

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Saudi Commission for Health Specialties



**PROFESSIONAL CLASSIFICATION MANUAL
FOR
HEALTH PRACTITIONERS**



**1430H - 2009G
FIFTH EDITION**

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**Saudi Commission
For Health Specialties**



**الهيئة السعودية
للتخصصات الصحية**

Resolution

The Chief of the Executive Council for Saudi Commission, by virtue of powers vested upon him and based on the Executive Council Meeting held on 12/04/1428H (29/04/2007G), in which the report of the Council was discussed, do, hereby, issue the following resolutions as agreed and passed the above meeting:

1. The amendment of professional classification and registration 4th edition manual 1426H (2005) is hereby approved.
2. The Executive Council for Saudi Commission is hereby, authorized to approve any current or amendments to include further updates.

Minister of Health
Chairman of the Trustees Board of SCFHS
Dr. HAMAD BIN ABDULLAH ALMANA

Introduction:

The Saudi commission for Health Specialities, realizing the importance of the role entrusted to it in the area of health profession practice, and in its quest to precisely execute the critical tasks it shoulder beside its appreciation of the valuable Royal trust bestowed upon it by the wise Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques as expressed in the Royal Decree No.(M/C) dated 06/02*/1413H, deems that one of its foremost tasks is to implement its objectives related to establishment of health criteria and standards for health profession practice and to classify health certificates holders for the profession compatible with their educational qualifications and practical capabilities at the time of classification as it is commonly understood that any defect in the professional practices involves the risk of endangering the health and well being of people inhabiting this dear land.

The Saudi Commission, in its attempt to put things right, and trying to establish a set of general rules dealing with health practitioners in fitting with their practical experiences, has formulated a standard scale and essential procedures required to equalize health certificates and evaluate the respective holders as to their professional capabilities in order to be accredited by the Commission.

The Commission has put a number of measures to assess the previous practical experience (training) along with subsequent experiences for obtaining certificates and professional training based on accuracy and objectivity observing that the minimum degree for professional grading is the program standard of relevant training recognized in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which is applicable to all certificates requiring professional accreditation.

It is also emphasized that the Commission, by no means, intend to undermine any party or rise any suspicions its scientific or educational efficiency but rather intends to justly give everyone what he deserves amid such huge variations in terms of training methods and periods between the different countries and to select the efficient practitioner with updated knowledge and progress in his specialty to work in the health domain according to his capabilities.

Furthermore, we would also like to indicate that those special committees for evaluating the professional abilities and efficiency of candidates, as well as exam of evaluations and professional classification which were specifically prepared for this purpose aim to ascertain the required standard of safe practice.

Resolution No. 9/A/28 which was issued on 12/4/1428H by the Minister of Health and Chairman of Trustees Board of the Saudi Commission and Chief of the Executive Council of the Saudi Commission, approved the amendment of the professional registration and classification manual and called the Executive Council to further approve future amendments to the manual to reflect update and developments. We pray to Almighty to guide us all on the righteous path.

Prof. Dr. Hussain Mohammad ALFIRAIHI
Secretary General

First: General Definitions:

1-1	The Commission	Saudi Commission for Health Specialties.
1-2	Health practitioner	Holds health scientific qualification and required experiences that qualify to work safely in a specific profession in the health sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
1-3	Professional registration	Create a record for health practitioners in the Commission's database that allow tracing the health practitioners professionally and acquaint them with codes of ethics of health profession in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
1-3-1	Professional re-registration	Update of health practitioner and its commitment to the continuous training and education programme after the registration period which extends for three years for non-Saudi and five years for Saudis provided that any person over 60 shall provide evidence of his fitness to work.
1-4	Professional Accredotation	is a sequential process starting with verifying the genuineness of qualifications, experiences and their authentication with relation to work in health area, as well as professional evaluation to ascertain the minimum required standard of safety of professional practice clinically and theoretically, thereby, specifying the professional status as per the Certificate and its subsequent experiences and the result of the exam.
1-5	Professional Evaluation	A process preformed by the Commission to define appropriate academic and professional level of applicant for classification. The evaluation shall be performed through one or all of the following procedures: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Study of application by specialized consultant to decide appropriate level.2. Written examination3. Academic, clinical and practical evaluation by specialized committee.

1-6	Hospital	Hospital that include main disciplines and has at least one consultant or a senior specialist for every specialty.
1-7	Specialized center	Center specialized in one of the medical branches or supportive medical branches, where consultants are working in the field of specialty.
1-8	In-service training (On job training)	Attendance of a training course by a pre-qualified health practitioner to acquire additional technology in his specialty, which shall not be regarded as a qualifying certificate in itself and shall be counted as half of its period.
1-9	Training center	Hospital or specialized center recognized as a center for the purpose of training.
1-10	Experience	Continues practices in the field of specialization, and shall be counted as follows: A. If the place of work was in a hospital or specialized center, one year service shall be equal to one year of experience. B. If the work was in a health center or a facility deemed as such, each year of service shall be considered half year of experience. C. If the work was not in the field of specialization, no experience period shall be considered and the person shall be deemed as interrupting the practice in the field of specialization.
1-11	Acquisition of experience	Experience required to qualify to a higher grade or to those proven to have professional shortage by either failing the professional exam given by the Commission or by having their professional practices interrupted.

