



# Physicians Qualifications Requirements

January 2022 – version 3.3

## Contents

<b>Definitions:</b>	3
<b>Acronyms:</b>	5
<b>Preface:</b>	6
<b>1. Licensure General Requirements</b>	7
1.1 Educational Qualifications	7
1.2 Professional Experience	8
1.2.1: Internship	8
1.2.2: Experience:	8
1.3 Professional License and Good Standing Status	9
1.4 Primary Source Verification	9
1.5 Bahrain Medical Licensure Examination (BLE):	9
BLE Exemption Policy	10
BLE Attempts	10
1.6 NHRA Specialist Examination (NSE):	11
NSE Attempts:	11
1.7 Discontinuity of Practice:	12
<b>2. Renewal of Licenses</b>	13
<b>3. License Re-categorization</b>	13
<b>4. General Regulatory Items</b>	14
<b>Qualification and Experience Requirements for Physicians Licensure</b>	16
<b>Recognized Specialty Certificates</b>	17
<b>Recognized Specialty Titles for Licensing</b>	36
<b>Visiting Physicians:</b>	47
<b>Medical Advisory Committee Members:</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.

## Definitions:

**Authority:** National Health Regulatory Authority

**Continuing Professional Development (CPD):** A range of learning activities through which healthcare professionals maintain and develop/improve their knowledge and skills/professional performance throughout their career to ensure that they retain their capacity to practice safely, effectively and legally within their evolving scope of practice. CPD is also sometimes referred to as Continuing Medical Education (CME).

**Credentialing:** A process whereby specific licensing title is assigned to a healthcare professional based on recognized and accredited qualifications, training, experience, and current practice.

**Experience:** Hands on clinical experience gained by a licensed healthcare professional during a salaried employment/contractual period and it excludes volunteer jobs, observer-ship, clinical attachments, and electives.

**Fitness to Practice:** A status where the healthcare professional is able to consistently demonstrate ability to practice without any impediments ie. physical or others.

**Discontinuity of Practice:** A defined period of discontinuation of licensed clinical experience/practice.

**Certificate of Good Standing:** A certificate showing evidence that the healthcare professional is competent to practice the profession, has not been found guilty of unprofessional conduct, and that there are no pending or previous disciplinary orders or criminal proceedings against the healthcare professional.

**Healthcare Profession:** A field of healthcare recognized by the Authority.

**Healthcare Professional:** A person who by education, training, certification, and licensure is qualified to provide healthcare services.

**Internship:** A minimum of one year supervised clinical practice pursued by graduates of recognized medical schools to consolidate the knowledge and skill gained during their college study, provided the internship is completed in a university affiliated/accredited educational Hospital with a minimum rotation of six months in medical services and another six months in surgical services.

**License:** A permission granted by the authority to legally practice as a healthcare professional.

**Licensing:** A process of granting a legally protected professional title by the authority.

**Primary Source Verification:** A process of validating documents required for licensure from the issuing organization.

**Qualification:** Educational evidence granted by universities, colleges, academic institutes or schools that are nationally accredited or formally recognized.

**Re-Categorization:** The process of application and assessment for the issuing of a license from one license category to a higher category.

**Level (Tier):** A term used to indicate a category of postgraduate qualifications for physicians based on the level and the presence of the following:

- ☐ Structure of the academic program
- ☐ Training governance
- ☐ Training curriculum when needed
- ☐ Entry level examination
- ☐ Defined program competency framework
- ☐ Competency based assessment
- ☐ Hands-on training and independent practice
- ☐ Progression of responsibility during training and measurable outcomes at each level
- ☐ Final certifying exam
- ☐ Independence to practice post qualification
- ☐ Requirement to maintain the licensing/qualification

## Acronyms:

**BLE:** Bahrain Licensure Examination

**CGS:** Certificate of Good Standing

**CME:** Continuing Medical Education

**CPD:** Continuing Professional Development

**GP:** General Practitioner

**HEC:** Higher Education Council

**MOE:** Ministry of Education

**NHRA:** National Health Regulatory Authority

**NSE:** NHRA Specialist Examination

**PhD:** Doctor of Philosophy

**PQR:** Physicians Qualification Requirements

**SCH:** Supreme Council of Health

## Preface:

The Supreme Council of Health (SCH) in the Kingdom of Bahrain is pleased to present the revised PQR. The first PQR was issued in 2017. This revision was necessary in order to keep up with the advancements in the healthcare professions to ensure the quality of services provided for the healthcare recipients.

This document applies to all healthcare facilities both in the governmental and private sector to assess the documents submitted by applicants within their geographical jurisdiction to ensure safe and competent delivery of services. Moreover, it places an emphasis on educational standards, experience and licensure requirements for healthcare professionals to be licensed to practice safely in the Kingdom of Bahrain and in accordance with Bahrain laws and benchmarked international best practices.

The SCH would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Medical Advisory Committee members who have taken the time to revise the whole document and update it and would like to thank them for their dedicated efforts and assistance.

