland's culture, tax system, housing, citizenship, health service, banking, etc. Some examples are available on the Medical Council's website at: www.medicalcouncil.ie/registration
- 21.2 **Please note that the Medical Council cannot assist in the processing of visa applications, nor does it play any role in the granting or refusing of visas.** For information about applying for a visa, please contact the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform (www.justice.ie and/or <http://www.inis.gov.ie/>).

⁵¹ See paragraph 50.1 of the Medical Council's current *Ethical Guide*.

INFORMATION FOR REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

This section contains information about:

- 22. Certificates of Registration and other certification
- 23. Obligation to notify the Medical Council of changes in contact or other details
- 24. Annual Retention Process
- 25. Professional Competence
- 26. Maintaining Registration in the Trainee Specialist Division
- 27. Registration/medical practice in other jurisdictions
- 28. Transferring to other Divisions

22. CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AND OTHER CERTIFICATION

22.1 Certificate of Registration

On being granted registration, a medical practitioner will be issued with a Certificate of Registration. The Certificate of Registration will display the medical practitioner's registered name, qualifications and year of conferral, registration number, registered address, division of the Register in which the medical practitioner's name is included and registration status including, at the Medical Council's discretion, any terms or conditions attached to their registration and/or the medical practitioner's registration history. This Certificate must be displayed at the medical practitioner's place of work and must be produced to their employer, on request. Duplicate certificates are available by written request, quoting your name, registration number and, for security reasons, your date of birth and mother's maiden name.

22.2 Certificate of Current Professional Status

Formerly known as "Certificates of Good Standing", a Certificate of Current Professional Status must be requested in writing (email will suffice), quoting your name, registration number and, for security reasons, your date of birth and mother's maiden name, and payment of a fee. These Certificates can also be requested via the Medical Council's website by going to the section entitled "Update Registration Details and Request Certificates".

22.3 EU Certification / CSTAR

Certificates of Specialist Doctor (CSDs) and Certificates of Specific Training or Acquired Rights (CSTARs) entitle eligible medical practitioners to mutual recognition of specialist qualifications in other EU/EEA member states. CSTARs are also required for entry into the General Medical Services (GMS) scheme in Ireland. If the eligibility of the medical practitioner for specialist registration (this eligibility being one of the requirements for issuing EU Certification) has not been established, under certain circumstances the applicant may be required to make an application for specialist registration in the first instance. The certificates must be requested in writing (using Form 'EU Certification') and payment of a fee. CSDs and CSTARs can be requested via the Medical Council's website by going to the section entitled "Update Registration Details and Request Certificates" and the application form is downloadable from there.

22.4 Duplicate Certificates

Duplicate Certificates of Registration / Certificates of Current Professional Status / CSDs / CSTARs can be requested in writing (e-mail will suffice to duplicatecertificate@mcirl.ie). The request should quote your name, registration number and, for security reasons, your date of birth and mother's maiden name. There is currently no charge for a small number of duplicate certificates.

23. OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF CHANGES IN CONTACT OR OTHER DETAILS

23.1 Legal Obligation on the medical practitioner

Registered medical practitioners are legally obliged to inform the Medical Council of any change in the details entered in the Register, e.g. registered address⁵².

23.2 Change of Address, Name or other Registration Details

Medical practitioners may at any time apply to change their registered address, name or any other details. Where a medical practitioner wishes to change their registered name, they are required to provide a notarised copy of their State Marriage Certificate or a Deed Poll as evidence that they may legally use the changed name. Any application for a change of registration details, including address, should be made in writing by post, fax, email or online, quoting their registered name, registration number, current registered address, date of birth and mother's maiden/birth name [surname prior to marriage] (for security reasons).

24. ANNUAL RETENTION PROCESS

- 24.1 At any one time, registration may only be granted for the remaining portion of the current registration year, which runs from July to June. To have their registration renewed, on expiry of a Certificate of Registration, which will occur at least once every twelve months, all medical practitioners entered in the Register must pay the appropriate fee and complete any retention process specified by the Medical Council. A retention notice is normally sent to all registered medical practitioners in May/June each year. All registered medical practitioners are required to complete an annual declaration. This can be completed on the Medical Council's website at www.medicalcouncil.ie. They will normally be required to update their registration details and inform the Medical Council of any material matter which would be likely to affect the continuation of their registration, such as the practise of medicine and/or any current or pending disciplinary proceedings in another jurisdiction. The medical practitioner is obliged to provide certain relevant information to the Medical Council and the Medical Council may correct the register, where necessary.⁵³

25. PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

- 25.1 Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 – "Maintenance of Professional Competence" was commenced on 1st of May 2010. It is now a requirement for all registered medical practitioners to maintain professional competence and to satisfy the Medical Council with regard to any requirements it sets in this regard. A registrant who refuses, fails, or ceases to satisfy Council with regard to these requirements may be the subject of a complaint leading to a "Fitness to Practice" inquiry, which ultimately may affect the registrant's registration status. Medical practitioners holding general or specialist registration will be required to enrol in and pursue a professional competence scheme relevant to their practice, in order to satisfy the Medical Council of their maintenance of professional competence. Medical practitioners who are registered in the Trainee Specialist Division, holding internship registration or trainee specialist registration, are monitored by their supervising consultants and the relevant approved medical school and/or postgraduate training body and will satisfy Council that they are maintaining their professional competence whilst participating in a recognised training programme in Ireland. However, registrants in the Trainee Specialist Division (i.e. holding internship registration or trainee specialist registration) should be aware that, if at any stage they become registered in a Division other than the Trainee Specialist Division of the register, then they must enrol in a professional competence scheme

⁵² See section 55 - Correction of the Register

⁵³ The provisions of section 55 of the Act will apply

to satisfy Council that they are maintaining professional competence. This is particularly significant for medical practitioners who hold trainee specialist registration, as they will be “automatically” registered in the General Division when they cease to practise in a recognised postgraduate training post. [See paragraph 26.2 below.]

- 25.2 As of January 2011, the Medical Council is continuing to put supporting arrangements in place for the implementation of Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act – Maintenance of Professional Competence. All registrants are advised to monitor the Medical Council’s website www.medicalcouncil.ie for further information on requirements and next steps.

26. MAINTAINING REGISTRATION AS AN INTERN

Medical practitioners who hold **internship registration** are initially provided with a Certificate of Registration valid for one calendar year, normally from July to June or January to December. On expiry of the Certificate of Registration, an intern will normally have completed their internship training and will apply for trainee specialist registration, so that they may commence medical specialist training at Senior House Officer level. In the event that they have not completed their internship training within their first year of internship registration, they are required to pay the relevant annual retention fee in order to obtain a further Certificate of Registration valid for either six or twelve months, depending on the duration required to complete their internship training. They may also be required to provide a reference from the Dean/Head of their medical school and/or their most recent supervising consultant and/or employer.

27. REGISTRATION/MEDICAL PRACTICE IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

- 27.1 A medical practitioner can, if eligible, be registered in the General, Visiting EEA Practitioners or Specialist Division while practising medicine and/or undertaking training outside the State, but they are obliged to inform the Medical Council, in writing, of:
- (a) any absence from the State for a continuous period of more than twelve months;
 - (b) the particulars of any employment in a medical capacity that they take up or intend taking up outside the State during that period of absence;
 - (c) any material matter which would be likely to affect the continuation of their registration.

This written notification must be given within **thirty days** of when the medical practitioner becomes aware of their changed circumstances

28. TRANSFERRING TO OTHER DIVISIONS OF THE REGISTER

28.1 From Internship Registration to Trainee Specialist Registration or General Registration

Medical practitioners holding **internship registration** should normally **apply for trainee specialist registration** when they are nearing completion of their internship training. They should read the Registration Rules prior to completing and submitting the **Generic Application Form** with the appropriate fee. They should also ensure that they have provided their Intern Network Coordinator with all of the necessary paperwork to sign off their internship.

28.2 From Trainee Specialist or General Registration to Specialist Registration

Medical practitioners who hold **trainee specialist or general registration** and have completed their medical specialist training should read Documents A and D of the Rules, to establish whether or not they may be eligible for **specialist registration**. If they think they may be eligible to apply for specialist registration, they should complete the **Specialist Application Form** and submit it with the required documentation and appropriate fee.

28.3 **Ceasing to Practise in a Training Post**

On notification by a medical practitioner and/or an employer (or authorised agent), a medical practitioner holding **trainee specialist registration** who **ceases to practise** in an individually numbered identifiable post (voluntarily or otherwise) prior to the expiry date on their Certificate of Registration will be registered in the General Division of the Register⁵⁴ (unless they apply and are deemed eligible for registration in the Specialist Division).

28.4 **From Trainee Specialist Registration to General Registration**

The Medical Council recommends that medical practitioners enrol in and complete specialist training programmes, where possible. Medical practitioners holding **trainee specialist registration** who have not completed their specialist training but who cease to practise in a recognised training post will be registered in the General Division of the Register (unless they apply and are deemed eligible for registration in the Specialist Division). No application is necessary to be transferred to the General Division from the Trainee Specialist Division.

