



nhra
BAHRAIN



مملكة البحرين
Kingdom of Bahrain

الهيئة الوطنية لتنظيم المهن والخدمات الصحية NATIONAL HEALTH REGULATORY AUTHORITY



HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL LICENCING STANDARDS: DENTESITS 2017

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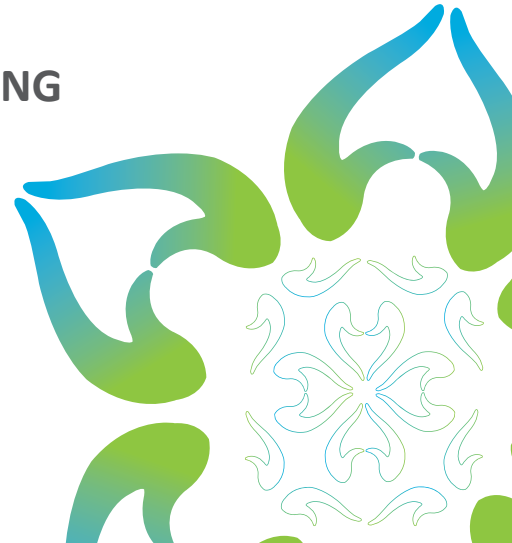


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Definations:

Authority: National Health Regulatory Authority

Continuing Professional Development (CPD): A range of learning activities through which healthcare professionals maintain and develop their knowledge and skills 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 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, or clinical attachment.

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

Gap of Practice: A defined period of discontinuation of clinical experience/ practice.

Good Standing Certificate (GSC): 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 period of supervised clinical practice pursued by graduates of healthcare programs to consolidate the knowledge & skill gained during their recognized college study provided the internship is done in a university affiliated Hospital.

License: A permission granted by the Authority to practice a healthcare profession.

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: An educational evidence granted by universities, colleges, academic institutes or schools that are nationally accredited or formally recognized.

Tier: A term used to indicate a category of post graduate qualifications for physicians and dentists 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 during training
- 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:

ACLS:	Advanced Cardiac Life Support
BLE:	Bahrain Licensing Examination
BLS:	Basic Life Support
BDS:	Bachelor of Dental Surgery
CME:	Continuing Medical Education
CPD:	Continuing Professional Development
DDS:	Doctor of Dental Surgery
DMD:	Doctor of Medical Dentistry
FAIMER:	Foundation for the Advancement International Medical Education and Research
GP:	General Practitioner
GSC:	Good Standing Certificate
HCPC:	Health and Care Professions Council - United Kingdom
ICU:	Intensive Care Unit
IMED:	International Medical Education Directory
NRP:	Neonatal Resuscitation Program
PALS:	Pediatric Advanced Life Support
PQR:	Professional Qualification Requirements
PHD:	Doctor of philosophy
UK:	United Kingdom
USA:	United State of America
WHO:	World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION

Preface:

The Supreme Council of Health (SCH) in Kingdom of Bahrain is pleased to present the unified Healthcare professionals Qualification Requirements (PQR) which represents a milestone towards fulfilling the kingdom's objectives to improve the healthcare service provision across the country.

This document provides a base for all health care 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 Kingdom of Bahrain and in accordance with Bahrain laws and benchmarked international best practices.

The SCH would like to acknowledge the efforts of all individuals who have contributed towards compilation of this document 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:

1.1 Educational Qualifications

- Qualification when needed must be nationally accredited by the Ministry of Education in Bahrain/ Higher Education Council (HEC).
- 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.
- Qualifications are evaluated in accordance to the following criteria:
 - The country and institution from which the qualification was awarded.
 - The level of national /international recognition of the qualification.
 - The duration and content of study, and the presence of clinical practice/ practical training.
 - Qualifications acquired through honorary nature, correspondence or distance learning are not counted towards the PQR requirements.
- Qualifications not mentioned in this document may be evaluated and reviewed by NHRA which may grant the applicant with the appropriate title.