# 1. Licensure General Requirements

- All applicants must fulfill all the following requirements in order to qualify for licensure.
- Non-Bahraini physicians applying for a license must be no more than 65 years of age. Certain cases may be exempted by the SCH.

## 1.1 Educational Qualifications

- Academic qualifications will be evaluated by NHRA
- Medical Schools should be listed in the World's Directory of Medical Schools
- Qualifications must be issued by institutions/colleges recognized in home country
- At the entry level, minimum qualification requirement is high school certificate as per country specific education
- Professional qualifications are evaluated in accordance to the following criteria:
  - The country and institution from which the qualification was awarded
  - The level of national categorization of the qualification
  - The duration and curriculum of study, and the presence of clinical practice/practical training
  - Qualifications acquired through honorary nature, correspondence or online distance learning are not counted towards the PQR
- Qualifications not mentioned in this document may be evaluated and reviewed by NHRA which may grant the applicant with the appropriate title
- Specialty certificates will be accepted with the following conditions and respective tier allocation:
  - Must be obtained after a full-time structured clinical residency program of minimum three (3) years duration
  - Clinical Master's degree of minimum two (2) years of full time course duration\*+

O Clinical PhD of minimum four (4) years course duration\*

\* Holders of these qualifications must provide proof that at least 70-75% of the program is delivered as supervised clinical training

- All Tier 1 and 2 qualifications are exempted from NHRA Specialist Examination
- All Tier 3 qualifications must pass NHRA Specialist Examination if obtained outside the Kingdom of Bahrain
- Non-Bahraini's must fulfill all the required post-qualification experience prior to applying for a license in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

+ Certain exceptions may be considered by the Medical Advisory Committee for rare specialties.

## 1.2 Professional Experience

### 1.2.1: Internship

- All Physicians are required to successfully complete **one (1) year** internship post-graduation, passing through the four major rotations (internal medicine, general surgery, obstetrics & gynecology, and pediatrics) for minimum of two months duration for each specialty.

### 1.2.2: Experience:

- The applicant's experience must be relevant to the category applied for and must have been accomplished in an appropriate setting licensed by the professional regulatory and licensing authority in the country of practice.
- Bahraini nationals, new graduates are exempted from experience requirements for the basic entry level.
- All other applicants are required to fulfill experience as per their relevant titles according to the PQR.



### 1.3 Professional License and Good Standing Status

- The applicant must be registered and have a valid professional license to practice, or registration from home country and/or country of last employment.
- The applicant must provide evidence of meeting the minimum required experiences for the applied category.
- Certificate of Good Standing (CGS) must meet the following requirements:
  - Valid and not older than **six (6) months** at the time of application for licensure
  - Issued by the professional regulatory and licensing authority in the country(s) of last employment.
- NHRA may request more evidence or conduct investigations if deemed necessary to prove the status of good conduct of the healthcare professional.
- The applicant must declare that he/she has never been convicted of any legal cases, medical malpractice during his/her practice of the healthcare profession, or he/she is currently under investigation.

### 1.4 Primary Source Verification

- The documents required for licensing shall be verified directly from the original or primary source.
- These documents include but are not limited to educational qualification(s), experience certificate(s), professional license(s), good standing certificate and/or any other documents deemed necessary by NHRA.

### 1.5 Bahrain Medical Licensure Examination (BLE):

- All physicians must pass NHRA's BLE in order to obtain the professional license in the Kingdom of Bahrain

- Interns (graduates from local universities) may apply for the licensure exam after completing six months of their internship year.
- Interns will not be issued a license to practice except after providing proof of successful completion of their internship.
- The validity of the licensure examination is five years only.

## BLE Exemption Policy

Only Bahraini or GCC nationals holding a valid GCC license will be exempted from the licensure examination.

## BLE Attempts

Physicians have a total of four examination attempts provided the following conditions are adhered to:

1. Each physician may attempt the examination four consecutive times provided the attempts are done within a maximum of three years from the date of the first attempt.
2. Only Bahraini physicians if did not pass the exam after the fourth attempt, he/she is required to go through a period of training in a licensed hospital for a minimum of six months.
3. The training should cover the basic medical fields including medicine, surgery, pediatric, and obstetrics & gynecology.
4. Only Bahraini physician After bringing a proof of completion of training, two more consecutive exam attempts may be permitted provided that the attempts are within two years from the date of completion of training.

## 1.6 NHRA Specialist Examination (NSE):

- Tier 3 qualification holders must pass an NHRA specialist examination if their training was done outside the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- The NSE examination is provided either electronically or by other means including but not limited to written exams, short cases, or interviews.
- Bahraini physicians applying for a specialist license but who have not completed the required years of experience post-qualification will be required to pass the specialty examination, however they will be not granted specialist license until they complete the required years of experience under supervision of consultant as per this PQR.
- Non-physicians Dentists applying for specialist license should complete the required years of experience post qualification to attempt the specialist examination.