28.5 **From General Registration to Trainee Specialist Registration**

Medical practitioners must have been awarded a document which is considered to be at least the equivalent of a Certificate of Experience (Internship Certificate) in order to be granted registration in the Trainee Specialist Division of the Register AND pass or be exempted from the PRES. This is significantly different to the eligibility requirements for registration in the General Division. Medical practitioners must, therefore, have passed a “**Level 4**” assessment of their internship training⁵⁵ AND pass or be exempted from the PRES in order to establish their eligibility for trainee specialist registration.

⁵⁴ See section 48(6) of the Act

⁵⁵ See paragraph 12 for further information about equivalence.

REMOVING A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER'S NAME FROM THE REGISTER

This section contains information about:

- 29. Voluntary withdrawal from the Register
- 30. Removal from the Register for failure to pay fees
- 31. Other means by which a medical practitioner's name can be removed from the Register
- 32. Restoring a medical practitioner's name to the Register

29. VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE REGISTER

- 29.1 A registered medical practitioner may, at any time, apply for the withdrawal of their name from the Register on a voluntary basis. The practitioner must apply formally, either by completing the form provided with their annual retention notice, or by writing to the Medical Council by letter, fax or email, requesting the voluntary withdrawal of their name and quoting their registered name, address, registration number, date of birth and mother's maiden name (for security reasons). Requests received from third parties are not accepted, unless the third party has power of attorney over the medical practitioner's affairs. Voluntary withdrawal is granted at the Medical Council's discretion⁵⁶. If deemed appropriate, voluntary withdrawal will take effect from the requested date, or the date on which a complete application for voluntary withdrawal is received, whichever is the later date.
- 29.2 A medical practitioner who is registered in the Trainee Specialist Division but ceases to practise medicine in an individually numbered, identifiable post which has been approved by the Medical Council for the purposes of medical specialist training prior to the expiry date on their Certificate of Registration is no longer entitled to be registered in the Trainee Specialist Division and should formally notify the Medical Council. They will normally be registered in the General Division⁵⁷, unless they apply for and are granted specialist registration.

30. REMOVAL FROM THE REGISTER FOR FAILURE TO PAY FEES

- 30.1 At the Council's discretion, any registered medical practitioner who fails to pay the appropriate annual retention fee within a specified period of time may be removed from the Register.⁵⁸ An annual retention notice is sent to each registered medical practitioner's registered address and a reminder is also sent, prior to removing their name from the Register for non-payment of fees.

31. OTHER MEANS BY WHICH A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER'S NAME CAN BE REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER

- 31.1 Under part 9 of the Act a registered medical practitioner's registration may be cancelled by the Council following a finding of professional misconduct by the fitness to practise committee. For further information about the procedures of the Fitness to Practise Committee, please see the Professional Standards section on the Council's website at: <http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Professional-Standards/>.

⁵⁶ The provisions of section 52 of the Act will apply

⁵⁷ See section 48(6) of the Act

⁵⁸ The provisions of section 79 of the Act will apply

32. RESTORING A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER'S NAME TO THE REGISTER

32.1 Restoring Following Voluntary Withdrawal

Medical practitioners wishing to restore their name to the Register having previously voluntarily withdrawn from the Register after 16th March 2009 should complete the **RestoreApp Form** and submit it with the required documentation. The medical practitioner is entitled to apply to restore their name to the register, having voluntarily withdrawn their name.⁵⁹ Medical practitioners who have not been registered in Ireland at any time since establishment of the new Register are required to apply as a "first-time" applicant under the new Act, using the **Generic Application Form**.

32.2 Restoring Having Been Removed from the Register for Failure to pay Fees

Medical practitioners wishing to restore their name to the Register having been removed for failure to pay fees⁶⁰ should complete the **RestoreApp Form** and submit it with the required documentation. The medical practitioner is entitled to have their name restored to the Register, on application and payment of the appropriate fee within six months after the date on which the fee became due⁶¹. [The Medical Council is not precluded from restoring their name to the Register if the medical practitioner applies later than six months after the fee became due.] Medical practitioners who have not been registered in Ireland at any time since establishment of the new Register are required to apply as a "first-time" applicant under the new Act, using the **Generic Application Form**.

32.3 Restoring Following Erasure under the Medical Practitioners Act 1978

A medical practitioner whose name was erased from the General Register of Medical Practitioners prior to 16th March 2009 following disciplinary proceedings under the Medical Practitioners Act 1978 has never been registered in the new Register of Medical Practitioners and, as such, must apply as a "first-time" applicant under the new legislation. The details of their disciplinary history will be taken into account when making a decision on their application. Applicants may wish to seek their own legal advice prior to submitting an application.

32.4 Restoring Following Cancellation under the Medical Practitioners Act 2007

If a medical practitioner's registration is cancelled following a finding of professional misconduct, they can apply to have their name restored to the Register. If an application is received, it will be reviewed by the Council's Registration Working Group, which advises the Council on registration matters. The Working Group will then make a recommendation to the Council's Standards in Practice Committee, which is authorised by the Council to make decisions on non-standard applications in the first instance. The medical practitioner may, however, apply directly to Council without being considered by the Working Group and Committee, as this is provided for in section 81 of the Act. The Medical Council has made statutory rules setting criteria for the Council when considering whether to restore the registration of a medical practitioner whose registration has been cancelled. These Rules can be downloaded from the Council's website at:

<http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Professional-Standards/Restoration-Rules.pdf>

⁵⁹ See section 52 (4) and (5) of the Act

⁶⁰ See section 79 of the Act

⁶¹ See section 80 of the Act

INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYERS

This section contains information about

- 33. Employing Registered Medical Practitioners
- 34. Visas and Work Permits
- 35. English language proficiency
- 36. Employing Medical Practitioners in Training Posts
- 37. Clinical Observers
- 38. Clinical Attachments

33. EMPLOYING REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

- 33.1 Employers should ensure that all medical practitioners hold current and appropriate registration with the Medical Council prior to allowing the medical practitioner commence employment. Medical practitioners must present to their employer (or authorised agent) a **Certificate of Registration** valid for the current registration period. The employer (or authorised agent) should record the registration status of all medical practitioners employed by them at least for the duration of the medical practitioner's employment.

34. VISAS AND WORK PERMITS

- 34.1 The Medical Council does not request visas or work permits as part of the registration process. It is the responsibility of every employer to ensure that each and every medical practitioner they employ holds the appropriate **visa/permit** for the purposes of practising medicine within the State.

35. ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- 35.1 Under EU freedom of movement legislation, the Medical Council is not entitled to require evidence of English language proficiency from EU citizens, established in another member state, moving to Ireland to practise medicine. Employers should satisfy themselves that all medical practitioners employed by them have sufficient English language skills to perform their duties and communicate effectively with patients and colleagues. Paragraph 12.1 of the Medical Council's Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics states: "If you do not have the professional **or language skills**....you **must** refer the patient to a colleague who can meet those requirements." If an employer finds that a registered medical practitioner does not have sufficient English language skills to practise medicine, they should make a formal complaint to the Medical Council. It may be considered professional misconduct if a medical practitioner is unable to communicate effectively with their patients and colleagues.

36. EMPLOYING MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN TRAINING POSTS

- 36.1 All employers of medical practitioners in individually numbered, identifiable postgraduate training posts must inform the HSE (METR), in order for a proposal to come from the HSE for that post to be recognised for the purposes of trainee specialist registration. Employers are reminded that a trainee specialist is limited to practising medicine at a level appropriate to the post they occupy. It is the employer's responsibility to ensure that their employees are not engaged in medical practice outside the scope of the training post. Postgraduate training is regarded by the Medical Council as an important step in a career of continuous education by a medical practitioner. As such, employers should ensure that the postgraduate training is a period of valued learning for the medical practitioner.

37. CLINICAL OBSERVERS / CLINICAL ATTACHMENTS

37.1 Clinical Observers must not treat patients or engage in medical practice. Medical practitioners in the process of applying for trainee specialist registration should only be permitted to act as Clinical Observers for an aggregate period of **three months**. This recommendation is made by the Medical Council to reinforce the expectation of patients to be seen and treated only by registered medical practitioners while, at the same time, accepting that some exposure to the hospital environment for medical practitioners waiting for registration is reasonable. The Medical Council cannot assist medical practitioners regarding Clinical Observerships.

37.2 Clinical Attachments

The Medical Practitioners Act 2007 does not make provision for registration in the Trainee Specialist Division in Clinical Attachment posts. Employers are reminded that medical practitioners must not practise medicine in Ireland unless and until they are registered in the appropriate Division of the Register. Nothing in the Act prevents a medical practitioner who is registered in the General Division from practising in a clinical attachment post.

