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1. Introduction

- The Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners strives to provide high standards to maintain accuracy and ultimate satisfaction from the services provided for healthcare practitioners in the State of Qatar.
- In the Registration Department's pursuit to unify and sustain the level of quality in the healthcare system, and based on Emiri decree no. (7/2013) and (13/2016) amending some items in the Emiri decree no. (7/2013) to establish the Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a Qualifying Examination Policy, which explains the procedures, guidelines and recognised examination for each profession under physicians, dentists, nurses, allied healthcare practitioners and pharmacists. It also establishes various exemptions and updates of the Qualifying Examination for Professionals in the field of healthcare of the State of Qatar.

3. Policy Statement

The qualifying exam is considered to be one of the requirements for registration / licensing of healthcare practitioners to ensure the efficiency and the eligibility of applicants, to work safely in the State of Qatar. The qualifying exam assess the ability to apply knowledge, concepts, and principles, and to determine fundamental patient-centered skills that are important in health and disease and that constitute the basis of safe and effective patient care.

4. Definitions

N/A

5. Abbreviations

- **MCQ**: Multiple Choice Questions
- **OSCE**: Objective Structured Clinical Examination
- **IFOM**: International Foundations of Medicine
- **NBDHE**: National Board Dental Hygiene examination
- **NXLEX** : National Council Licensure Examination certificate
- **NJCE – II** : National Joint Commission of Examiner-II certificate
- **CBT** : Computer - Based Testing



6. Scope

- This policy applies to all healthcare practitioners willing to practice in the State of Qatar

7. Procedures/Guidelines

7.1. All healthcare practitioners under the below scopes are mandated to sit for the qualifying exam at the evaluation stage:

- General Practitioner
- General Dentist
- Pharmacist
- Registered General Nurse
- Registered Midwife
- Lab Technologist
- Lab Technician
- Radiology Technologist
- Radiology Technician
- Physiotherapist
- Basic Paramedic
- Paramedic
- Critical Care Paramedic
- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- Dental Lab Technician

7.2. The above scopes can be updated whenever applicable.

7.3. Exemptions from the qualifying exam

7.3.1. All Qatari practitioners.

7.3.2. Dentists with Post Graduate Degree with minimum study duration of 2 years and the study program should include the required accredited practical hours and clinical training.

7.3.3. Pharmacist, Nurses and Allied Healthcare Practitioners with clinical Masters or PHD degrees in their relevant field.

7.4. Equivalent Exams

7.4.1. Dentist exam can qualify for Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienist.

7.4.2. Nursing exam can qualify for Dental Assistants.



7.4.3. The exam of the higher level can be accepted for the lower level within the same discipline or scope of practice. Example: Exam of technologist can be accepted for the technician.

7.4.4 Applicant shall be exempted from the exam if he/she obtains a valid equivalent exam as illustrated below:

- **Physicians:**

- Australian Medical Council Multiple Choice Questionnaire
- Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board Part 1
- United States Medical Licensing Examination Part 3
- Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination Part 1
- Hamad Medical Corporation National Board Examination
- IFOM Exam
- Pre-Registration Examination system both parts (MCQ and OSCE) from Ireland.

- **Dentists:**

- Documented evidence of passing NJCE –II.
- Documented evidence of passing all parts of the National Dental Examining Board of Canada examination
- Documented evidence of passing all parts (written and clinical) of the overriding requirement. Registration with the Australian Dental Board for graduates of accredited dental programs in Australia
- Documented evidence of passing all parts of the Irish Dental Council Examination (I and II)
- Registration with the Irish Dental Council for graduates of accredited dental programs in Ireland
- Documented evidence of passing all parts of New Zealand Dental Registration Exam (NZDREX)
- Registration with the NZ Dental Board for graduates of accredited dental programs in NZ
- Documented evidence of passing all parts of the Overseas Registration Exam (ORE) for non UK graduates, this shall not be older than 5 years
- Registration with the UK General Dental Council for graduates of accredited dental programs in UK.

- **Nurses:**

- NXLEX

- **Dental Hygienist"**

- Documented evidence of passing both the written NBDHE and the clinical state or regional board examination from U.S.A



7.5. Exam Validity

7.5.1. Validity of the qualifying exam is 3 years.

7.5.2. Validity of the Equivalent Exams is as specified on the exam certificate; else it will be considered as 3 years.

7.5.3. A Healthcare Practitioner can sit for the exam for a maximum of five attempts in his specified scope (i.e. Technologist shall have a chance to take the exam up to 5 attempts even if he/she sat the technician exam and failed).

7.5.4. A healthcare practitioner can be granted an additional attempt if a clear justification is provided.

7.6. Exam Score Rounding

Exam marks / scores can be rounded provided that the applicant is only 3 marks short of the qualifying mark, on condition that he/she sat for all the 5 attempts and the highest mark can be considered.

Notes:

- In case the licensed practitioner left the country within 5 years, and his license can be restored/ renewed, then he/she does not have to sit for the qualifying exam again.
- Practitioners, who have old license before the implementation of CBT Qualifying exam and those who were licensed to work in the governmental / semi-governmental sectors without exam and are still working, will not be required to sit for the exam
- If the practitioner changes from governmental / semi-governmental sectors to any other healthcare facility while the license is still valid, then there is no need to appear for the qualifying exam.
- In case of submitting the evaluation application within one month of the expiry date of the exam, then the practitioner will not require to sit for exam again.
- In case of re-evaluation, the exams that were expired within 1 year shall also be considered for one time; provided that the exam was valid at the time of first registration and evaluation
- The trainee license holders, who have appeared for the valid professional qualifying exam, are not required to sit for another exam when they change from trainee to full professional license. (E.g.; Trainee Dentist who has cleared qualifying exam for GP Dentist).
- A healthcare practitioner is not required to take a qualifying examination at the time of license renewal.

8. References and Sources for Further Reading

N/A

9. Related Policies

N/A