1.2 Professional Experience

1.2.1: Internship

- All Physicians and Dentists are required to successfully complete one (1) year internship post- graduation.

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.
- Non Bahraini residents of Bahrain may be exempted from experience requirements for basic entry level after the approval of the Supreme Council of Health.
- 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 (where applicable) from home country and/or country of last employment.
- The applicant must provide evidence of meeting the minimum required experiences for the applied title.
- Good Standing Certificate (GSC) 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 with 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 not limited to: educational qualification(s), experience certificate(s), professional license(s) and/ or any other documents deemed necessary by NHRA.

1.5 Licensure examination (BLE)

- 1.5.1 BLE is applicable to some professions as indicated by related legislations.
Some Dentists are required to pass NHRA's BLE in order to obtain the professional license in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

1.6 BLE Exemption Policy

As per decision number 11 for the year 2015 pertaining to the licensure examinations, some dentists may be exempted from the licensure examination:

1. Dentist who hold higher specialization qualifications (Master's degrees as a minimum).
2. Bahraini or GCC nationals who hold a valid GCC License.
3. Dentist who have 10 years clinical experience (post internship) as per table below.

Please note that all licensure examinations dates are fixed and available on NHRA website.

1.7 Examination Attempts

- 1.7.1 Applicant may attempt the licensure examination four consecutive times provided that the attempts are done within a maximum of three years from the date of the first attempt.
- 1.7.2 An applicant who fails four consecutive times is required to go through a period of training of no less than six months in a licensed facility and to provide proof of completion of this training. For physicians the training should cover the basic medical fields including medicine, surgery, pediatrics, and obstetrics & gynecology which should cover at least four months of the total training period required.
- 1.7.3 After proof of completion of training, the applicant may attempt the licensure examination twice provided that the attempts are within two years from the date of completion of the training period.

1.8 Dicontinuity of Practice

This section applies to Bahrainis ONLY and Non Bahraini if residence of Bahrain.

- Healthcare professionals who have a gap of practice of at least two (2) years and opting to be licensed in Kingdom of Bahrain must follow the CME/CPD requirements below
- All CME/CPD credits must be related to practice specialty of the healthcare professional, and according to the CME/CPD specific requirements of NHRA
- All applicants are required to complete a clinical training program which shall be determined by NHRA in the specialty field.
- All clinical training programs shall be carried out in an approved practice setting by NHRA
- All applicants after completion of CME/CPD credits and clinical training program are required to pass NHRA licensure assessment to obtain the license to practice.

Gap of Practice	Dentists
From two to less than three years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 CME/CPD credits • 6 months of training
From three to less than four years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 CME/CPD credits • 8 months of training
From Four to less than Five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 CME/CPD credits • 10 months of training
From Five years onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 CME/CPD credits • 12 months of training

2. Renewal of Licenses

- 2.1 Dentists must accumulate a minimum of 30 CME/CPD hours annually in order for their licenses to be renewed. CME/CPD must be relevant to the field of the specialty:
- 2.2 Dentists may apply for a re-categorization of their license supported by a formal competency letter from the facility in order for NHRA to evaluate the request.
- 2.3 NHRA may re-assess a dentist's competencies if it deems necessary. NHRA may also re-categorize a dentist accordingly.

3. General Comments:

- License categories are independent from employment grade and titles.
- Health care facilities may not employ a health care professional at a higher category than that given by NHRA.
- NHRA reserves the right to re-evaluate any healthcare professional should the need arise
- License can be renewed up to a maximum of 5 years each time.
- All professionals holding administrative, academic, and other non-clinical positions will not be licensed by NHRA unless they prove continuity of clinical practice.
- These standards shall be reviewed once every three years.