### NSE Attempts:

Physicians have a total of four examination attempts provided the following conditions are adhered to:

1. Each physician may attempt the examination four consecutive times provided the attempts are done within a maximum of three years from the date of the first attempt.
2. Only Bahraini physician if does not pass the exam after the fourth attempt, he/she is required to go through a period of training in a licensed facility for a minimum of six months after getting an approval of NHRA.
3. The training should cover the field of specialty only under supervision of a consultant from the same specialty.
4. Only Bahraini applicants After brining a proof of completion of training, two more consecutive exam attempts may be permitted provided that the attempts are within two years from the date of completion of training.

## 1.7 Discontinuity (GAP) of Practice:

**This section applies to Bahrainis ONLY**

Physicians who discontinue their practice for at least **three (3) years** and opt to be licensed in the Kingdom of Bahrain are required to **pass the NHRA licensure assessment as the first step** to obtain the license to practice and **must undertake the following actions:** -

1. Apply directly to take the NHRA licensing **exam**, if **passed the first exam attempt professional** will obtain a license to practice and **work under the supervision of a licensed professional with same specialty for one year.**
  2. a professional **who fails in the first exam attempt** will be required to go through **CPD credits and a clinical training program** and must follow the **requirements below:** -
    - A. All training programs and CME credits shall be carried out in approved practice setting by NHRA in
      - ❖ **(6) months of training on a full-time basis (7 hours a day/ 5 days a week)**
      - ❖ **100 CME/CPD credits**
    - B. All CME/CPD credits must be related to the practice specialty of the healthcare professional.
    - C. All applicants are required to complete a clinical training program which shall be determined by NHRA in the specialty field.
  3. applicants after completion of CPD credits, and the clinical training required to re-attempt the NHRA licensure exam (according to the number of attempts NHRA exam policy) if passed the re-attempt exam professional will obtain a license to practice and work under the supervision of a licensed professional for one year.
- Physicians are required to provide a health fitness certificate to practice.
  - **Non-Bahraini nationals** will not be able to apply for a license (as a new profession license) if they have a gap of clinical practice for (3) years and above.

## 2. Renewal of Licenses

- 2.1. Physicians must accumulate a minimum of 30 CME/CPD hours annually.
- 2.2. CME/CPD must be relevant to the field of the specialty.
- 2.3. CME/CPD hours should be submitted annually to NHRA even if the license is renewed for more than one year.
- 2.4. Bahraini physicians who are issued licenses without the specification of a facility must:
  - 2.4.1 Renew their license for one year at a time.
  - 2.4.2 Prove the continuity of their practice (must provide proof of a minimum of one full year of practice during the three years)
  - 2.4.3 Failure to provide continuity of practice will lead to the physician being considered in a gap of practice and will need to fulfill the discontinuity of practice requirements as per the requirements of this PQR prior to their license being renewed
- 2.5. License can be renewed up to a maximum of three years each time.
- 2.6. A health fitness certificate is required every three years at the time of license renewal.

## 3. License Re-categorization

- 3.1 Physicians may apply for a re-categorization of their license supported by the following documents:
  - 3.1.1 A formal competency letter from Chief of Medical Staff
  - 3.1.2 Additional qualification obtained.
  - 3.1.3 Verification of the qualification if obtained from outside the kingdom of Bahrain.

3.2 All re-categorization applications must fulfill the years of experience required post qualification as per this PQR.

## 4. General Regulatory Items

- Healthcare facilities should not employ a healthcare professional in a higher category than that given by NHRA.
- All professionals holding administrative, academic, and other non-clinical positions will not be licensed by NHRA unless they prove continuity of clinical practice.
- Non-Bahraini's wives married to Bahraini nationals will be treated as Bahraini in regard to the policies of experience, number of examination attempts, and discontinuity of practice.
- NHRA reserves the right to re-evaluate any health care professional should the need arise.
- All healthcare professions categorize should practice within their specified scope of practice framework.
- For physicians who hold Tier Two qualifications and go through a structured fellowship training of no less than one year, the period of the fellowship will be calculated as part of the clinical experience required for that tier for the general specialty.
- Physicians applying for a license in a sub-specialty must provide proof of a minimum of one-year fellowship clinical training in the same sub-specialty. CPD certificates will not be considered as training for the sub-specialty.
- Specialists must perform surgical interventions/invasive procedures under the supervision of a consultant (please refer to Medical Supervision Policy).
- Applicants must provide proof of successful completion of residency training or completion of training in the country granting the qualification.
- For recategorization requests for Bahrainis and Bahrain residents who started the higher educational programs before this PQR was approved, the old PQR will be applied for their licenses recategorization.

- Professional licensure and registration titles are independent from employment grade and titles.
- Bahraini's who are issued licenses without the specification of a facility must:
  - Apply for a transfer of their license as soon as they obtain an offer letter.
  - They should not start their practice in the prospective facility except after the transfer of the license.
- This PQR shall be reviewed once every three years.