1-12	Interruption	Non-practices of specialization for a period of two years or more.
1-13	General practitioner Physician / General practitioner Dentist	Holder of a bachelor's degree in general medicine and surgery or general dentistry and completed one year of internship at least.
1-14	Resident Physician	A. Holder of Bachelor's degree and completed one year of internship in addition to one year in the field of specialization. B. Holder of higher post graduate (diploma not less than 2 years - or master) in any medical specialty, but has not completed required period of experience to become eligible to be classified as a specialist. C. Holder of one years diploma in any medical specialty
1-15	Rigistrar Physician	Holder of a spatiality certificate of not less than 2 years and who had completed the required experiences where the total training spent for the certificate and experience is four years.
1-16	Senior Rigistrar physician	Holder of Saudi specialization certificate or equivalent thereto
1-17	Consultant	Holder of Saudi Specialization certificate or equivalent thereto and completed a period of experience not less than three years in the field of specialization in a recognized hospital or health center.
1-18	General Specialization	Main specialization in one of medical areas such as internal medicine, surgery etc, the training for which is based on a specified curriculum and is done in a recognized center after attaining the bachelor's degree in medicine. The practices shall be done in the same field of specialization.
1-19	Sub-Specialization	Specialization in one of the branches of general medicine, the training for which is performed through practical and theoretical experience after achieving a higher qualification in the general specialization like cardiology. This has to be done after obtaining specialization in the internal medicine.

1-20	Branch Specialization	Specialization in one of the medical branches such as cardiology, endocrinology, neurology etc without obtaining a higher certificate in general specializations, the training for which shall be after obtaining a Bachelor's degree in general medicine. Provided that subsequent practices shall exclusively be in the same speciality.
1-21	Non-practicing practitioner	Holder of medical or health qualification but is not entitled to work in the specialty due to interruption of his work for more than two years.
1-22	Saudi Specialization Certificate	Highest professional certificate granted by the commission to physicians after having completed recognized clinical training and passing specified examination which is equal to doctorate certificate professionally.

Second: Principles and Standards

- 2-1 In principle, the Commission recognizes all certificates issued by universities or equivalent institutions, while preserving its right to deny any certificate that breaches the laws and standards currently in force and valid in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- 2-2 It is necessary for Saudis to have Saudi equivalence for the academic certificates (Bachelor, master and Doctorate) acquired from outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by the Saudi ministry of Higher education.
- 2-3 The Commission recognizes all domestic health training programs supervised by the Saudi universities and similar institutions so long as they are in line with the requirements of the training programs approved by the Commission. Nevertheless, the Commission preserves the right to eliminate programs which fails to meet the Commission requirements and subject its graduates to professional classification as required.
- 2-4 The Commission recognizes certificates issued by private health and colleges legally licensed by the concerned authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- 2-5 Applicants for professional classification must pass professional evaluation procedures as defined by the Commission.
- 2-6 The Commission fully regards the certificate and its holder; therefore, it assures that practitioner's classification is compatible with their capabilities and professional experience at the time of their evaluation.
- 2-7 Whereas the professional classification aims at approving a candidate for clinical profession, the period considered for awarding the certificate shall only be the actual period of practical training in the field of specialization.
- 2-8 The training and educational programmes in the health field accepted by the Commission are those authenticated by programmes to which the practitioner joins and gradually advances both in standards and in responsibilities from one level to another according to the specified standards in the qualified training centers renowned for efficiency. The minimum limit of training shall be that which the Commission approves for its programmes.
- 2-9 The health certificate accreditation shall be based on against the minimum required level of acceptance for programme.
- 2-10 Accumulation of courses and deduction of periods from experience with the purpose of qualifying in the health field shall not be allowed.

- 2-11 In order to classify practitioner, the Commission shall follow the laws and regulations in force and applicable in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia e.g. Health Job Regulation, Health Professions Practice Act, Private health Institutions Act and relevant training regulations of the Commission.
- 2-12 Overlapped Periods of training to obtain different qualification shall be considered only once.
- 2-13 Decisions passed preliminary for a lesser level than what is observed by the applicant shall not be considered for profession classification for the holder except after one year from the date of decision or exam.
- 2-14 Holders of qualification equivalent to Saudi specialization certificates and who, according to laws of Saudi Universities, were prompted to associate professor rank while working in such universities, may be classified to the grade of a consultant upon the recommendation of the Profession Classification Committee.
- 2-15 Certificates not specifically included in this manual shall be assessed for classification in accordance with the laws governing the training currently applicable in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- 2-16 Classification application for non-saudi. who fails to complete experience years shall not be accepted except for persons born or resident in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and completed the high school at least in its schools. These persons may be classified and registered under the condition that the, work under the supervision of specialist until they gain the required experience years (2 years).

Third: Certificates that will not be professionally classified:

- 3-1 Certificates of mostly academic nature and character, the curricula of which do not include patient care, clinical practice and practical training in the field of specialization will not be professionally classified.
- 3-2 Health Certificates acquired through honorary training programs or as a visiting physician or a non-practicing associate or those which are obtained through correspondence and the like will not be classified.
- 3-3 Certificates related to indigenous medicine will not be classified because of the non-recognition of such types of medicine in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- 3-4 Certificates issued from health unrelated colleges and institutes.
- 3-5 Bachelor certificates of educational specialization such as home economics and special education.
- 3-6 Technical diploma in chemistry, biology or zoology etc
- 3-7 Certificate that are not subject to a training program or that are acquired during work in unrecognized training centers

- 3-8 Registration certificate for obtaining work permits or affiliation (membership) of certain associations that are granted after passing the licensing examination in specific countries such as United States of America.
- 3-9 Certificates obtained or granted through affiliation or distance learning and contradict the laws of higher education.
- 3-10 Bridge programmes with specific universities made outside the university campus such as radiology bridging from Sudan University for sciences and technology.
- 3-11 Psychology diploma certificate from Ain Shams University in liaison with Kings College in London.
- 3-12 Dermatology diploma or doctorate certificate issued by Boston University, USA and medicine equivalent certificate.
- 3-13 Certificates from Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in the United States of America.

Fourth: Health Courses and Modification of Specialty

4-1 Health Courses:

- 4-1-1 Educational health courses, obtained by a trainee through a full time attendance from a specialized body, and which has a programme legally approved by the Commission, the duration of such course shall be fully counted as the period of the course.
- 4-1-2 Courses which are held in non—academic institutions or courses that are completed by the trainee by joining one of the sections similar to the cooperative training system without taking a full time Attendance and where the trainee is granted a training certificate at the end of the specified period of the course without examination. The period counted shall be considered as half of the actual period of such course.