This Guide may be subject to amendment/changes in whole or in part at any time at the discretion of the Medical Council. This guide does not constitute an offer or guarantee of registration.

USEFUL LINKS

Legislation

Medical Practitioners Act 2007

[http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/fileupload/news/Medical_Practitioners_Act_2007_2372007131752\[1\].pdf](http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/fileupload/news/Medical_Practitioners_Act_2007_2372007131752[1].pdf)

Health (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 2007

http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/fileupload/news/Health_Miscellaneous_Provisions_Act_2007_262200811758.pdf

EU Directive 2005/36/EC

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:255:0022:0142:EN:PDF>

EU Directive 2006/100/EC

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/L_363/L_36320061220en01410237.pdf

From the Medical Council's website:

Fees <http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/registration/fees.asp>

Internship Registration <http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Registration/First-Time-Applicants/Internship-Registration/Internship-Registration.html>

Trainee Specialist Registration <http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Registration/First-Time-Applicants/Trainee-Specialist-Registration/Trainee-Specialist-Registration.html>

Specialist Registration <http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Registration/First-Time-Applicants/Specialist-Registration/Categories-of-entry-into-Specialist-Division.html>

General Registration <http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Registration/First-Time-Applicants/General-Registration/General-Registration.html>

Basic Medical Qualifications

EU Directives

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/index_en.htm

World Health Organisation

<http://www.who.int/hrh/wdms/en/index.html>

Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research

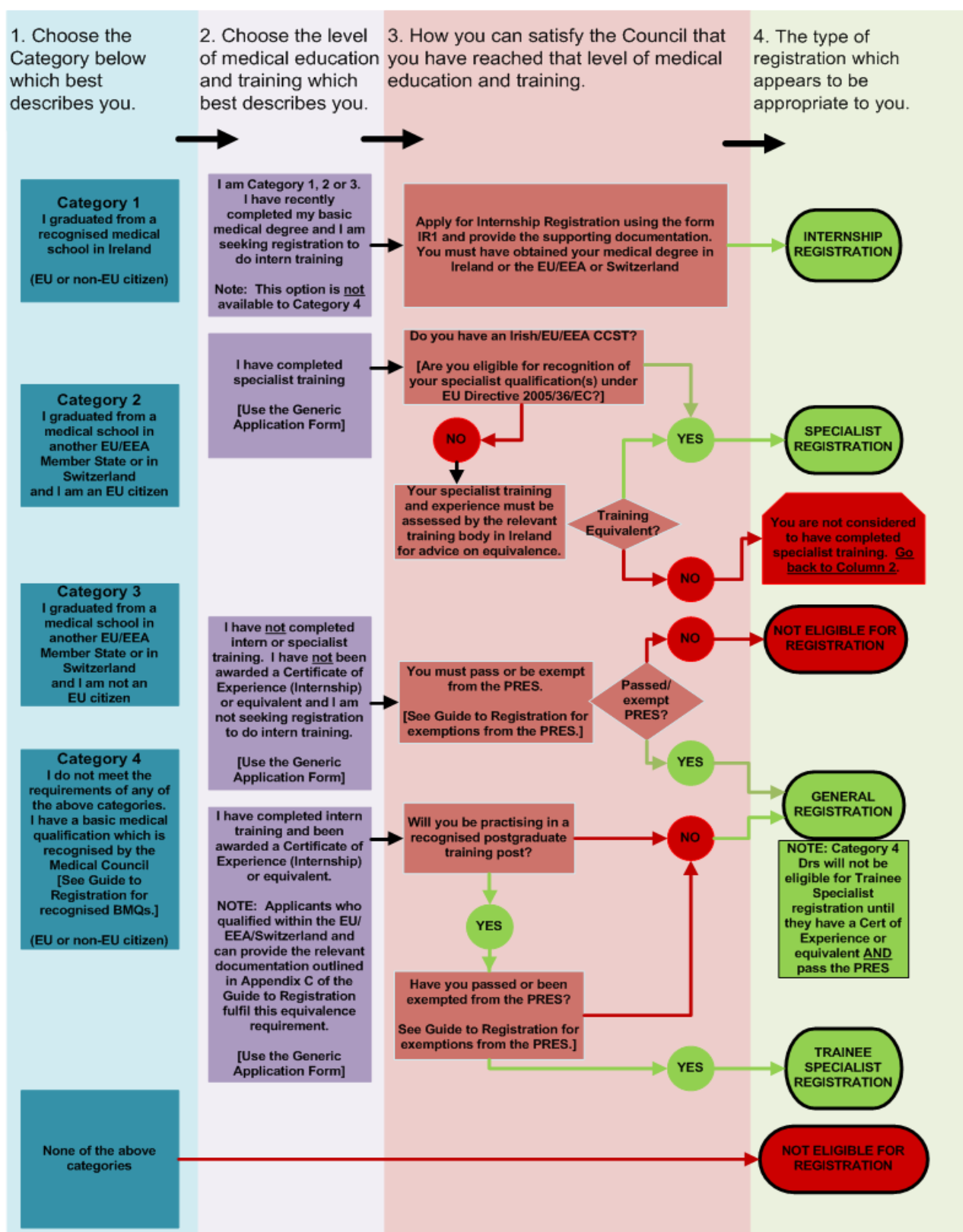
<https://imed.faimer.org/>

The following links regarding EU Directive 2005/36/EC may assist:

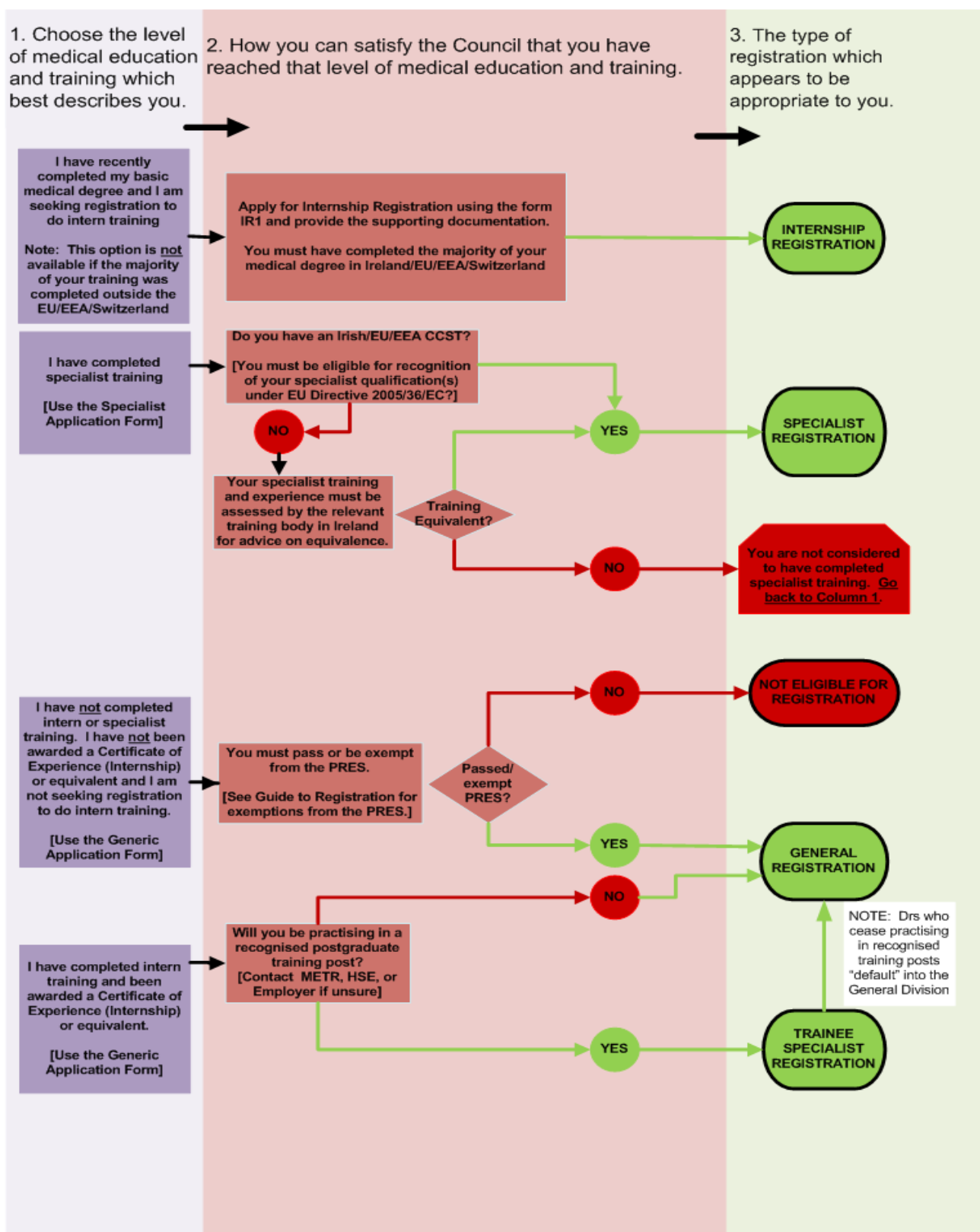
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:255:0022:0142:EN:PDF>
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/L_363/L_36320061220en01410237.pdf
http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/index_en.htm