## Qualification and Experience Requirements for Physicians Licensure

Employment Title	License Category	Qualifications	Experience and Other Requirements		
<b>Intern</b>	Registration only	Bachelor's degree in medicine and Surgery or equivalent qualification from an accredited institution	No experience required.		
<b>Resident</b>	General License For Bahraini's only *Non-Bahraini physicians need an exemption from the SCH	Bachelor's degree in medicine and Surgery or equivalent qualification from an accredited institution	For Bahrainis, successful completion of internship and passing licensure examination.		
<b>Senior Resident</b>	General license/resident  For Bahrainis only	Bachelor's degree in medicine and Surgery	<b>1.</b> Bahraini doctors in Arab or Saudi Board training programs after one year from passing part 1 exam. <b>2.</b> Bahraini Doctors with at least five years of continuous work experience in a government hospital in the kingdom of Bahrain in one of the specialties. <b>3.</b> Bahraini Doctors with recognized degrees in tier 3.		
<b>Chief Resident</b>	Specialist	Bachelor's degree in medicine and Surgery or equivalent qualification from an accredited institution <b>And</b> Completion of specialty qualification as per the Recognized Specialty Certificate table	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>
			No experience required	1 year of experience post qualification	3 years of experience post qualification
<b>Consultant</b>	Consultant	Bachelor's degree in medicine and Surgery or equivalent qualification from an accredited institution And Completion of specialty qualification as per	<b>(2) years of experience</b> post qualification	<b>(4) years of experience</b> post qualification	Cannot attain the title



		the Recognized Specialty Certificate table			
--	--	--	--	--	--

## Recognized Specialty Certificates

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Algeria		Postgraduate medical diploma from the Ministry of Higher Education	
Arab Countries	Arab board with a minimum of one year of structured sub-specialty fellowship	Arab Board in Family Medicine  Arab Board in secondary/tertiary care specialties. Specialist: no experience required. Applicable for local training programs only	
Argentina		Specialization Certificate issued by the Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Salud	
Austria		Facharztdiplom (Diploma of medical specialist) issued by Österreichische Ärztekammer  An ArztfürAllgemeinmedizin (Diploma of General Medicine)	
Australia	<b>Fellowship</b> of the Royal College/Colleges  <b>Note:</b> fellowship should be by Exam and not by endorsement or election		

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Bahrain			Clinical Master's degree in family medicine issued by Arabian Gulf University
Bangladesh			Fellow of the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons  <b>Note:</b> fellowship should be by Exam and not by endorsement or election
			Master of Surgery (MS)
			Doctor of Medicine (MD)
Belgium		Bijzondereberoepstitel van geneesheerspecialist/Titre professionnel particulier de médecin spécialiste awarded by the Minister bevoegdvoor Volksgezondheid/Ministre de la Santé Publique (Formal evidence of having qualified as a medical specialist issued by the Minister of Public Health)	
		Bijzondereberoepstitel van huisarts/Titre professionnel particulier de médecin généraliste (Certificate of specific training for general medical practice)	

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Brazil		"Titulo De Especialista" Issued by Brazilian Medical Association and the Brazilian College of Surgeons <b>And</b> Registered with the Regional Councils <b>or</b> Federal Medical Council as a Specialists	
Bulgaria			Свидетелство за призната Специалност (Evidence of Recognized Specialty) awarded by the Университет (University)
			Свидетелство за призната специалност по Обща медицина (certificate recognised specialty in General Medicine)
Canada	Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)		Evidence of successful completion of university-based clinical residency program accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada <b>(For Bahraini's national only)</b>
	Certification by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)		
Croatia			Diploma o specijalističkom usavršavanju in specijalist obiteljske medicine issued by the Ministarstvo nadležno za zdravstvo Diploma o specijalističkom usavršavanju issued by the Specijalist obiteljske medicine.

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Denmark		Bevis for tilladelsetil at betegne sig som speciallæge (Certificate concerning the title of Specialist -Issued by Authority of health services (Sundhedsstyrelsen). Tilladelsetil at anvende betegnelsen alment praktiserende læge/Speciallæge i almen medicin (certificate of specific training for general medical practice)	Τίτλος Ειδικότητας Γενικής Ιατρικής (title of specialization in General Medicine)
Egypt		Egyptian board Egyptian fellowship Clinical PhD	Clinical Master's degree
Estonia		Tilladelsetil at anvende betegnelsen alment praktiserende læge/Speciallæge i almen medicin (certificate of specific training for general medical practice)	Residentuuri lõputunnistus eriarstiabi erialal awarded by Tartu University  Diplom peremeditsiini erialal (Diploma of family medicine)
Finland		Erikoislääkarin tutkinto/ Special läkarexamen (Certificate of degree of specialist in medicine awarded by a Finnish University).  Todistus yleislääketieteen erityiskoulutuksesta/Bevis om särskild allmänläkarutbildning (Certificate of specific training for	