4-2 Holders of Health Courses Certificate's specialty modification

- 4-2-1 The specialization may be modified if the following conditions are fulfilled
 - A. The original specialization and specialization to which modification is required shall be in the same field of practice.
 - B. The applicant for modification shall possess experience in the same field of specialization for a period not less than two years.
 - C. The applicant for such modification shall be subjected to an evaluation examination in the new field of specialization.

Fifth: Classification of Health Assistants, technicians and Health specialists:

Grade	Acceptance Prerequisite Basic Qualification	Course period	Remarks
Health Assistant	Elementary education	1-3 years	
	Intermediate proficiency	1-2 years	
Technicians	Intermediate proficiency	1 or more years	
	High School	1-3 three years	
Senior Technician	High School	(intermediate college) 3 years minimum	
Specialist	Bachelor or equivalent in the field of specialization from recognized university or college	-	-
Senior Specialist	Master Degree or equivalent from a recognized university or specialized scientific institute.	Study period is 2 years maximum	Experience + study = 4 years
Consultant	Doctorate Degree (PhD) or equivalent from recognized university or specialized scientific body	Minimum of three years experience in the specify field.	

Remarks:

1. The acceptance of health assistant categories shall be limited to the field of nursing, midwifery and ambulatory services only.
2. The discription of the title on the professional classification certificate for health specialists and consultants shall be as follows:
 - A. Laboratory specialist “specialized in
 - B. Laboratory specialist “senior specialist, specialized in.....”
 - C. Laboratory specialist “consultant, specialized in

5-1 Optometry:

- 5-1-1 Optometrist: Holder of a bachelor degree in optometry and has completed the necessary experience period. He must have complete knowledge of the eye, its different parts and the function of each part in addition to ability to perform eyesight examination, fix lenses and diagnoses and treat eye problems.
- 5-1-2 Optician: Holder of a diploma of 2 or 3 years after the secondary school or equivalent thereto from recognized institute or college. In general he must have sufficient knowledge of the eye, different complementary parts and the function of each part in addition to ability to perform eyesight examination under the supervision of an ophthalmologist or optometrist.
- 5-1-3 Optical technician: Holder of diploma after a study of not less than two years at a specialized institute after secondary school. In general, his work shall be limited to eyeglasses and lenses selling and fixing and he should have adequate knowledge of all types of medical eyeglasses, sunglasses, eyeglasses frames and contact lenses. Furthermore, he should be familiar with their advantages and disadvantages.

5-2 Medical Laboratories:

In addition to what was stated above (article five) other professions in the field of medical laboratories shall be classified as follows:

- 5-2-1 Holder of bachelor degree in specializations indirectly related to medial laboratories such as bio-chemistry or general micro-biology shall be classified as laboratory technicians provided that applicants shall have had a one year qualification course in the field of specialization or at least two years in their field in specialized medical laboratories.

5-3 Nutrition:

Considering what has been stated in article five, the categories in nutrition field are classified in accordance with the following:

- 5-3-1 The holder of diploma in clinical therapeutic nutrition of at least two years duration after high school or recognized middle college shall be classified for the grade of technician in nutrition provided that he works under the supervision of Clinical nutrition specialist.
- 5-3-2 The holder of bachelor's degree in clinical therapeutic nutrition from a health college with one year internship shall be classified as a specialist in clinical therapeutic nutrition.

- 5-3-3 The holder of a master degree or an equivalent thereto in the field of clinical therapeutic nutrition obtained after the bachelor degree in dietary science, provided that the period of practical training in nutrition / therapeutic is not less than two years, shall be classified as a specialist in clinical therapeutic nutrition or as first specialist after gaining the necessary experience.
- 5-3-4 Holder of bachelor degree in nutrition sciences from a college of sciences, agriculture, or the like are classified as specialists in clinical nutrition on the conditions that they successful complete a program of qualification in clinical nutrition / therapeutic recognized by the Commission shall begraded in relation to relevant qualifying program acquired by each.
- 5-3-5 Current working staff in nutrition sciences are classified and registered according to the current statute of regulation implemented by Ministry of Health (MOH) in line with their prevailing positions and by coordinating with their respective authoritative departments, provided that their positions to be compared to none in the future, as their case being exceptional.
- 5-3-6 Holder of bachelor degree in nutrition sciences from colleges of agriculture sciences and the like are classified to be grade of technician in non-clinical nutrition sciences, provided that he/she works exclusively on food services supervision.

5-4 Psychology:

Clinical Psychology Under this health category the following shall be considered, Health Guidance, Psychology, Neurological Psychology and legal / criminal Psychology. These are classified as stated in article five, herein provided that the bachelor degree holders are classified as follows:

- 5-4-1 The holder of bachelor degree in Psychology is professionally classified for the grade of specialist assistant provided that he works under the supervision of senior specialist or consultant in Psychology.
- 5-4-2 The holder of bachelor degree in Psychology plus clinical experience not less than 3 years is classified as a specialist in Psychology.

5-5 Sociology:

- 5-5-1 The holder of bachelor degree in sociology shall be classified for the status of sociologists.
- 5-5-2 The holder of bachelor degree in social services or an equivalent thereto shall be classified for the status of a specialist in social service.