APPENDIX A – ELIGIBILITY MAPS – MAP 1 - FOR FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS

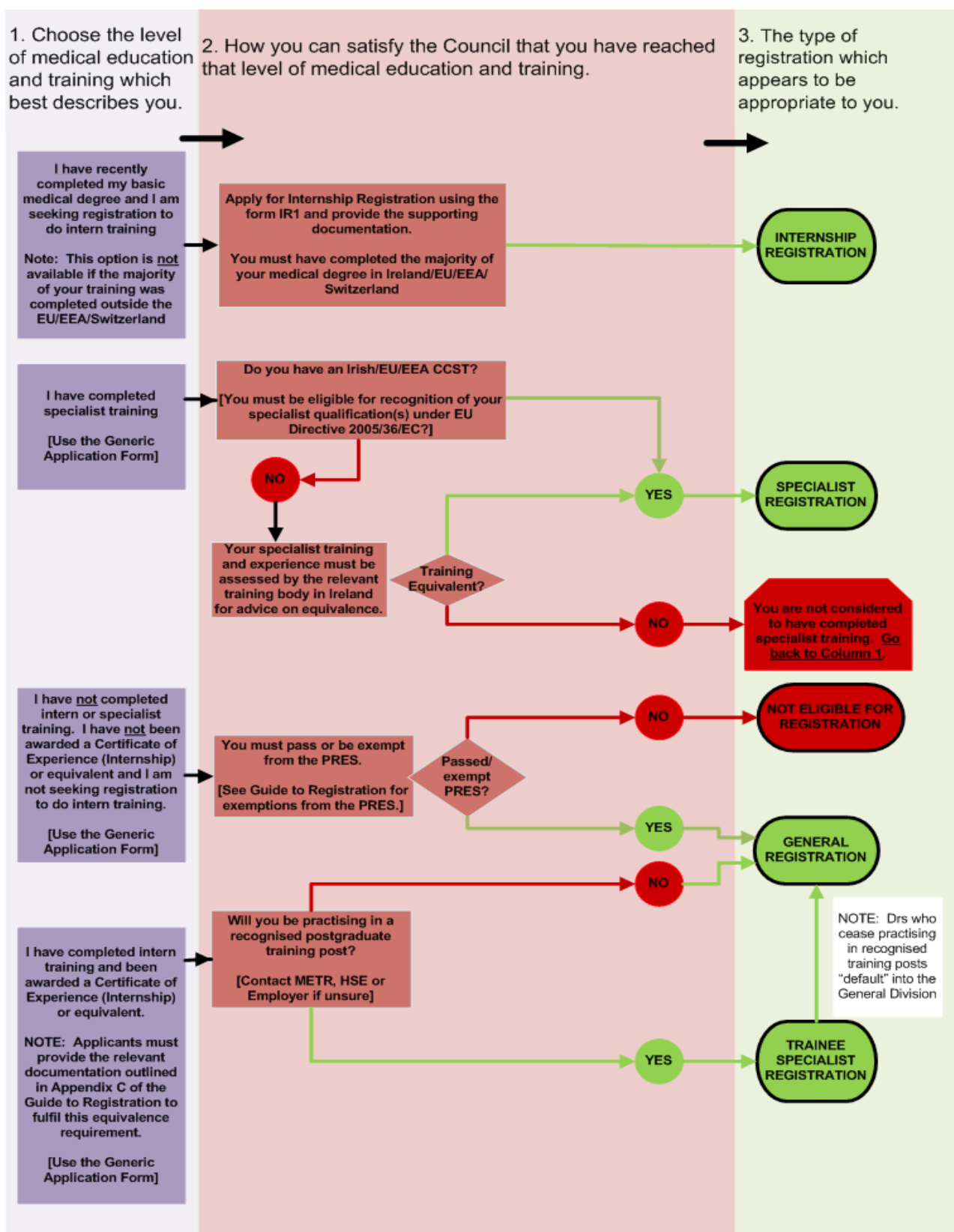
ELIGIBILITY MAP FOR FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS (Does not Include Visiting EEA Practitioners Division)



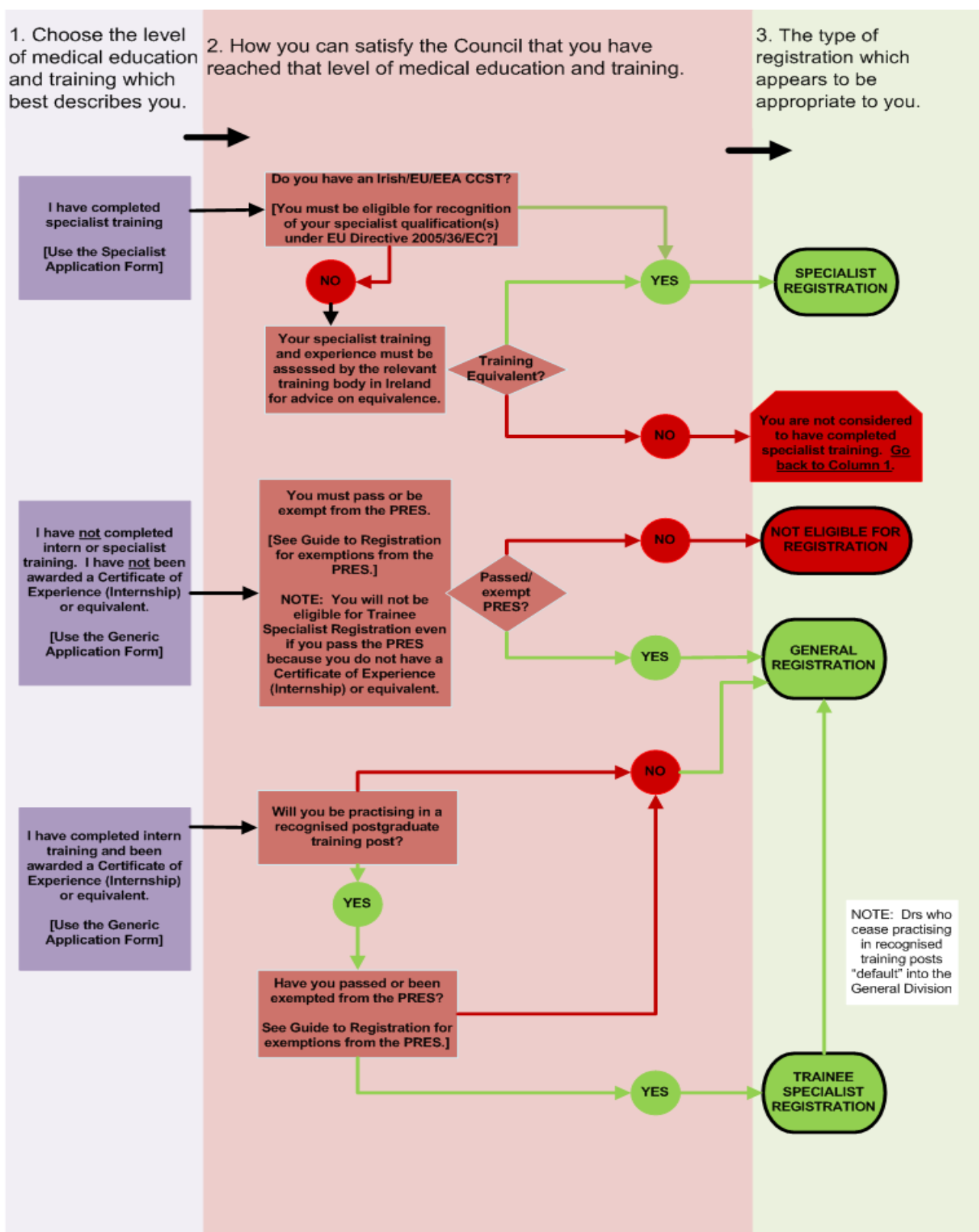
ELIGIBILITY MAP FOR GRADUATES OF IRISH MEDICAL SCHOOLS



ELIGIBILITY MAP FOR GRADUATES OF EU/EEA/SWISS MEDICAL SCHOOLS



ELIGIBILITY MAP FOR GRADUATES OF NON-EU/EEA/SWISS MEDICAL SCHOOLS



APPENDIX B – APPROVED BASIC MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS AWARDED IN IRELAND

The Medical Council currently approves the following basic medical qualifications awarded within the State:

Abbreviations	Titles	Licensing Bodies
<i>LAH Dubl</i>	<i>Licentiate</i>	<i>Apothecaries' Hall, Dublin</i>
<i>LLM RCPI</i> <i>LLM RCSI</i>	<i>Licentiate and</i> <i>Licentiate in Midwifery</i>	<i>Royal College of Physicians of</i> <i>Ireland and Royal College of</i> <i>Surgeons in Ireland</i>
<i>LM LS U Dubl</i>	<i>Licentiate in Medicine and</i> <i>Licentiate in Surgery</i>	<i>University of Dublin</i>
<i>LMED LCH U Dubl</i>	<i>Licentiate in Medicine and</i> <i>Licentiate in Surgery</i>	<i>University of Dublin</i>
<i>LRCP & SI</i>	<i>Licentiate</i>	<i>Royal College of Physicians of</i> <i>Ireland and Royal College of</i> <i>Surgeons in Ireland</i>
LRCP & SI MB BCh NUI	Licentiate and Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
MB BCh NUI	Bachelor in Medicine and Bachelor in Surgery	National University of Ireland
MB BCh U Dubl	Bachelor in Medicine and Bachelor in Surgery	University of Dublin
BM BS	Bachelor in Medicine and Bachelor in Surgery	University of Limerick

NOTE: Certain registrable qualifications which have ceased to be granted are shown in *italics*

The Medical Council currently fully/provisionally approves the following programmes of basic medical education and training delivered by the following bodies:

- National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) – Medicine – GY501 – fully approved
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) – Medicine – RC001 – fully approved
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) – Medicine Graduate entry – RC101 – provisionally approved
- Trinity College Dublin (University of Dublin) (TCD) – Medicine – TR051 – fully approved
- University College Cork (UCC) – Medicine – CK701 – fully approved
- University College Dublin (UCD) – Medicine DN002 – fully approved
- University of Limerick (UL) – Medicine Graduate entry – LM101 – provisionally approved
- University College Cork (UCC) – Medicine Graduate Entry – CK791 – provisionally approved
- University College Dublin (UCD) – Medicine Graduate Entry – DN102 – provisionally approved

APPENDIX C – REQUIRED EVIDENCE OF FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS IN BASIC MEDICAL TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANNEX V, V.1, 5.1.1 OF EU DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC

MEMBER STATE	EVIDENCE OF FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS	BODY AWARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS	CERTIFICATE ACCOMPANYING THE QUALIFICATIONS	REFERENCE DATE ^
België/ Belgique/ Belgien / Belgium	Diploma van arts/ Diplôme de docteur en médecine	— Les universités/De universiteiten — Le Jury compétent d'enseignement de la Communauté française/De bevoegde Examencommissie van de Vlaamse emeenschap	---	20 December 1976
България / Bulgaria	Диплома за висше образование на обра- зователно-квалифи- кационна степен 'магистър' по 'Медицина' и профе- сионална квали- фикация 'Магистърлекар'	Медицински факултет във Висше медицинско училище (Медицински университет, Висш медицински институт в Република България)	---	1 January 2007
Česká republika/ Czech Republic	Diplom o ukončení studia ve studijním programu všeobecné lékařství (doktor medicíny, MUDr.)	Lékařská fakulta univerzity v České republice		1 May 2004
Danmark / Denmark	Bevis for bestået ægevidenskabelig embedseksamen	Medicinsk universitetsfakultet	— Autorisation som læge, udstedt af Sundhedsstyrelsen og — Tilladelse til selvstændigt virke som læge (dokumentation for gennemført praktisk uddannelse), udstedt af Sundhedsstyrelsen	20 December 1976
Deutschland / Germany	Zeugnis über die Ärztliche Prüfung — Zeugnis über die Ärztliche Staatsprüfung Und Zeugnis über die Vorbereitungszeit als Medizinalassistent, soweit diese nach den deutschen Rechtsvorschriften noch für den Abschluss der ärztlichen Ausbildung vorgesehen war	Zuständige Behörden	---	20 December 1976
Eesti / Estonia	Diplom arstiteaduse õppekava läbimise kohta	Tartu Ülikool	---	1 May 2004
Ελλάς / Greece	Πτυχίο Ιατρικής	— Ιατρική Σχολή Πανεπιστημίου, — Σχολή Επιστημών Υγείας, Τμήμα Ιατρικής Πανεπιστημίου	---	1 January 1981
España / Spain	Título de licenciado en Medicina	— Ministerio de Educación y Cultura — El rector de una Universidad	---	1 January 1986

^Graduates awarded basic medical qualifications prior to the relevant reference date must submit with their application a certificate from the relevant competent authority confirming that their qualification(s) comply with the requirements of the Directive.

APPENDIX C – REQUIRED EVIDENCE OF FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS IN BASIC MEDICAL TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANNEX V, V.1, 5.1.1 OF EU DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC (CONTINUED)

MEMBER STATE	EVIDENCE OF FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS	BODY AWARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS	CERTIFICATE ACCOMPANYING THE QUALIFICATIONS	REFERENCE DATE ^
France	Diplôme de fin de deuxième cycle des études médicales	Universités	---	20 December 1976
Hrvatska / Croatia	Diploma 'doktor medicine/doktorica medicine'	Medicinski fakulteti sveučilišta u Republici Hrvatskoj		1 July 2013
Iceland / Ísland	Lækningaleyfi	Heilbrigðis- og tryggingamálaráðuneyti		1 January 1994
Ireland / Éire	Primary qualification	Competent examining body	Certificate of experience	20 December 1976
Italia / Italy	Diploma di laurea in medicina e chirurgia	Università	Diploma di abilitazione all'esercizio della medicina e chirurgia	20 December 1976
Κύπρος / Cyprus	Πιστοποιητικό Εγγραφής Ιατρού	Ιατρικό Συμβούλιο	---	1 May 2004
Latvija / Latvia	ārsta diploms	Universitātes tipa augstskola	---	1 May 2004
Lietuva / Lithuania	Aukštojo mokslo diplomas, nurodantis suteiktą gydytojo kvalifikaciją	Universitetas	Internatūros pažymėjimas, Nurodantis suteiktą medicinos gydytojo profesinę kvalifikaciją	1 May 2004
Luxembourg	Diplôme d'Etat de docteur en médecine, chirurgie et accouchements	Jury d'examen d'Etat	Certificat de stage	20 December 1976
Magyarország / Hungary	Okleveles orvosdoktor oklevél (dr. med)	Egyetem	---	1 May 2004
Malta	Lawrja ta' Tabib tal-Medicina u l-Kirurgija	Universita' ta' Malta	Ċertifikat ta' registrazzjoni maħruġ mill- Kunsill Mediku	1 May 2004
Nederland / The Netherlands	Getuigschrift van met goed gevolg afgelegd artsexamen	Faculteit Geneeskunde	---	20 December 1976
Norway / Norge	Vitnemål for fullført grad <i>candidata/candidatus medicinae</i> , short form <i>cand.med.</i>	Medisinsk universitetsfakultet	Bekreftelse på praktisk tjeneste som lege utstedt av kompetent offentlig myndighet	01/01/1994
Österreich / Austria	1. Urkunde über die Verleihung des akademischen Grades Doktor der gesamten Heilkunde (bzw. Doctor medicinae universae, Dr.med.univ.) 2. Diplom über die spezifische Ausbildung zum Arzt für Allgemeinmedizin bzw. Facharztdiplom	1. Medizinische Fakultät einer Universität 2. Österreichische Ärztekammer	---	1 January 1994

^Graduates awarded basic medical qualifications prior to the relevant reference date must submit with their application a certificate from the relevant competent authority confirming that their qualification(s) comply with the requirements of the Directive.

APPENDIX C – REQUIRED EVIDENCE OF FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS IN BASIC MEDICAL TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANNEX V, V.1, 5.1.1 OF EU DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC (CONTINUED)

MEMBER STATE	EVIDENCE OF FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS	BODY AWARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS	CERTIFICATE ACCOMPANYING THE QUALIFICATIONS	REFERENCE DATE ^
Polska / Poland	Dyplom ukończenia studiów wyższych na kierunku lekarskim z tytułem 'lekarza'	1. Akademia Medyczna 2. Uniwersytet Medyczny 3. Collegium Medicum Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego	Lekarski Egzamin Końcowy	1 May 2004
Portugal	Carta de Curso de licenciatura em medicina	Universidades	Diploma comprovativo da conclusão do internato geral emitido pelo Ministério da Saúde	1 January 1986
România / Romania	Diplomă de licență de doctor medic	Universități	---	1 January 2007
Slovenija / Slovenia	Diploma, s katero se podeljuje strokovni naslov 'doktor medicine/doktorica medicine'	Univerza	---	1 May 2004
Slovensko / Slovakia	Vysokoškolský diplom o udelení akademického titulu 'doktor medicíny' ('MUDr.')	Vysoká škola	---	1 May 2004
Suomi/ Finland	Lääketieteen lisensiaatin tutkinto/Medicine licentiatexamen	—Helsingin yliopisto/ Helsingfors universitet —Kuopion yliopisto —Oulun yliopisto —Tampereen yliopisto —Turun yliopisto		1 January 1994
Sverige / Sweden	Läkarexamen	Universitet	Bevis om praktisk utbildning som utfärdas av Socialstyrelsen	1 January 1994
Switzerland	Diplôme fédéral de médecin Eidgenössisches Arztdiplom Diploma federale di medico	Département fédéral de l'intérieur, Eidgenössisches Departement des Innern, Dipartimento federale dell'interno		
United Kingdom	Primary qualification	Competent examining body	Certificate of experience	20 December 1976

^Graduates awarded basic medical qualifications prior to the relevant reference date must submit with their application a certificate from the relevant competent authority confirming that their qualification(s) comply with the requirements of the Directive.

