



# **GUIDELINE ON REGISTRATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTITIONERS**



*Document no: MMDC/DOC/2021/01- V01*

**MALDIVIES MEDICAL AND DENTAL  
COUNCIL**

**Endorsed Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

# **Maldives Medical and Dental Council**

## **GUIDELINE ON REGISTRATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTITIONERS**

### **1. AUTHORITY**

This guideline has been developed and approved by the Maldives Medical and Dental Council (MMDC) on 02 March 2021 pursuant to the Health Care Professionals Act, 2015 and it takes effect from 02 March 2021. This guideline is a supplement to the GUIDELINES ON REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF ALLOPATHIC MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONERS published by the MMDC and contents of this guideline shall be included in its next update.

### **2. PURPOSE**

To provide information to the medical doctors trained as public health specialists wishing to register in Maldives and their employers regarding the process and requirements for registration prescribed by the Maldives Medical and Dental Council (MMDC) and the privileges and responsibilities appertaining thereto.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

While it is very clear that a three year post graduate MD programme in Public Health is considered a registerable degree by most councils, some of the post graduate programmers' in public health for medical doctors do not meet the three-year criteria but is recognized in many countries as public health specialists. Most of the western countries have one-to-two-year programmes and a recognized pathway for them to get accredited as public health specialists. These usually involve passing an examination or specified work experience or both. Given the importance of public health specialists in the health care systems, it is imperative that the public health experts in the country should be encouraged by giving due recognition.

### **4. REGISTRATION**

All medical doctors with public health training wishing to practice as a public health specialist in Maldives should be registered with the MMDC. Registration is an acknowledgment that the practitioner's qualification allowed him/her to gain entry to the Additional Medical Specialist Register of MMDC and it ensures that the practitioner holds the appropriate registration for specialty. A registered specialist can use the title Dr / public health specialist/ public health practitioner and should abide by the code of ethics laid down by the council.

## **4.1 QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION AS A SPECIALIST PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTITIONER**

Maldives Medical and Dental Council will recognize the following as sufficient qualification for enrolment as a specialist of public health in the Additional Medical specialist Register of MMDC.

The candidate must have;

- a. A Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS/MB ChB) certificate or its equivalent as stipulated in section 1.3.1 of the MMDC guideline on qualification required for registration as a general medical practitioner AND
- b. Undertaken compulsory clinical practice under supervision (internship/ house job), for a period not less than 52 weeks in a medical education institution recognized by the Maldives Medical and Dental Council AND
- c. Hold a registration as a General Medical Practitioner at the Maldives Medical and Dental Council AND
- d. Undergone a fulltime structured residency training program of no less than 2 years duration in a Public Health field<sup>1</sup>, after 4 years of general medical training and internship, in a medical education institution recognized by the Maldives Medical and Dental Council OR
- e. Undergone a fulltime structured residency training program of no less than 1 year duration in a Public Health field followed by residency work placement not less than 3 years that meets the requirements of the Maldives Medical and Dental Council and approval of a portfolio of competencies by the Maldives Medical and Dental Council, after 4 years of general medical training and internship, in a medical education institution recognized by the Maldives Medical and Dental Council OR
- f. Undergone a Doctor of Philosophy programme of not less than 3 years in a Public Health field, after a training program of no less than 1 year duration in a Public Health field followed by residency work placement not less than 3 years that meets the requirements of the Maldives Medical and Dental Council, after 4 years of general medical training and internship, in a medical education institution recognized by the Maldives Medical and Dental Council.

## **4.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION**

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<sup>1</sup> Fields in public health specialty includes, preventive medicine, social medicine, community medicine, community health, public health, biostatistics, epidemiology, entomology, nutrition, dietetics, population studies, reproductive health, maternal and child health, infectious disease management, environmental health, global (international) health, health education and promotion, social and behavioural health, minority health.

Any medical practitioners with public health training wishing to register with the MMDC should complete the application form for additional medical registration with the documents identified in the application form AND as required, a portfolio as proof of practical application and competencies required in the specialty. The documents must be submitted with the application fee to the secretariat of the MMDC.

### **4.3 PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS**

The portfolio is required to provide evidence of work and competencies gained in the specialty and must meet the requirements defined below. The portfolio must be submitted at the time of application for additional registration at MMDC. The portfolio will be assessed by the MMDC in making decisions on the provision of additional registration.

#### **AREAS TO BE COVERED IN THE PORTFOLIO:**

1. **The portfolio must cover at least THREE competency areas (TWO TECHNICAL and ONE CONTEXT & DELIVERY competency).**
2. **The materials must cover work over three calendar years.**
3. **Materials presented in the portfolio must be signed by a supervisor<sup>2</sup> recognized by MMDC.** A recognized supervisor for this specialty is a Public Health specialist who is registered at MMDC as a public health specialist.
4. **Evidence of work placement signed by the person in charge of the institution. Work placement should be at**
  - HPA, placed at a national public health programme, OR
  - Government health facility<sup>3</sup> where public health services or related services are provided, where a MMDC recognized supervisor is available OR
  - Private health care organization or academic institution determined appropriate by the MMDC<sup>4</sup>, where a MMDC recognized supervisor is available.

#### **CORE COMPETENCIES: TECHNICAL AREAS**

- Conducting community-based disease preventive and hazard reduction activities. This can include:
  - Health education sessions
  - Health promotion activities (such as events, fairs, campaigns, school health, family outreach)
  - Organize and/or conduct public health inspections such as: Mosquito inspections for dengue prevention, tobacco control inspections, food safety inspections
  - Organize, plan and conduct health screenings (camps, school health, outreach)

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<sup>2</sup> For the candidate who have already had more than 5 years' experience and currently do not have a supervisor of the above criteria, a reference letter from a DGPH or a DGHS who held the post at the time of the candidate's work will be accepted as a bridging to start registration of this specialty. This will not be applicable to the candidates who has not completed 5 years of work after the course work and must be signed by a supervisor that meets the requirement specified in this guideline.