Sixth: Pharmacy

6-1 Classification of pharmacists

Pharmacists shall be classified and registered as follows:

Level (grade)	Certificate	Experience
Pharmacist	Bachelor / Master degree from recognized university, scientific body or institute	
Senior Pharmacist	Master degree or equivalent thereto in pharmaceutical sciences after completion of required experience period.	Program and experience total Four (4) Years.
	Doctorate (PhD) degree in pharmaceutical sciences	
Consultant Pharmacist	Doctorate (PhD) degree or equivalent thereto in pharmaceutical sciences from recognized university.	In addition to at least three years experience

6-2 PHARM-D Certificates:

A Doctorate (Pharm. D) degree in clinical pharmacology PHARM-D shall be classified as follows:

- a. PHARM-D: Provided the period of study / training shall not be less than two years after having obtained the bachelor degree in pharmacology, shall professionally be equivalent to master degree.
- b. PHARM-D: Provided the period of study / training shall not be less than six years after the secondary school in addition to one year of practical training in a recognized center / hospital (accredited residency training programme). it shall be professional equivalent to master degree
- c. PHARM-D: Provided the period of study and training shall not be less than two from obtaining the bachelor degree in pharmacy in addition to two years of practical training in recognized center or hospital (accredited residency training programme). It shall be professional equivalent to Ph.D degree.
- d. PHARM-D: Provided the period of study and training shall not be less than six years after the secondary school in additon to four years of practical training in recognized center or hospital (accredited residency training programme), It shall be professional equivalent to the doctorate (Ph. D) degree.

Seventh: Acupuncture:

Classification for practice in the field of treatment using “Acupuncture” shall be according to the following conditions:

- A. It shall be conditional for the person practicing Acupuncture to obtain senior specialist grade and physician at least attended at least 200 training hours or two month full-time Acupuncture as experience from a recognized center.
- B. Graduates of institutions specializing in Acupuncture after high school who have had trained for 3 years shall be classified as Acupuncture technician.

Eight: Chiropractor:

Holders of Chiropractor bachelor shall be classified to specialist in Chiropractor provided that they shall work under the supervision of specialist physician.

Ninth: Naturopathic medicine:

Holders of naturopathic medicine bachelor from recognized center shall be classified as specialist in naturopathic medicine provided that they work under the supervision of a consultant in internal medicine, family medicine, orthopedic, neurology or neurosurgery and their practices should be restricted in naturopathic medicine and diet only and they may use the primary basic diagnostic tools e.g. (blood test, chemistry, and primary X-rays) without dispensing any drugs.

Tenth: medicine, dentistry and podiatry “foot and ankle medicine”

10-1 Holders of bachelor degree or equivalent thereto after the completion of 1 year internship in recognized center in general medicine center, dentistry or podiatry “foot and ankle medicine” shall be classified as general practitioner in the field of socializations (general medicine, dentistry or podiatry “foot and ankle care medicine / surgery).

10-2 Practice for holders of a bachelor degree in podiatry “foot and ankle care medicines” shall inclusively be in the field of specialization, and they shall be classified according to their training for the level of:

- A. Surgical specialist.
- B. Medical specialist.

10-3 Resident : In order to qualify for resident physician, an experience in the specialization shall be acquired for not less than one year after the internship or obtain any of the following certificates

Certificate	Origin	Remarks
DCH	India	Equal to 1 year diploma
Specialty/ specialization registry	Syria	Equal to 1 year diploma
MCPS	Pakistan	Equal to 1 year diploma
AFS	France	Equal to 1 year diploma
AFSA CES(a)		
CES (b)		
DESCHB		
DU / CU		
Medical Specialty diploma	Egypt	Equal to 1 year diploma
Other diploma approved by the commission	-	-

10-4 Specialist : In order to obtain specialist in the field of medicine the following pre-requisites shall be fully met:

Required Qualifications	Period(1)	Experience
Bachelor or equivalent	2 YEARS at least	
Complementary diploma as defined in 10-3		2 years experience starts from the date in which the 2nd diploma is obtained.

- (1) The period considered is the period approved by the Commission for the program in accordance with the level of training conducted to obtain the certificate or the degree.

10-5 Examples of certificates qualifying for grade of specialist: certificates recognized by the Commission, the training period for which shall not be less than 2 year after having obtained the bachelor degree in addition to practical experience in the field of specialization. The total period of both the program and considered experience shall be 4 years as shown in the following table:

Ser.	Certificate	Origin	Remarks
1	The Sudanese Specialization Certificate (the Sudanese fellowship)	Sudan	Equivalent to a Diploma of three years duration excluding promotion to Associate prof. post-university hospital for a period not less than three years.
2	Clinical MD	Sudan	Equivalent to 2 years training in the field of specialization.
3	MD	India	Equivalent to 2 years diploma
	DNB		
	MCH		
4	PhD MD	Egypt	From Ain Shams University, in Egypt
5	Master		Master is equivalent to 2 years.
6	Higher studies		Equivalent to 2 years diploma
7	Palestinian Specialization certificate	Palestine	Equivalent to two years diploma
8	PCPS*	Pakistan	Equivalent to two years diploma
9	Completion of training in the Saudi or Arabian fellowships	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Training shall be under the supervision of the Commission and applicant must pass the evaluation examination.
10	British and Irish membership and fellowship	Britain and Ireland	Those who have not completed a recognized training program for specialization. Equivalent to two years diploma
11	West Africa medical college fellowship	Nigeria Africa	Equivalent to two years diploma if recognized programme is not available
12	Family medicine fellowship	Canada	Equivalent to two years diploma

• See Schedule 11-1, fellowships issued before 30/06/2008H

Eleventh: Certificate of Higher Specialization in medicine:

Higher specialization in medicine are those equivalent to the Saudi Certificate of specialization depending on the availability of experience shall directly qualify the holder to the grade of a senior specialist or a consultant

11-1 Examples of certificates equivalent to the Saudi certificate of specialization:

Ser.	Certificate	Origin	Remarks
1	Saudi Universities fellowships	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	
2	Arabian Fellowships	Syria	It is conditional that who completed their training in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall obtain the certificate for completion of training from the Commission
3	Specializations from Jordan	Jordanian Medical Council, Jordan	It is conditional that who completed their training in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall obtain the certificate for completion of training from the Commission
4	Egyptian Fellowship	Egypt	It is conditional that who completed their training in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall obtain the certificate for completion of training from the Commission
5	Doctorate Ph. D (MD)	Egypt	The physician shall obtain it via training in recognized hospital
6	Higher Medical Studies Diploma from higher education ministry	Algeria	Bachelor in medicine is not prerequisite
7	Specialization from Tunisia and Morocco	Tunisia and Morocco	
8	Britain and Ireland fellowship	Britain and Ireland	Provided that the holder has 4-5 residency training at a recognized center
9	(CCST) Certificate of completion of specified training	Britain and Ireland	Qualify to consultant
10	Fellowship	Czech	Senior specialist: writing exam./ Consultant: writing exam. Evaluation committee
11	PhD. (MD)	Britain	Provided that a 4 years residence for training at a recognized center is available and registration in the British medical council

Ser.	Certificate	Origin	Remarks
12	German / Austrian specialization certificate	Germany and Austria	
13	C.E.S (certified d' Etudes Specialises)	France	Granted to the individuals from European Union until 1985, thereafter substituted by the D.E.S certificate
14	D.I.S (Diploma Interuniversitaire de Specialitie)		Granted to foreigners
15	Specialization from Belgium (medicine Specialty)	Belgian Ministry of Health	
16	Specialization from Italy Diplaome di medico specialists	Italy	
17	Specialization from Denmark (speciallaege)	Denmark	
18	Specialization from Luxemburg (diploma di medico specialists)	Ministry of health based on recommendation from Luxemburg medical college	Provided that the holder shall have 4-years registrarship at least
19	Specialization from Netherlands (SCR)	Holland	It is a recognition and registration certificate granted by the Specialists' Registration Commission (SRC) in the specialists register Net do or de Specialisten Registratiecommissie (SRC)
20	Swiss specialization	Swiss physicians Association or the equivalent from Swiss association for medical practitioners	
21	F.M.H in orthopedic Surgery	Swiss Physicians Association in Switzerland	

Ser.	Certificate	Origin	Remarks
22	Certificate of Specialization of Swedish Board	Sweden	
23	Specialization of Ph. D (MD) from Spain	Spain	
24	Specialization of Ph. D (MD) from Portugal	Portugal	
25	The Australian Fellowship	Australia	
26	The American Board from the American council	United Stated of America	
27	The Canadian fellowship The Royal Canadian College of Physicians and Surgeons	Canada	
28	MD or MS + DNB MD + DM Specialization in internal medicine	India Pakistan	Shall be assessed to be fellowship and qualify for the grade of senior specialist
29	MD + MCH Specialization in Surgery	Bangladesh	
30	FCPS	Pakistan	Provided that, the applicant work as associate professor for a period not less than 3 years and that the experience is issued or authenticated by the Pakistani College of Physicians except fellowships issued after 30/06/2008G
31	Master / Fellowship	South Africa	Provided there is a training equivalent to the required for Saudi Specialization certificate
32	MEDChD (Diplome d' Etate de Docteur en Chirurgie Dentaire + DESO (Diplome Eu Sciences Odontologiques) in dentistry	France	Diploma, Ph. D of a country in dental surgery + diploma of a country in dental sciences
33	European Board	Europe	Provided that recognized training and specialty certificate is obtained from the origin country equal to Saudi specialization certificate

Ser.	Certificate	Origin	Remarks
34	Lebanon Specialties	- Lebanon Univ. - American University Islamic Lebanon Charity Association hospital	
35	Doctorate in medicine	Karaciti University – Pakistan	
36	Specialization from Brazil	Brazilian Medical Association	
37	Dentists Royal College fellowship Canada	Dentists Royal College fellowship Canada	
38	Iraq Specialization	Iraq	Recognized training equal to Saudi Specialization certificate
39	Kuwait Specialization	Kuwait	Recognized training equal to Saudi Specialization certificate

Twelfth: Sub and branch specializations training:

- 12-1 Fellowship in sub-specialization is a training fellowship having a qualifying character obtained by a trainee via recognized training program after passing the examination in the same specialization from recognized academic institution. It shall be classified as a sub-socialization after the higher qualification in the general specialization.
- 12-2 Training courses (fellowship) for sub-specialization which do not end by an examination. The holder obtains training completion certificate by academic bodies or educational hospitals which is equivalent to courses commensurate with their actual training periods.
- 12-3 Granting “Consultant title” in the sub-specialization prerequisites:
- a. Fellowship in sub- specialization after a higher academic qualification, the period of study of which must be three years
 - Or
 - b. Fellowship in sub- specialization of a study period of two years after the completion of a period of experience of one year in the same specialization.
 - Or
 - c. Training period of three years in the sub- specialization in addition to 1 year of experience in the same specialization
 - Or
 - d. Training period of two years in the sub-specialization in addition to 2 years of experience in the same specialization
 - Or
 - e. Training period of one year in the sub-specialization in addition to 4 years of experience in the same specialization
 - Or
 - f. Completion of experience in sub- specialization after a higher academic qualification in specialized units in a recognized center for a period of not less than six years.
- 12-4 The holder shall be entitled to qualify for consultant grade in branch specialization if obtained a certificate of specialization after completion of a training program the period of which was not less than 3 years and obtained 4 years experience in the same specialty provided that the total training period and experience shall be 7 years. The title awarded shall be exclusively in the branch of specialization.

Thirteen: Additional Specializations:

Additional Specializations is the acquisition of additional skills / techniques related to the main specialization, the practice of which requires obtaining an additional license and it is conditional for such practices that the holder should have completed a training course or had adequate experience at a hospital or a specialized center in the required field, such as:

1. Infertility and in vitro fertilization (IVF), for gynecologists, obstetricians and specialists in embryology and endocrinology.
2. Laser in ophthalmology for consultant ophthalmologists.
3. Additional license is granted for using hair removal laser and for dermatology consultant who obtained two hours training course at least as approved by the commission after having passed the professional evaluation as set forth by the commission.
4. Additional license is granted for using laser, intense photography, radio waves and dynamic photo treatment for dermatology consultant who obtained four hours training course at least as approved by the commission after having passed the professional evaluation as set forth by the commission
5. Gastroenterology endoscopes for non-consultants in gastroenteritis internal diseases, pediatrics and general surgery.
6. Performance of circumcision (for non-urology, pediatric, plastic or general surgery).
7. Analgesia therapy (for consultants in anesthesia or neurosurgery).
8. Endoscope surgery (for surgical consultants).
9. Ultrasound (for no-radiologists).
10. Hair transplant (for dermatologists and plastic surgeons).
11. Tooth implant.