APPENDIX D - RECOGNISED MEDICAL SPECIALTIES

Anaesthesia

- Anaesthesia

Emergency Medicine

- Emergency Medicine

General Practice

- General Practice

Medicine

- Cardiology
- Clinical Genetics
- Clinical Neurophysiology
- Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics
- Dermatology
- Endocrinology & Diabetes Mellitus
- Gastroenterology
- General (Internal) Medicine
- Genito-Urinary Medicine
- Geriatric Medicine
- Infectious Diseases
- Medical Oncology
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Palliative Medicine
- Pharmaceutical Medicine
- Rehabilitation Medicine
- Respiratory Medicine
- Rheumatology
- Tropical Medicine

Obstetrics & Gynaecology

- Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Occupational Medicine

- Occupational Medicine

Ophthalmology

- Ophthalmology

Paediatrics

- Paediatric Cardiology
- Paediatrics

Pathology

- Chemical Pathology
- Haematology (Clinical & Laboratory)
- Histopathology
- Immunology (Clinical & Laboratory)
- Microbiology
- Neuropathology
-

Psychiatry

- Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
- Psychiatry
- Psychiatry of Learning Disability
- Psychiatry of Old Age

Public Health Medicine

- Public Health Medicine

Radiology:

- Radiation Oncology
- Radiology

Sports and Exercise Medicine

- Sports and Exercise Medicine

Surgery

- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- General Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Ophthalmic Surgery
- Oral & Maxillo-Facial Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Paediatric Surgery
- Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery
- Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery
- Urology

APPENDIX E – APPROVED POSTGRADUATE TRAINING BODIES IN IRELAND

In relation to each recognised specialty, the Medical Council currently recognises the following bodies in Ireland for the purpose of granting evidence of satisfactory completion of specialist training:

Anaesthesia

The College of Anaesthetists of Ireland

22 Merrion Square North, Dublin 2

Telephone: 01-6614412

Fax: 01-2650699

Email: @coa.

Website: .anaesthesia.

General Practice

The Irish College of General Practitioners

4-5 Lincoln Place, Dublin 2.

Telephone: 01-6763705

Fax: 01-6765850

Email: @icgp.

Website: .icgp.

Medicine

The Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland,
Frederick House, 19 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2.

Telephone: 01-8639700

Fax: 01-6724707

Email: @rcpi.

Website: .rcpi.

Obstetrics & Gynaecology

The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland,
Frederick House, 19 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2.

Telephone: 01-8639729

Fax: 01-6724707

Email: @rcpi.

Website: .rcpi.

Occupational Medicine

The Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland,
Frederick House, 19 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2.

Telephone: 01-8639700

Fax: 01-6724707

Email: @rcpi.

Website: .rcpi.

Ophthalmology

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists

121 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

Telephone: 01-4022777

Fax: 01-4022778

Email: @rcsi.

Website: .seeico.

Paediatrics

The Faculty of Paediatrics, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland,
Frederick House, 19 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2.

Telephone: 01-8639729

Fax: 01-6724707

Email: @rcpi.

Website: .rcpi.

Pathology

The Faculty of Pathology, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland,
Frederick House, 19 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2.

Telephone: 01-8639700

Fax: 01-7624707

Email: @rcpi.

Website: .rcpi.

APPENDIX E – APPROVED POSTGRADUATE TRAINING BODIES IN IRELAND (continued)

Psychiatry

The College of Psychiatry of Ireland,
5 Herbert Street, Dublin 2.

Telephone: 01-6618450 Fax: 01-669677
Email: @irishpsychiatry Website: .irishpsychiatry

Public Health Medicine

The Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland,
Frederick House, 19 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2.

Telephone: 01-8639700 Fax: 01-6724707
Email: @rcpi Website: .rcpi

Radiology

The Faculty of Radiologists, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland,
121 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

Telephone: 01-4022139 Fax: 01-4022466
Email: @rcsi Website: .radiology

Sports and Exercise Medicine

The Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland,
123 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

Telephone: 01-4022780 Fax: 01-4022781
Email: @rcsi Website: .rcsi

Surgery and Emergency Medicine

Irish Surgical Postgraduate Training Committee of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland,
123 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

Telephone: 01-4022100 Fax: 01-4022459
Email: @rcsi Website: .rcsi

APPENDIX F – REQUIRED STANDARD DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED WITH AN APPLICATION FOR TRAINEE SPECIALIST OR GENERAL REGISTRATION

DOCUMENTATION (SEE GUIDE FOR REQUIRED FORMAT)	ELIGIBILITY CATEGORY (SEE ELIGIBILITY MAPS)							
	T1	T2	T3	T4	G1	G2	G3	G4
ALL APPLICANTS:								
Relevant Application Form	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Appropriate Application Fee	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Notarised/attested copy current Passport / GNIB Card and travel document (Refugees)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Original Certificates of Current Professional Status / Good Standing sent directly from relevant competent authority/ies; and Sworn Declaration re Unregistered Practice (if applicable); or Statement re absence from clinical practice (if applicable)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Notarised/attested copy basic (primary) medical degree (except Irish medical degrees)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
EU Certification (if bmq awarded prior to reference date)		•	•			•	•	
Notarised/attested copy Certificate of Experience / Internship Certificate	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
4 x colour passport-sized photographs				•				•
Pass Level 2 Examination				•				•
Pass Level 3 Examination				•				•
Pass Level 4 Assessment	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
IF DECLARED ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION:								
Appropriate registration fee	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Form TSR1	•	•	•	•				

T1, 2, 3, 4 = Trainee 1, 2, 3, 4

G1, 2, 3, 4 = General 1, 2, 3, 4

APPENDIX G – REQUIRED STANDARD DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED WITH AN APPLICATION FOR SPECIALIST REGISTRATION

DOCUMENTATION (SEE GUIDE FOR REQUIRED FORMAT)	ELIGIBILITY CATEGORY (SEE ELIGIBILITY MAPS)		
	A	B-D	E
ALL APPLICANTS:			
Relevant Application Form	•	•	•
Appropriate Application Fee	•	•	•
Notarised/attested copy current Passport / GNIB Card and travel document (Refugees)	•	•	•
Original Certificates of Current Professional Status / Good Standing sent directly from relevant competent authority/ies; and Sworn Declaration re Unregistered Practice (if applicable); or Statement re absence from clinical practice (if applicable)	•	•	•
Notarised/attested copy basic (primary) medical degree (except Irish medical degrees)	•	•	•
Documentation Per _		•	
IF DECLARED ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION:			
Appropriate registration fee	•	•	•

FOR ALL APPLICANTS:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unbound copy up-to-date curriculum vitae, including full details of specialist training and experience.
FOR APPLICANTS UNDER CATEGORY SPECIALIST A:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notarised/attested copy Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training, where applicable. Notarised/attested copy Vocational Training Certificate plus MICGP Certificate for the specialty of General Practice, where applicable.
FOR APPLICANTS UNDER CATEGORY SPECIALIST B:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notarised/attested copy Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training issued under EU Directive 86/457/EEC,⁶² 93/16/EEC, 2005/35/EC, or subsequent amending Directives, where applicable.
FOR APPLICANTS UNDER CATEGORY SPECIALIST C:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notarised/attested copy of Certificate of Acquired Rights issued by an EU Training Body stating that training meets with the relevant requirements of EU Directive 93/16/EEC or 2005/36/EC as amended.
FOR APPLICANTS UNDER CATEGORY SPECIALIST D:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notarised/attested evidence of first time establishment and recognition in an EU member state; treated as a specialist by that member state within the meaning of EU Directive 2005/36/EC; and evidence of three years professional experience in the profession concerned in the member state that first granted recognition.

⁶² Although EU Directive 86/457/EEC has been fully repealed under EU law the Medical Council will consider applications where these certificates are presented as evidence of completion of specialist training in General Practice.