		general medical practice)	
--	--	---------------------------	--

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
France	Diplôme d'études spécialisées/Diplôme d'études spécialisées complémentaires qualifiant de médecine (DESC - diploma of complementary specialised studies) issued by French University  Certificat d'études spécialisées de médecine (CES) (Certificate of Specialised Studies in Medicine issued by French University with Full license issued by Conseil National de l'ordre des médecins)	Diplôme d'études spécialisées/Diplôme d'études spécialisées complémentaires qualifiant de médecine	
		Diplôme Interuniversitaire de Spécialité (DIS) (Interuniversity Diploma of medical specialty)	
Germany		Fachärztliche Anerkennung/Urkunde (Certificate of medical specialist issued by State's Medical Council (Arztekammer))	Spezifische Ausbildung in der Allgemeinmedizin (Certificate of specialist training in general medicine)
		Zeugnisüber die	

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Greece		Τίτλος Ιατρικής Ειδικότητας (Certificate of medical specialisation -awarded by Greek region of medical specialization)	
		Τίτλος ιατρικής ειδικότητας γενικής ιατρικής (Certificate of specific training for general medical practice)	
Hong Kong		Specialist training from a recognized post-graduate training program in Hong Kong <b>And</b> Fellowship of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM)	
Hungary		Háziorvostan Szakorvosi bizonyítvány issued by <i>Nemzeti Vizsgabizottság</i> (Hungarian specialist certificate awarded by National Board of Examination) Awarded before 28 August 2004 by the Hungarian Ministry of Health.	
India		Doctorate of Medicine (DM) + Doctor of Medicine (MD)	Master of Surgery (MS)
		Magister Chirurgiae (MCH) + Master of Surgery (MS)	Diplomate of National Board (DNB)
		Diplomate of National Board (DNB) Super Specialty	Doctor of Medicine (MD)

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Iran			Specialization certificate minimum <b>three (3) years</b>
Iraq		Iraqi Board issued by the Iraqi Commission of Medical Specialties in addition to a minimum of one year of clinical fellowship.	Clinical Master's degree
Ireland	Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST).		
	Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Training in General Practice (CSCST)		
	Structured High Specialty Training in Ireland of at least 4 years with appropriate exit fellowship		
Italy		Diploma of specialized doctor granted by a rector of an Italian university (A Diploma di (medico) specialista, rilasciati dal rettore di una università)	
		An Attestato di formazione specifica in medicina generale (certificate of specific training for general medical	
Japan		Clinical PhD minimum four (4) years course duration	



Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Jordan		Jordanian Board issued by the Jordanian Medical Council of the training done in Jordan	Certificate of Higher Specialization  Master's degree  Jordanian Board issued by the Jordanian Medical Council if the training outside Jordan
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Saudi board by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties with a minimum of one year of structured sub-specialty fellowship	Saudi board by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties  Specialist: No experience required for local training programs	
Kuwait		Board Certification by the Kuwait Board under the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization/Ministry of Health	
Latvia			'Sertifikāts'—kompetentu iestāžu izsniegts dokuments, kas apliecina, ka persona ir nokārtojusi sertifikācijas eksāmenu specialitātē (specialist certificate) awarded by the Latvian Medical Association
			Ģimenes Ārsta Sertifikāts (certificate of specialist training) awarded by the Latvian Medical Association

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Lebanon		Certificate of completion of residency and exit exam from St Joseph University, Lebanese University, or American University of Beirut with an exit certificate. American board/French diploma	Certificate of Completion of residency and exit exam from all other Lebanese Universities. The residency program should not be less than <b>three (3) years</b> course duration
Libya			The Libyan Board of Medical Specialty
Lithuania			Rezidentūros pažymėjimas, nurodantis suteiktą gydytojo specialisto profesinę kvalifikaciją (Certificate of resident studies, which shows the qualification as a specialized medical doctor) awarded by a Lithuanian University
			Šeimos gydytojo rezidentūros pažymėjimas (certificate of family medicine) awarded by a Lithuanian University
Luxembourg			Certificat de médecin spécialiste issued by the Ministre de la Santé publique
			Diplôme de formation spécifique en médecine générale

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Macedonia			Potrdilo o opravljenem specialisticnem izpitu (Certificate of successful completion of the specialist exam) issued by the Medical Chamber of Macedonia/university
Malaysia		Master's degree minimum 4 years course duration	
Malta			Ċertifikat ta' Speċjalista Mediku (Medical Specialist Certificate) awarded by the Kumitat ta' Approvazzjoni dwar Speċjalisti (Specialist Accreditation Committee)
			Tabib tal-Familja awarded by the Kumitat ta' Approvazzjoni dwar Speċjalisti
Mexico			Evidence of minimum three <b>(3) years</b> residency program with a specialist degree
Moldova			Kandidat Nauk
			Magista PhD
Montenegro			Certificate of successful completion of the specialist exam
Morocco			Diplome de Specialite Medicale (specialty degree issued by National Doctor Authority)