A- Additional license in dental implantation / Replacement component

Additional license in the replacement component of dental implantation is granted to the senior specialist and consultant dentist in oral, maxillo-facial surgery and gum treatment who has completed training in the replacement component of dental implantation for a minimum of 100 hours through one single or multiple approved course(s) at institutions or facilities recognized by the Commission provided that the trainee submits eligible evidence from recognized entities, non commercial parties that he had *actually treated at least 15 cases in the replacement component, after passing both academic and clinical evaluations.*

B- Additional license in dental implantation / surgical component

Additional license in the surgical component of dental implantation is granted to the senior specialist and consultant dentist in dental replacement or dental repair who has completed regulated training in the surgical component of dental implantation for a minimum of 100 hours through one single or multiple approved course(s) at institutions or facilities recognized by the Commission provided that the trainee submits eligible evidence from recognized entities, non commercial parties, that he had actually treated at least 15 cases in the surgical component, after passing both academic and clinical evaluations.

C- Additional license in replacement/surgical dental implantation for general practitioner dentists

Additional license in replacement/surgical dental implantation is granted to the general practitioner dentist who has at least 4 years of experience in general dentistry and who has completed 200 hours of regulated training in one or both components. Training may be conducted through one single or multiple approved course(s) at institutions or facilities recognized by the Commission with a total of 200 hours of which 100 hours should be in the surgical part and 100 hours in the replacement part, provided that the trainee submits eligible evidence from recognized entities, non commercial parties, that he had actually treated at least 20 cases in both surgical and replacement components, after passing both academic and clinical evaluations.

Fourteenth: Certain special certificates definition:

14-1 Diploma in Epidemiology:

Diploma granted by King Saud University in collaboration with the Ministry of health in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Physicians and other health practitioners are accepted for such a study. The certificate shall be equivalent to two years diploma in the same specialty.

14-2 Certificates issued from Federal Republic of Russian and Ukraine

14-2-1 Nursing and technician certificates

The study should not be of less than four years after the secondary school and success in the evaluation exam qualifies a person to practices as a technician. If the period of study is more than four years, it shall qualify the person to practice as a specialist.

14-2-2 Bachelor Degree in Pharmacy:

The period of study must be five years and in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia it shall be equivalent to bachelor degree on pharmacy.

14-2-3 Dentistry:

The period of study must be five years in addition to the one year internship. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, it shall be equivalent to the bachelor degree in dentistry.

14-2-4 Medicine

The period of study of medicine must be six years in addition to the one year training period of internship Called STAGIOR. This shall be equivalent to bachelor degree of medicine and surgery in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

14-2-5 Specialist Certificate (clinical Ordinatura).

The certificate is called KAUHU UECHOU OPGUKA. Its training period is not less than 3 years which shall be considered as equivalent to 2 years

Specialist = master = magista and shall enable the holder to practices as a specialist after acquiring necessary experience.

14-2-6 Fellowship certificate (Doctorate Degree Ph. D. MD)

In the Russian language, it is called, KANDIDATE NAUK, while its period of training is five years after the master degree, it shall be equivalent to Saudi Specialization Certificate (Ph D or M.D).

14-3 Certificate issued from Poland:

14-3-1 Nursing which include:

- A. Male /Female nurse: the period of study must be four years in a secondary nursing school after the intermediate school. The certificate, called (DYPLOM PIELEGNIARKI/ PIELEGNIARZA. Such certificate shall be equivalent to the diploma of secondary health institutes and shall qualify the holder for the grade male / female nursing technician.
- B. Qualified male / female nurse: The period of study must be 2 years after the secondary school in a nursing institute and is called
DYPLOM DIELEGNIARZA
Or
DYPLOM PYPLOMWANEGO
Or
PIELEGNIARKI DYPLOMOWANEJ and it shall be equivalent to the diploma of the advanced secondary health institutes and shall qualify the holder for the grade of male / female nursing technician.
- C. Bachelor Degree in Nursing: The period of study in a medical college or a nursing division is 4 years, this certificate in is called
DYPLOM MAGISTRA PIELEGNAIRSTWA and shall be equivalent to the bachelor degree and qualifies the holder for the grade of a specialist.
- D. Pharmacy: the period of study must be 5 years. This certificate is called
DYPLOM FARMACJI and shall be equivalent to a bachelor degree in pharmaceutical sciences.
- E. Dentistry: the period of study must be 5 years in addition to one year internship. This certificated is called
DYPLOM LEKARZA STOMATOLOGA and shall be equivalent to a bachelor degree in Dentistry.
- F. Medicine: the period of study must be five years in addition to one year internship. This certificated is called
DYPLOM LEKARZA MEDYEYNY and shall be equivalent to a bachelor degree in medicine and surgery in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

14-3-5 Specialization Certificates:

- 14-3-5-1 Until 1999, 2-grades specialization and consisted of two stages:
 - A. Part (I): training period 2 to 3 years and is called DYPLOM I STOPNIA which is equivalent to a master (MD).
 - B. Part (II): training period 3 to 4 years and passing the state examination, this certificate is called DYPLOMA APWXI II STOPINA, which is equivalent to PhD and qualifies the holder to senior specialist.
- 14-3-5-2 Since the beginning of 1999, the European Union's system for specialization had been adopted and the specialization has now become 1 stage only. The period for specialization must not be less than 5 years depending on the branch of specialization. This certificate is called DYPLOM SPECJALISTY and shall be equivalent to a PhD (MD) and qualifies the holder to senior specialist.
- 14-3-5-3 Sub-specialization (such as heart surgery, neurosurgery and plastic surgery)
 - A. Until 1999, this specialization required practical training of 3 to 4 years after passing stage 1 (the DYPLOM 1 STOPINA) and the state examination. Such specialization qualifies the holder to sub-specialization.
 - B. Since the beginning of 1999, to obtain the certificate of specialty (DYPLOM SPECJALISTY i.e. PhD or MD) it requires a training of 2 to 3 years after passing the state examination. Such certificate entitles the holder to the grade of specialization.