APPENDIX G – REQUIRED STANDARD DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED WITH AN APPLICATION FOR SPECIALIST REGISTRATION (CONTINUED)

FOR APPLICANTS UNDER CATEGORY SPECIALIST E:
Note: - the documentation outlined below is not exhaustive and should be provided to the best of each applicant's ability with reference to the competencies required. It would be expected that at least some evidence is provided under each grouping
ALL APPLICANTS UNDER CATEGORY SPECIALIST E:
- Evidence Medical Skills and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of possession of a required exit exam and / or fellowship (i.e. Intercollegiate exam or equivalent for surgical specialties) • Record of In-Service Training Assessments (RITA) forms from the United Kingdom or alternative training assessments. • Certified copy of current Log Books or other training records. These must detail the type of procedures and case mix carried out by the applicant • Appraisals / assessments from trainers and colleagues • Validated information on specialty and sub-specialty caseload • Validated copies of on-call rotas and work programme
- Evidence of Further Education and Research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attested copies of relevant postgraduate diplomas • Validated evidence of CME/CPD activities including communication skills • List of publications (may be provided in CV)
- Evidence of Management and Communication Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validated evidence of participation in lecturing, teaching and management
- Evidence of Third Party Performance Feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of multi source feedback including 360° feedback • Evidence of Peer Review • Validated evidence of clinical audit
ONLY WHERE APPLICABLE FOR APPLICANTS UNDER CATEGORY SPECIALIST E:
- Evidence of Completion of a Structured Training Programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary evidence of completion of a structured higher specialist training programme in a specialty recognised by the Medical Council. Applicants will be measured against the standards of those who have successfully gained a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) from the relevant approved postgraduate training body in Ireland. Further details of core competencies are available from the relevant training body. See ... • An English language copy of the higher specialist training curriculum undertaken • Certified evidence of the programmes' accreditation from the training programme supervising institution(s) • Clinical content of the training programme
OR
- Evidence of Completion of a Self Structured Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary evidence confirming that the applicant has completed self structured training that satisfies the required core competencies for the specialties that they are applying for. Applicants will be measured against the standards of those who have successfully gained a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) from the relevant approved postgraduate training body in Ireland. Further details of core competencies are available from the relevant training body. See ... • Supporting information which sets out the self-structured training attained over the course of the candidates career • Validated evidence of competencies attained during self-structured training

APPENDIX G – REQUIRED STANDARD DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED WITH AN APPLICATION FOR SPECIALIST REGISTRATION (CONTINUED)

APPLICANTS FOR SPECIALIST REGISTRATION SHOULD NOTE:

- Documentation should be submitted **unbound** on A4 size paper, photocopied **single-sided** only and **should not be stapled**.
- Documentation should be structured into the following format:
Application form + supporting documentation for all applicants, **and**
Supporting documentation for Appendix G Categories A – D, **or**
Supporting documentation for Appendix G Category Specialist E
- All copy documents must be **notarised** by a Notary Public **or attested** by a Justice of the Peace/Commissioner for Oaths/Member of An Garda Síochána (documents signed by a Police Officer from outside the State are not acceptable). They should confirm that the copy is a true copy of the original document, provide their full name and sign, date and officially stamp each copy document. Documents which are not stamped clearly or have not been properly notarised/attested cannot be accepted and will result in a delay in the processing of an application. **Original documentation should not be submitted with an application.** The Medical Council will not be responsible for original documentation lost or mislaid in transit or at the Medical Council's offices. The Medical Council reserves the right to verify any documentation submitted in support of an application for registration.
- All documents which are not in the English language must be attached to an English language **translation** issued and officially stamped by an **official translator**.

APPENDIX H – REQUIRED EVIDENCE OF FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS IN HIGHER MEDICAL TRAINING IN THE MEDICAL SPECIALTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANNEX V, PARAGRAPHS 5.1.2 AND 5.1.3 OF EU DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC (see overleaf for General Practice)

MEMBER STATE	EVIDENCE OF FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS	BODY AWARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS	REFERENCE DATE
Belgium	Bijzondere beroepstitel van geneesheer-specialist/Titre professionnel particulier de médecin spécialiste	Minister bevoegd voor Volksgezondheid/Ministre de la Santé publique	20 December 1976
Bulgaria	Свидетелство за призната специалност	Медицински университет, Висш медицински институт или Военномедицин-ска академия	01 January 2007
Czech Republic	Diplom o specializaci	Ministerstvo zdravotnictví	01 May 2004
Denmark	Bavis for tilladelse til at betegne sig som speciallæge	Sundhedsstyrelsen	20 December 1976
Germany	Fachärztliche Anerkennung	Landesärztekammer	20 December 1976
Estonia	Residentuuri lõputunnistus eriarstiabi erialal	Tartu Ülikool	01 May 2004
Greece	Τίτλος Ιατρικής Ειδικότητας	1. Νομαρχιακή Αυτοδιοίκηση 2. Νομαρχία	01 January 1981
Spain	Título de Especialista	Ministerio de Educación y Cultura	01 January 1986
France	1. Certificat d'études spéciales de médecine 2. Attestation de médecin spécialiste qualifié 3. Certificat d'études spéciales de médecine 4. Diplôme d'études spécialisées ou spécialisation complémentaire qualifiante de médecine	1. Universités 2. Conseil de l'Ordre des médecins 3. Universités 4. Universités	20 December 1976
Ireland	Certificate of Specialist Doctor	Competent Authority	20 December 1976
Italy	Diploma di medico specialista	Università	20 December 1976
Cyprus	Πιστοποιητικό Αναγνώρισης Ειδικότητας	Ιατρικό Συμβούλιο	01 May 2004
Latvia	Sertifikāts' - kompetentu iestāžu izsniegts dokuments, kas apliecina, ka persona ir nokārtojusi sertifikācijas eksāmenu specialitātē	Latvijas Ārstu biedrība Latvijas Ārstniecības personu profesionālo organizāciju savienība	01 May 2004
Lithuania	Rezidentūros pažymėjimas, nurodantis suteiktą gydytojo specialisto profesinę kvalifikaciją	Universitetas	01 May 2004
Luxembourg	Certificat de médecin spécialiste	Ministre de la Santé publique	20 December 1976
Hungary	Szakorvosi bizonyítvány	Az Egészségügyi, Szociális és Családügyi Minisztérium illetékes testülete	01 May 2004
Malta	Ċertifikat ta' Speċjalista Mediku	Kumitat ta' Approvazzjoni dwar Speċjalisti	01 May 2004
Netherlands	Bewijs van inschrijving in een Specialistenregister		20 December 1976
Austria	Facharztdiplom	Österreichische Ärztekammer	01 January 1994
Poland	Dyplom uzyskania tytułu specjalisty	Centrum Egzaminów Medycznych	01 May 2004
Portugal	1. Grau de assistente 2. Título de especialista	1. Ministério da Saúde 2. Ordem dos Médicos	01 January 1986
Romania	Certificat de medic specialist	Ministerul Sănătății Publici	01 January 2007
Slovenia	Potrdilo o opravljenem specialističnem izpitu	1. Ministrstvo za zdravje 2. Zdravniška zbornica Slovenije	01 May 2004
Slovakia	Diplom o špecializácii	1. Slovenská zdravotnícka univerzita 2. Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave 3. Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach	01 May 2004
Sweden	Bevis om specialkompetens som läkare, utfärdat av Socialstyrelsen	Socialstyrelsen	01 January 1994
U.K	Certificate of Completion of specialist training	Competent Authority	20 December 1976

Qualifications must be accompanied by an appropriate attestation from the Competent Authority under circumstances where the relevant articles and annexes of EU Directive are not cited on the qualification. NOTE: See overleaf for General Practice.

APPENDIX H (CONTINUED) - REQUIRED EVIDENCE OF FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS IN HIGHER MEDICAL TRAINING IN GENERAL PRACTICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANNEX V, 5.1.4. OF EU DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC

MEMBER STATE	EVIDENCE OF FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS	PROFESSIONAL TITLE	REFERENCE DATE
Belgium	Ministerieel Erkenningsbesluit van huisarts / Arrêté ministerial d'agrément de médecin généraliste'	Huisarts/Médecin généraliste	20 December 1976
Bulgaria	Свидетелство за призната специалност по Обща медицина'	Лекар-специалист по Обща медицина	01 January 2007
Czech Republic	Diplom o specializaci 'všeobecné lékařství'	Všeobecný lékař	01 May 2004
Denmark	Tilladelse til at anvende betegnelsen alment praktiserende læge / Speciallæge i almen medicin'	Almen praktiserende læge/Speciallæge i almen medicin	20 December 1976
Germany	Zeugnis über die spezifische Ausbildung in der Allgemeinmedizin	Facharzt/Fachärztin für Allgemeinmedizin	20 December 1976
Estonia	Diplom Peremeditsiini Erialal'	Perearst	01 May 2004
Greece	Τίτλος ιατρικής ειδικότητας γενικής ιατρικής	Ιατρός γενικής ιατρικής	01 January 1981
Espana Spain	Titulo de Especialista en Medicina Familiar y Comunitaria	Medico de familia	31 st December 1994
France	Diplôme d'Etat de Docteur en Médecine (avec document annexé attestant la formation spécifique en médecine générale)	Médecin qualifié en médecine générale	20 December 1976
Italy	Attestato di formazione specifica in medicina generale	Medici di medicina generale	20 December 1976
Cyprus	Τίτλος Ειδικότητας Γενικής Ιατρικής	Ιατρός Γενικής Ιατρικής	20 December 1976
Latvia	Ģimenes ārsta Sertifikāts	Ģimenes (vispārējās prakses) ārsts	01 May 2004
Lithuania	Seimos gydytojo rezidentūros pažymėjimas	Seimos medicinos gydytojas	01 May 2004
Luxembourg	Diplôme de Formation Spécifique en Médecine Générale	Médecin généraliste	01 May 2004
Hungary	Háziorvostan szakorvosa bizonyítvány	Háziorvostan szakorvosa	20 December 1976
Malta	Tabib tal-familja - Medicina tal-familja	Medicina tal-familja	01 May 2004
Netherlands	Certificaat van inschrijving in het register van erkende huisartsen van de Koninklijke Nederlandsche Maatschappij tot bevordering der geneeskunst	Huisarts	01 May 2004
Austria	Arzt für Allgemeinmedizin	Arzt für Allgemeinmedizin	20 December 1976
Poland	Diplôme: Dyplom uzyskania tytułu specjalisty w dziedzinie medycyny rodzinnej	Specjalista w dziedzinie medycyny rodzinnej	01 January 1994
Portugal	Diploma do Internato Complementar de Clínica Geral	Assistente de clínica geral	01 May 2004
Romania	Certificat de Medic Specialist Medicină de Familie	Medic specialist Medicină de Familie	01 January 1986
Slovenia	Potrđilo o Opravljeni Specializaciji iz Družinske Medicine	Specialist družinske medicine/Specialistka družinske medicine	01 January 2007
Slovakia	Diplom o špecializácii v Odbore 'Všeobecné Lekárstvo	Všeobecný lekár	01 May 2004
Sweden	Bevis om kompetens som allmän-praktiserande läkare (Europaläkare) utfärdat av Socialstyrelsen	Allmänpraktiserande läkare (Europaläkare)	01 January 1994
U.K	Certificate of Prescribed / Equivalent Experience	General Medical Practitioner	01 January 1994

Qualifications must be accompanied by an appropriate attestation from the Competent Authority under circumstances where the relevant articles and annexes of EU Directive are not cited on the qualification.

APPENDIX H (CONTINUED) - REQUIRED EVIDENCE OF QUALIFICATIONS IN HIGHER MEDICAL TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACQUIRED RIGHTS GRANTED UNDER EU DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC

Acquired Rights for the above EU/EEA member states must be certified by the appropriate competent authority. The attestation from the competent authority must state that the medical practitioner has acquired rights in accordance with Article 23 and/or Article 27 for specialised medicine or Article 30 for General Practice.

APPENDIX H (CONTINUED) - REQUIRED EVIDENCE OF ESTABLISHMENT AS A SPECIALIST OR IN GENERAL PRACTICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.3 OF EU DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC

Evidence of mutual recognition of qualifications for first-time establishment in the above EU/EEA member states, following recognition of training undertaken in a 3rd country, must be certified by the appropriate competent authority. The attestation must state that the applicant is recognised / established as a Specialist or in General Practice in the home member state (the member state of origin) in accordance with Article 3.3 of EU Directive 2005/36/EC.

APPENDIX I – HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS RECOGNISED FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE PRES (TRAINEE SPECIALIST DIVISION AND GENERAL DIVISION)

Specialty	Higher Qualifications
Anaesthesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellowship of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland (FCAI), (formerly FCARCSI and FFARCSI) • Membership of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland (MCAI), formerly Primary Fellowship Examination of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland • Overseas Qualifying Examination of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland (OQE) • Fellow of the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine of Ireland (FJFICMI) • Diploma in Pain Management, College of Anaesthetists of Ireland • Fellowship of the Faculty of Pain Medicine, College of Anaesthetists of Ireland • Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists UK (FRCA) • Primary Examination of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (UK) • Fellow of the Australian & New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (FANZCA) • Fellow of the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand • Fellow in Anesthesiology of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada • Fellow of the College of Anaesthetists of South Africa (FCA(SA)) • Diploma of American Boards in Anesthesiology (DABA) • Diploma of American Boards in Critical Care Medicine • European Diploma in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (EDAIC, formerly EDA) • European Diploma in Intensive Care Medicine (EDIC) • Fellow in Anaesthesia of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Pakistan (FCPS (P) taken after 1998) • Doctor of Medicine in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, University of the West Indies
Occupational Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MFOM) • Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (FFOM) • Licentiate of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (LFOM) • Membership of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Royal College of Physicians (London) • American Board Certification in Occupational Health • American Board of Preventive Medicine • Certificate of the Canadian Board of Occupational Medicine • Fellow of the Australasian College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine
Pathology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellow of the Faculty of Pathology Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (FFPath RCPI)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRCPPath (UK) • Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (FRCPA) • American Board Certification in Pathology (ASCP) • Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists (UK) (FRCPath)
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI Ob&Gyn) • Membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (MRCOG) (UK) • Membership of the Royal Australian and/or New Zealand College(s) of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (MRACOG / MRNZCOG / MRANZCOG) • Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada (O&G) • Fellowship of the College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of South Africa (FCOG (SA)) • Current Certification by the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Paediatrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Faculty of Paediatrics of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI Medicine of Childhood) • Membership of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (MRCPCH) • American Board in Paediatrics
Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI) • Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (FRCPI) MRCP (London) MRCP (Glasgow) MRCP (Edinburgh) MRACP (Australia) FRCP(C) (Canada) FCP(SA) (South Africa) American Board in General (Internal) Medicine
Surgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (FRCSI) • Collegiate Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (MRCSI(C)) • Intercollegiate Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (IMRCSI) (must be accompanied by an original/certified copy Certificate of Completion of Basic Surgical Training (CCBST)). • Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (MRCSI) • Associate Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (AFRCSI) • Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh • Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons & Physicians of Glasgow • Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (London) • Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh • Member of the Royal College of Surgeons & Physicians of Glasgow • Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (London) • Fellow of the Royal College of Medicine of South Africa • Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons • Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada (Surgery) • American Board Certification

Emergency Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership/Fellowship of the College of Emergency Medicine (MCEM/FCEM) (UK) [Irish trainees are required to sit these BST/HSE exit exams] • Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (in Accident and Emergency Medicine and Surgery) (FRCSEd (A&E)) • Fellowship of the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine (FACEM) • Diplomate of the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) • Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (FRCPC) • Exit examination in Emergency Medicine of the Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine
Radiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellow of the Faculty of Radiologists Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (FFR RCSI) • Fellow of the Royal College of Radiologists (FRCR) (UK) • American Board of Radiology • Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (FRCPC) - Division of Radiology or Radiation Oncology
General Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of the Irish College of General Practitioners (MICGP) • Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP) • Member of the Royal College of General Practitioners (MRCGP)
Psychiatry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Royal College of Psychiatry (UK) (MRCPsych) • The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology • Fellowship of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatry
Ophthalmology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRCSI (Ophth) • Fellow of the Royal College of Australia & New Zealand (FRANZCO) • Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh • Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons & Physicians of Glasgow • American Board of Ophthalmology • FRCOphth (London) • Canadian Board

A LIST OF EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATIONS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THIS GUIDE AND UPDATED REGULARLY, WHEN APPROVED BY THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

APPENDIX J - HIGHER SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAMMES RECOGNISED FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE PRES (TRAINEE SPECIALIST DIVISION ONLY)

Participants in the following Six-month Rotation Residency Programmes are recognised for exemption from the PRES in accordance with the Rules Specifying Pre-Registration Examinations and Exemptions:

- 1. George Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, Missouri -and-**
- 2. Dept of Neurosurgery, Beaumont Hospital/RCSI, Dublin**

Specialty: Neurosurgery
Programme Content: Senior Registrar in Neurosurgery at level 5/6 on an accredited Neurosurgery Programme
Duration: Six months
Applicants must be on the residency staff of the Dept of Neurosurgery, Washington UH.

- 3. Department of Surgery, Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland -and-**
- 4. Department of Surgery, Beaumont Hospital/RCSI, Dublin**

Specialty: General Surgery
Programme Content: Appointed as an equivalent Senior Registrar (SpR) under the tutelage of a Consultant Surgeon, Beaumont Hospital
Duration: Six months
Applicants must be on the residency staff of the General Surgical Programme at Johns Hopkins UH.

- 5. GP Exchange Programme with GP Registrars in the Southern GP Training scheme in Australia**

Exchange programme for GP Registrars in the Southern GP Training scheme in Australia.

Specialty: General Practice
Programme Content: Specialist training in General Practice primary care in accredited training practices in Ireland, overseen at all times by Irish trainers.
Duration: 2-3 months

Applicants must be on the Southern GP Training scheme in Australia.

NO OTHER HIGHER SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAMMES ARE CURRENTLY RECOGNISED FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE PRES