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Netherlands		<p>Bewijs van inschrijving in een Specialistenregister (Certificate of recognition  <b>And</b>  Registration/certificate of entry in the Specialist Register)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Medisch Specialisten Registratie Commissie (MRSC)</li> <li>○ Sociaal-Geneskundigen Registratie Commissie</li> <li>○ Huisarts en Verpleeghuisarts Registratie Commissie (HVRC) van de Koninklijke Nederlandsche Maatschappij tot Bevordering der Geneeskunst – note that only certificates issued before 19 July 2007 are accepted from this awarding body.</li> </ul> <p>Registratie Commissie Geneskundig Specialisten (RGS)</p>	
		<p>Certificaat van inschrijving in een specialistenregister van huisartsen awarded by any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Huisarts en Verpleeghuisarts Registratie Commissie (HVRC)</li> </ul> <p>Registratie Commissie Geneskundig</p>	

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
New Zealand	Fellowship of the Royal College/Colleges (The fellowship should be by Exam and not an endorsed or elected fellowship)		
Nigeria		Fellowship of the west African College of Physicians or Surgeons  National post graduate Medical College of Nigeria	
Norway		<div>Spesialistgodkjenning issued by the Den Norske Legeforening (Medical Association of Norway) or Norwegian Directorate of Health</div> <div>Bevis for kompetanse som allmennpraktiserende lege/Godkjenning som allmennpraktiserende lege (certificate of specific training for general medical practice) issued by Norwegian Registration Authority for Health Personnel (SAK)</div>	

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Oman		Oman Medical Specialty Board Certificate issued by the Ministry of Health	
Pakistan		Fellowship of College of Physicians and Surgeons in Pakistan (FCPS)	MD in Clinical Medicine
Philippines			Diplomate of the Philippine Board
Poland		(Specialist Diploma) Dyplom uzyskania tytułu specjalisty issued by the Centrum Egzaminów Medycznych	First Degree of Specialization
		Dyplom uzyskania tytułu specjalisty w dziedzinie medycyny rodzinnej (specialist in family medicine) issued by the Centrum Egzaminów Medycznych	
Portugal		Título de Especialista (professional award of specialist) issued by the Ordem dos Medicos	
		Título de especialista em medicina geral e familiar (certificate of specific training for general medical practice) issued by Ministério da Saúde or Ordem dos Medicos	

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Romania			Certificat de medic specialist issued by Ministerul Sănătății Publici (the Ministry of Public Health)
			Certificat de medic specialist medicină de familie issued by Ministerul Sănătății Publici (the Ministry of Public Health)
Russia		KandidatNauk with 3 years minimum clinical training	Magista PhD
			Clinica ordinatura
Serbia		Certificate of Specialist Accreditation from the Specialist Accreditation Board	Specialty certificate issued by a Serbian university
Singapore		Advanced diploma approved by Singapore Medical Council	
Slovakia		Diplom o špecializácii (Diploma of specialization) issued by Slovak universities	
		Diplom o špecializácii v odbore všeobecné lekárstvo issued by Slovak universities	

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Slovenia			Potrdilo o opravljenem specialisticnem izpitu (Certificate of successful completion of the specialist exam) issued by Medical Chamber of Slovenia
			Potrdilo o opravljeni specializaciji iz družinske medicine (Certificate of completion of specialist training in family medicine) issued by Medical Chamber of Slovenia
South Africa		Fellowship Certificate approved by the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA)	Master of Medicine (M. Med) Degree
Spain		Título de Especialista (professional qualification of a specialist) issued by the Spanish Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs or the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture	
		Título de especialista en medicina familiar y comunitaria (specialist certificate in family and community medicine) issued by the Spanish Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs or the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture	
Sri Lanka			MD issued by the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine of Sri Lanka, University of Colombo



Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Sudan		Clinical DM certificate issued by the Sudan Medical Specialization Board	Clinical Master's degree
		Clinical DM certificate issued by the University of Khartoum until 2009	
Sweden		Bevis om specialistkompetens som läkare (certificate of the right to use the title of specialist) issued by the Socialstyrelsen (National Board of Health and Welfare of Sweden)	
		Bevis om kompetens som allmänpraktiserande läkare (Europaläkare) (certificate of specific training for general practice) issued by the Socialstyrelsen (National Board of Health and Welfare of Sweden)	
Switzerland		Diplôme de médecin spécialiste/Diplom als Facharzt/ Diploma di medico specialista (specialist qualification) issued by the Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA)	
		Certificate of specific training for general medical practice issued by the Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA) <b>And</b> A document from the Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA) confirming that the training leading to the award of your GP certificate meets the standards detailed in Article 28 of Directive 2005/36/EC	

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Syria			Certificate of higher study issued by Ministry of Higher Education
			Syrian specialization certificate issued by Ministry of Health
			Syrian Board
Tunisia		Specialty Certificate issued by Ministry of Health	
Turkey		Turkish Higher Specialty Medical Board certificate issued by a Turkish University.  Specialty certificate issued by Turkish ministry of health.	
United Kingdom	Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST)		
	Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT)		
	Certificate of Completion of Training in General Practice		
	Structured High Specialty Training in UK of at least 4 years with appropriate exit fellowship		