14-4 Certificates issued from Czech Republic:

- 14-4-1 Specialization certificate (PRVNIHO STUPNE) shall qualify the holder for practice as a specialist after passing the professional evaluation.
- 14-4-2 specialization certificate (DRUHEHO STUPNE) shall enable the holder to practice as a senior specialist or consultant depending on the period of his experience.

14-5 Applied Sciences and nursing bachelor's certificate issued from Philippines and India and alike:

15-4-1 Holders of nursing or applied medical sciences certificates are classified after completing 10 years education in the same specialty provided that 4-years bachelor degree is obtained besides the Board certificate in the same specialty and 3 years experience in the same field as stated in the specialty certificate in all health fields such as optics, physiotherapy, physiology treatments, medical laboratory, teeth technologies, radiology technologies etc except pharmacy

Fifteenth: Visiting Physicians:

1. Pursuant to the Ministerial Resolution Nr 2118/20 dated 21/02/1420H the Commission shall classify Visiting Physicians in accordance with the following criteria:

- A. The Physician must have the status of a consultant in his country and should exercise rare specialization using new techniques that are not currently available in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- B. The Physician must be in a possession of a valid license of professional practices in his country.
- C. The Physician must not have been convicted of violating a Sharia law or been found guilty of a criminal offence of a medical mistake or negligence. The Physician must not have been deported from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for any reason related to the medical profession.
- D. The recommendation of the party inviting the visiting physician shall not be considered as classification certificate for permanent professional practice in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Sixteenth: General Terms:

16-1 The classification of holders of health certificates obtained from abroad shall be determined through professional evaluation.

16-2 Re-classification may be performed for those against whom a decision of disqualification had been passed due to their failure in the evaluation examination after they have completed a period of training and acquired new experiences in a hospital or elsewhere or acquired a higher qualification recognized by the Commission. The application for reclassification shall not be entertained except after the elapse of at least one year from the date of the decision of disqualification.

- 16-3 Health practitioners who were allowed an exceptional chance and who pass the professional evaluation exam thereafter shall be re-evaluated after one year from the date of issue of the professional classification decision. In case of their repeated failure in the exam, a decision of final disqualification shall be passed against them.
- 16-3-1 Saudi health practitioners passing the fourth phase to be subjected to re-evaluation after 1 year of the classification resolution date. The resolution will include (reevaluation after one year)
- 16-4 Classification from one grade to another shall be subject to a new application and evaluation.
- 16-5 Consultant governmental staff professional classification resolution shall not be issued except by virtue of a request from concerned government department.
- 16-6 Classification shall not be performed for a professionally lower grade than that for which the applicant had applied because of his failure in achieving the qualifying marks for the grade applied for, Except nursing staff in health centers, dispensaries and clinic complexes as they may apply for the nursing assistant exams, if they failed in nursing exams provided they will exclusively work in health centers, dispensaries and clinic complexes.
- 16-7 Physicians applying for the grade of a senior specialist / consultant who do not pass in the first trail shall be allowed to repeat the examination and in case of failure, he shall be granted only the grade of a specialist. However, he shall be entitled to apply for a professional classification for promotion to a higher grade one year after the date of passing the non physician examination.
- 16-8 In case of interruption of health practice for a period 2 to 5 years, it is imperative that such person attend a training program ranging from 2 to 6 months depending on the period of interruption. If interruption period exceeded five years, the training shall be for one year.
- 16-9 In case of interruption of health practice of physician it will be as follows:
- A. Interruption for more than two years or maximum time limit of five years:
It is imperative that the health practitioner's experience be assessed, there by having training in this area of specialty from two months to six months followed by passing the professional classification examination.
 - B. Interruption for more than five years and less than ten years: it is imperative that the health practitioner's experience be assessed and should get raining for six months if he had previous practical experience or one complete year in case of no practical experience has ever been taken followed by passing the professional classification.

- C. Interruption for more than ten years for those whom have had previous practical experience: it is imperative that the health practitioner's experience be assessed and should get training for one year followed by passing the professional classification.
- D. Interruption for more than ten years without previous recognized practical experience: it is imperative to get training for one complete year at least in a recognized training center scoring passing marks in four courses of specialty (internal medicine, pediatrics, general surgery and obstetrics and gynecology) with duration of three months each.

16-10 The number of entries for the examination shall be limited as follows:

- A. Commission's exams via PROMETRIC Company: the applicant shall be allowed two times for passing the classification exams in three months. However, if the applicant failed or absented, it shall be granted another exceptional opportunity to attend the exam in three months from the date of last attempt after having paid the fixed fees. However, if the applicant again failed or absented, it shall be disqualified by to a special resolution.
- B. Scheduled Written Exams (committees): the applicant shall have two sequential chances. However, if the applicant failed or absented, it shall be granted another exceptional opportunity to attend the exam after having paid the fixed fees. However, if the applicant again failed or absented, he shall be disqualified by to a special resolution.
- C. In case of dis-qualification, the applicant may apply against to the exam after one year from the date of resolution after having paid the stipulated fees.
- D. Graduates Health Institutes, Health Colleges, and Community Colleges in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall be granted two attempts; followed by training for those who fail to pass the exam, and further two more attempts will also be allowed, and finally they will be subject to an evaluation by a committee as a last attempt before a Central Examination project underway would have been implemented by Saudi Commission.