<sup>3</sup> This includes all government hospitals, health centers, specialized centers (e.g. Thalassaemia center), and primary care centers (e.g. Dhamanaveshi)

<sup>4</sup> Such institutions will be assessed by MMDC on case-to-case basis to determine suitability.

- Organize, plan and conduct emergency preparedness and response activities
- Organize, and/or conduct and supervise environment health programmers' including vector control, reducing of environmental hazards causing ill health, injury prevention, occupational health and safety.
- Engage in organizing and providing public health services for individuals. This may include:
  - Organize, and/or supervise and conduct immunization services and programs,
  - Organize, and/or supervise and conduct Maternal and Child health, Adolescent health, Family planning services and programmers'
  - Organize, and/or supervise and conduct NCD clinics (diabetes, CVD, COPD), Mental health clinics, Thalassemia clinics, Communicable diseases clinics (e.g. TB; flu; dengue, in a health care setting).
  - Organize, and/or supervise and conduct Nutritional counselling; breast feeding and infant and young child feeding counseling.
  - Organize, and/or supervise and conduct Tobacco cessation (counselling and NRT prescription); detoxification and drug deaddiction (treatment and counselling)
  - Conduct patient evaluation – patient assessment, contact tracing, DOTS, screening, testing and follow-up (e.g. patients with TB/HIV, STIs, NCDs (Diabetic, CVD, Cancer), or NCD risk factors, children with developmental delays, adolescents, pregnant mothers)
- Conduct epidemiological surveillance, surveys, audits, research and analysis for evidence-based medicine and evidence-based policy-making. This may include:
  - Conduct or establish Surveillance through regular systematic disease or risk factor surveillance, (e.g. communicable disease surveillance, cancer registry, regular surveillance for hospital acquired infections).
  - Surveillance through regular community surveys and screening programmers' (e.g. for NCDs & NCD risk factors, cancer screening (breast cancer/ cervical cancer, oral cancer), migrant health screening or other health screening program.
  - Epidemiological analysis of diseases and health conditions for disease control, analysis of health services for determining service gaps and prioritizing requirements, and dissemination of epidemiological reports for action (e.g. notifiable diseases; for disease elimination; maternal morbidity and mortality; infertility, disease burden from complications of primary disease, health service delivery and gaps)
  - Conducting research to assess population health burden, understand or assess determinants of population health, assess health facility patient safety, service quality, or to assess health service gaps and requirements/improvements (e.g. using secondary data, primary data collection using surveys, qualitative in depth primary data collection and analysis)
  - Investigating and controlling an outbreak (min. one) in the community or health facility
  - Engage in health facility infection prevention & control (IPC) work, including preparation of IPC guidelines or SOPs, serving on an IPC Committee or performing functions of a secretariat for the IPC committee, conducting a clinical audit, establish or conduct surveillance for hospital acquired infection or anti-microbial

resistance, conducting awareness programs on IPC for health facility staff or other relevant personnel.

- Engage in emerging and innovative methods and techniques of epidemiological and public health investigations and research.

#### **CORE COMPETENCIES: CONTEXT AND DELIVERY AREAS**

- Program planning and organization of public health programmers'. This may include:
  - Planning medium to long terms, strategies, projects, actions plans, campaign, outreach programs at community level
  - Resource planning and management including human and material resources
  - Monitoring program implementation (e.g. assessment of programme implementation, conducting monitoring/ evaluations and producing reports)
  - Planning integration into service delivery, identifying strategies and policy options
  - Lobbying intersectoral support and supporting other sectors to achieve outcomes
- Developing and monitoring standards and guidelines for disease prevention and control, disease or risk factor management, surveillance, service provision or other public health functions. This may include:
  - Preparation of national or institutional guidelines and SOPs,
  - Review and updating the guidelines and SOPs
  - Supportive supervision of guideline/standards implementation.
- Engage in training programs and academic activities . This may include;
  - Conduct orientation session for health care workers (including new recruits, refresher, upskilling on public health interventions based on changes to the national guidelines)
  - Engage in pre-service training of health professional (taking modules, lectures for health care professional of different cadres)
  - Conduct training and skill development programmers' for care-givers or volunteers in any area of public health, disease prevention or health promotion
  - Produce and author technical reports and publication in areas of public health.
- Health promotion, communication and advocacy. This may include;
  - Engage in production of communication strategies, material for different target groups
  - Engage in production of policy papers using evidence and presentation of policy options based on best practice and cost-effective interventions.
  - Engage in stakeholder consultations and development of joint actions and intervention for improving population health (participation in intersectoral committees, workshops, meetings)
  - Engage in international health initiatives including representation of the country at regional and international health forums, intercountry and regional collaborative projects and joint work plans.
- Public health inspection, enforcement and quality assurance. This many include;
  - Organize and engage in inspection and enforcement of public health legislature (laws and regulations) and standards at community level and in public places (e.g.

- vector control, use of pesticides/chemicals, food safety, tobacco control, epidemic control measures)
- Engage in inspection and enforcement of public health measures at workplaces (e.g. cafés and restaurants, saloons, factories, workshops and industrial sites)
  - Engage in organizing, inspection and enforcement of public health measures at health care facilities, (e.g. infection prevention and control, patient safety measures, health care waste management, quality assurance).
  - Engage in health screening, inspection and enforcement of public health interventions at ports of entry (e.g. health screening, testing, attend to medical emergency at ports, conveyance vessels and vehicles such as ships and aircrafts)
  - Engage in emerging and innovative methods and techniques of public health management, community engagement and implementing public health enforcement measures.