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
United States of America	American Board Certificates issued by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)		Certificate of Completion of residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for Bahraini's only
Venezuela			Completion of at least <b>three (3) years</b> university specialization program and registration as Specialist issued by the Colegio de Medicos
West Africa			Fellowship of the West African College of Physicians
West Indies			Doctor of Medicine issued by University of West Indies
Yemen			Clinical Master's degree or residency program of minimum <b>three (3) years</b> course duration issued by Yemeni university

\*Note: "For countries not listed in the table, the qualifications would be reviewed after providing the required documents

Note: Arab Board Specialties other than Family Medicine must be evaluated and approved by the SCH.

## Recognized Specialty Titles for Licensing

Specialty Titles	Sub-Specialty
Adolescence Medicine	
Alternative Medicine	
Anesthesia	Adult Cardiac Anesthesia
	Adult Intensive Care
	Pediatric Anesthesia
	Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesia
	Pain Management
	Regional Anesthesia
	Neuro- Anesthesia
	Obstetrics Anesthesia
	Vascular/Thoracic Anesthesia
	Ambulatory Anesthesia
	Pre-Operative Medicine
Aviation and Aerospace Medicine	
Blood Banking and Transfusion	
Cardiac Surgery	
Cardiology	Interventional Cardiology
	Cardiac Electrophysiology
	Pediatric Cardiology
	Heart failure

Specialty Titles	Sub-Specialty
Cardio - Thoracic Surgery	
Cardio-Vascular Surgery	
Chemical Pathology (Clinical Biochemistry)	
Clinical Genetics (MD)	Clinical Cytogenetics
Critical Care Medicine	Surgical critical care
	Adult Critical Care
	Cardiac Critical care
	Pediatric Critical care
Dermatology	Pediatric Dermatology
	Dermato-Pathology
	Dermatology Surgery
	Hair implant
Emergency Medicine	Pediatric Emergency Medicine
	Trauma
	Toxicology
	Emergency Medical Services
	Intensive Care
	Sports Medicine
	Geriatrics
Endocrinology	

Specialty Titles	Sub-Specialty
Family Medicine	Public Health
	Adolescent Medicine
	Chronic NCD
	Community medicine
	Child health
	Geriatric Medicine\ Elderly healthcare
	Emergency medicine
	Epidemiology
	Healthcare management
	Lifestyle medicine
	Mental Health
	Nutrition
	Palliative Medicine
	Primary care/pulmonology
	Primary care/Ophthalmology
	Diabetic Care\ Diabetic care medicine
	Occupational Medicine
	Environmental Medicine
	Preventive Pediatric Medicine
	Psychology
	Reproductive healthcare
	Sports Medicine

	Sexual Medicine
	Breast Feeding
	Smoking
	Sleep medicine
	Marriage and family psychotherapy
Forensic Medicine	Forensic Pathology
	Forensic Psychiatry
Gastroenterology	

Specialty Titles	Sub-Specialty
General Surgery	Surgical Critical Care
	Surgical Oncology
	Vascular Surgery
	Breast Oncoplastic
	Gastrointestinal Surgery
	Pediatric Surgery
	Pediatric Cardiac Surgery
	Pediatric Urology
	Colorectal Surgery
	Endocrine surgery
	Hepatobiliary Surgery
	Bariatric Surgery
	Thoracic Surgery
	Trauma Surgery
	Transplant Surgery
Hyperbaric And Undersea	
Palliative Medicine	
Immunology	
Internal Medicine	Adult Cardiology
	Adult Gastroenterology
	Adult Nephrology
	Adult Infectious Diseases
	Adult Pulmonology
	Adult Endocrinology
	Reproductive Endocrinology
	Adult Metabolic Diseases
	Adult Rheumatology



	Adult Hematology
	Adult Oncology
	Adult Hematology & Oncology
	Adult Sleep Medicine
	Adult Intensive Care
	Immunology
	Genito-Urinary Medicine
	Geriatric Medicine
	Hepatology
	Infectious Diseases
	Medical Toxicology
	Nuclear Medicine
	Occupational Medicine
	Rehabilitation Medicine
Medical Genetics	
Molecular Genetics	
Nephrology	
Neurology	Neurodevelopmental Disabilities
	Neuropathology
	Epilepsy and EEG
Neurosurgery	Spine surgery
	Neurosurgery/oncology
	Skull Base Surgery
	Vascular Neurosurgery
	Pediatric Neurosurgery
Obstetrics and Gynecology	Gynecology Oncology
	Assisted Reproduction
	Fetal Medicine
	Perinatology

	Female Pelvic and Reconstructive Surgery
	Uro-gynecology
	Maternal and Fetal Medicine
	Laparoscopic Surgery