16-10-1 The applicant employer shall be notified with the resolution.

- 16-11 The date of the approval by the College Council of a candidate's result shall be considered the date he was awarded his certificate.
- 16-12 Holder of bachelor in medicine and surgery may be qualified as pharmaceutical products representatives after passing pharmacy professional evaluation.
- 16-13 Ophthalmologist who would like to work in the optical centers have to apply for extra license in optometry and are subject to written examination on optometry and in case of passing the examination, they are granted extra license in optometry provided they exclusively work in optical centers, in the field of optometry.

- 16-14 Professional registration and classification applicants having an age more than 60 years shall be subject to medical fittings investigation to ensure their physical capabilities to practice the profession. The result shall be medically fit or unfit)
- 16-15 Government programmes graduates below bachelor shall be subject to professional classification exams.
- 16-16 Collaborative insurance subscription against the medical profession faults shall be obligatory to all physicians, dentists and works in the public and private health organizations pursuant to the health profession practice code promulgated by the Royal Decree Nr R / 59 dated 14/11/1426H.
- 16-17 Modification of Professional Grade
- A. The commission may modify the professional grade or withheld the classification or registration of health practitioner if required due to court order or application by concerned authorities for re-evaluation or if it was proven that the person is illegible to this profession or obtained it by mistake or through illegal means.
 - B. If the health practitioner applied for granted professional grade modification to higher grade, the commission may modify such grade or withheld the classification based on the evaluation of committee recommendations.
- 16-18 The commission may modify any article herein at any time and from time to time without prior notice.
- 16-19 The secretary general may exempt any person of codes stipulation herein when required.

Seventeenth: Professional Classification and Registration Fees:

The Professional Classification and Registration Fees shall be paid through a bank cheque for the favor of “Saudi Commission for Health specialists” or credit card. The amount of the fees shall be as follows:

1. Professional Classification Fees:

Serial	Grade	Approved fees
	Consultant physician	SR 1800
	Specialist / senior specialist physician	SR 1500
	General / resident physician and dentists	SR 1100
	Sub-specialization fellowships	SR 1100 + SR 600 for each additional fellowship in the same application
	Pharmacists and health specialists (bachelor and master)	SR 1100
	Pharmacists and health specialists (Doctorate – PhD)	SR 1500
	Technicians / nurse / health assistant	SR 600
	Additional specialization (committees)	SR 1500
	Saudi university bachelors (direct resolutions- physicians)	SR 500
	Saudi university bachelors (direct resolutions- non-physicians)	SR 500

2. Professional Registration Fees:

Category	Grade	Annual approved fees	P. registration approved fees (3-years)	P. registration approved fees (5-years)
Physicians	Consultant	SR 250	SR 750	SR 1250
	Registrar / senior Registrar	200	600	800
	GP / Resident/ dentist	160	480	1000
Non-physicians	Consultant	200	600	1000
	Senior specialist	160	480	800
	Specialist / Pharmacist	120	360	600
	Technician / senior technician	80	240	400

• Remark: 5 years professional registration is only for Saudis

C. Additional Services Fees

Description	Approved Fees (SR)
Certificates translation and authentication	300
Issuance of extract and modification, for physicians, Pharmacists, specialists and alike	300
Issuance or modification of professional registry extract	150
Professional patent certificate / profession practice	300
Authentication of certificates to ensure completion of commission requirements	400

Eighteenth: Authentication of Certificates:

Certificates shall be authenticated from one of the following sources, provided that a lesser source shall not be considered where there are higher ones available. The procedure of authentication shall be as follows:

- 18-1 The Saudi Cultural Attaché in the country of origin.
- 18-2 The Saudi embassy or delegated representative in the country of origin.
- 18-3 Authentication by Saudi embassy or delegated representative regarding the authentication of another country embassy.
- 18-4 Origin country's embassy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia + ministry of foreign affairs.
- 18-5 Authentication by recognized authority by the commission.

Nineteenth: Medical Learning, Professional Development hours required by health practitioners for commission’s professional re-registration:

A. Continuous medical learning hours needed by health practitioners for re-registration:

Cat.	Average hours per year	Required Hours		Details
		3 years	5 years	
Physicians and Dentists	30	90	150	10 hours max per year for internal activities 10 hours max per year for general skills development 12 hours min. for specialized forums, seminars, workshops including internet approved methods 10 hours for self activities such as specialized reading, composing, scientific films in specialty.
Pharmacists	20	60 hours for pharmacists and consultants	100 hours for pharmacists and consultants	10 hours max per year for internal activities 10 years max per year for general skills development 12 hours min. for specialized forums, seminars, workshops including internet approved methods 10 hours for self activities such as specialized reading, composing, scientific films in specialty.
Nurse	15	45 H for specialists and consultants	75 H for specialists and consultants	5 hours max per year for internal activities 5 years max per year for general skills development 5 hours min. for specialized forums, seminars, workshops including internet approved methods 5 hours for self activities such as specialized reading, composing, scientific films in specialty.

Cat.	Average hours per year	Required Hours		Details
		3 years	5 years	
applied medical professions	10-20	60 H for specialists and consultants	100H for specialists and consultants	5 hours max per year for internal activities 5 hours max per year for general skills development 5 hours min. for specialized forums, seminars, workshops including internet approved methods 5 hours for self activities such as specialized reading, composing, scientific films in specialty.
Technicians	10	30H for all technicians categories	50H for all technicians categories	

- B. Exempted categories of continuous medical learning hours are all health assistances in all disciplines and some technicians (such as optical laboratory technicians, health or hospital administration technician, medical records technician, medical secretariat technician, biomedical technician, health control technician and environments technician).
- C. The ICDL shall be accounted for continuous learning hours but non-obligatory for health practitioners as follows:
- ICDL Start, 10 hours continuous learning hours and counted for one time.
 - ICDL, 15 hours continuous learning hours and counted for one time.