Specialty Titles	Sub-Specialty
Oncology	
Ophthalmology	Neuro-Ophthalmology
	Glaucoma
	Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
	Retinal Diseases and Surgery
	Cornea/External Diseases
	Oculoplastic
	Comprehensive Ophthalmology
	Uveitis/Medical Retina
	Ocular Oncology
Oral Maxillofacial Surgery	
Orthopedic Surgery	Pediatric Orthopedics
	Arthroplasty Surgery
	Spine Surgery
	Foot & Ankle Surgery
	Orthopedic Oncology
	Trauma & Fracture Surgery
	Sports Medicine
	Upper Limb Orthopedics

Otolaryngology	Hand Surgery
	Pediatric Otolaryngology
	Neuro-otology & Otology
	Rhinology
	Facioplastics
	Head & Neck Surgery
	Head & Neck Oncology
	Laryngology
	Sleep Medicine
	Reconstructive Surgery
Pathology	Obstetrics & Breast Pathology
	Lymphoma Pathology
	Renal Pathology
	Dermato-pathology
	Bone & Soft Tissue Pathology
	Gastroenterology & Hepatology Pathology
	General Histopathology
	Hematology Pathology
	Microbiology
	Transfusion Medicine & Blood Banking
	Molecular Diagnostics & Genetics
	Biochemistry
	Clinical Cytogenetics
	Cytopathology
	Molecular Genetic Pathology
	Molecular Pathology
	Neuropathology

	Anatomic and Clinical Pathology
--	---------------------------------

Specialty Titles	Sub-Specialty
Pediatric	Pediatric Intensive Care
	Pediatric Nephrology
	Neonatal Intensive Care
	Pediatric Endocrinology
	Pediatric Infectious Diseases
	Pediatric Gastroenterology
	Pediatric Cardiology
	Pediatric Pulmonology
	Pediatric Hematology
	Pediatric Oncology
	Pediatric Transfusion Medicine
	Pediatric Sleep Medicine
	Pediatric Sports Medicine
	Pediatric Rheumatology
	Pediatric genetics/metabolic disease
	Pediatric Genetics
	Development - Behavioral Pediatrics
	Neonatology
	Pediatric Immunology and Allergy
	Pediatric Critical Care
	Pediatric Dermatology
	Pediatric Emergency Medicine
	Pediatric Hematology – Oncology
	Pediatric Hepatology
	Pediatric Neurology
	Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine

Specialty Titles	Sub-Specialty
Rehabilitation Medicine	
Rheumatology	
Pediatric Surgery	
Plastic Surgery	Hand Surgery
	Cosmetic Surgery
	Craniofacial Surgery
	Pediatric Plastic Surgery
	Burns
	Microsurgery
	Reconstructive surgery
Psychiatry	Child/ Adolescent Psychiatry
	Addiction Medicine
	Geriatric Psychiatry
	Mood Disorder Psychiatry
	Rehabilitation Psychiatry
	Liaison Psychiatry
	Forensic Psychiatry
	Neurodevelopmental Psychiatry
	Addiction Psychiatry
Public Health Medicine	
Radiology	Diagnostic Neuroradiology Imaging
	Neuroradiology
	Body Imaging
	Musculoskeletal Imaging
	Interventional Radiology

	Cardiac Imaging
	Chest Imaging
	Breast Imaging
	Woman's Imaging
	Pediatric Imaging / Pediatric Radiology
	Nuclear Radiology
	Interventional Neuroradiology
	Radiation Oncology
Urology	Pediatric Urology
	Urology Oncology
	Neuro-Urology
	Gynecology Urology
	Male Infertility
	Reconstructive Urology
	Laparoscopic Urology
Vascular Surgery	

## Visiting Physicians:

Healthcare facilities may apply for physicians to visit their institution and provide healthcare services to patients within a specified period of time provided the following conditions are met:

1. Full application form and required documents are submitted to NHRA at least two weeks prior to the scheduled visit.
2. Physicians must hold one of the recognized qualifications mentions within this PQR and be classified as a consultant by NHRA.

**A visiting physician will be permitted six visits per year as a maximum.**

## Medical Advisory Committee Members:

1. Professor Sameer Abdulkareem Otoom – Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland- Medical University of Bahrain
2. Dr. Leena Mohamed Alqasem - National Health Regulatory Authority
3. Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Alansari - Supreme Council for Health
4. Dr. Haitham Ebrahim Ameen - Mohamed Bin Khalifa Alkhalifa Cardiac Center
5. Professor Abdulhalim Abdulfattah Dhaif Alla - Arabian Gulf University
6. Dr. Ebtisam Mohamed Fakhroo - Ministry of Health - Primary Health Care
7. Dr. Imtithal Anwar Aljishi - Ministry of Health- Salmaniya Medical Complex
8. Dr. Dalal Hasan Alhassan - King Hamad University Hospital
9. Dr. Fahad Khalifa Alkhalifa - Royal Medical Services – Bahrain Defense Force Hospital
10. Dr. Abdulwahab Mohamed Abdulwahab - Private Sector