4. Requirements & experience

Hospital Title	License Category	Qualifications	Experience and Other Requirements
Intern	No license or registration is required for this category?	Successful completion of accredited dental program (BDS/DMD/DDS..) Or Equivalent from a recognized Dental School/Hospital in an accredited international university	No experience required
Resident	General License	Successful completion of accredited dental program (BDS/DMD/DDS..) Or Equivalent from a recognized Dental School/Hospital in an accredited international university	For Bahrainis, successful completion of internship and passing licensure examination For non-Bahrainis, a minimum of five years of clinical experience post internship
Senior Resident		Successful completion of accredited dental program (BDS/DMD/DDS..) Or Equivalent from a recognized Dental School/Hospital in an accredited international university	For Bahrainis, (2) years of clinical experience and successful completion of two years of a residency program with proof of passing the first training program examination For non-Bahrainis, a minimum of five years of clinical experience post internship

Hospital Title	License Category	Qualifications	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Chief resident	Specialist	BDS, DMD, DDS, or equivalent And Completion of specialty qualification as per the Recognized Specialty Certificate table	No Experience Required	2 years	3 years
Consultant	Consultant	BDS, DMD, DDS, or equivalent And Completion of specialty qualification as per the Recognized Specialty Certificate table	2 year of experience post qualification	4 years of experience post qualification	Cannot attain the title

5. Recognized Dental Specialty Certificates

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Australia	Fellowship of the Royal College/Colleges Note: fellowship should be by Exam and not by endorsement or election.		Master of Dental Surgery
			Doctor of Clinical Dentistry
			Membership of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons
Arab Countries			Arab Board
Belgium		Specialization certificate issued by a Belgian university in Orthodontics and Periodontics	
Bulgaria			Evidence of successful completion of the State Exam in Orthodontics/Oral Surgery/Pediatric Dentistry/ Periodontics/ Prosthodontics/ Endodontic
Canada		Evidence of passing the National Dental Specialist Examination (NDSE).	Evidence of successful completion of university-based clinical residency program accredited by the Commission of Dental Accreditation of Canada (for Bahraini Nationals only)
Croatia			Certificate from Zagreb or Rijeka University in Orthodontics/Oral Surgery/Pediatric Dentistry/ Periodontics/Prosthodontics/ Restorative Dentistry & Registration from Croatian Dental Chamber with Specialist Title issued by the Ministry of Health

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Denmark		<p>Specialist Certificate in Maxillofacial Oral Surgery issued by the State Board of Health (only for five (5) years course duration)</p> <p>Specialist Certificate in Orthodontics issued by the State Board of Health (only for three (3) years course duration)</p>	<p>Master degree and Certificate awarding the right to use the specialty title issued by Sundhedsstyrelsen (State Board of Health)</p> <p>Oral Surgery: Attestation in oral and maxillofacial surgery Diplom Specializaci (vorort oralni a maxillofacial Chirurgie) & Registration in the Czech Republic Dental Chamber</p>
Egypt			<p>Master in one of the dental specialties</p> <p>Clinical PhD</p>
Estonia			<p>Degree of Specialist in Orthodontics</p> <p>Specialist in Oral Maxillofacial Surgery issued by a University and registration with Healthcare Board or Dental Council</p>
Finland		Specialist Certificate in Orthodontics or Oral Surgery	

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
France		Diplôme D'Etudes Spécialisées En Chirurgie Buccale (D.E.S.C.B) (Certificate of Specialised Studies in Oral Surgery)	Diploma d'Universitees (DU) (Title of specialist issued by the National Council of the College of Dental Surgeons)
		Chirurgien-dentiste specialist qualifie en orthopedie dento-faciale" (CECSMO) (Certificate in Orthodontics)	Diplôme Interuniversitaire de Spécialité (DIS) (Interuniversity Diploma of Dental specialty)
Germany		Fachzahnarztliche anerkennung issued by Landes Zahnarztekammern	Master in one of the dental specialties Clinical PhD
		Periodontics: Certificate of Periodontics issued by Zahnarztekkammer Westfalen-Lippe	
Hong Kong			Master of Dental Surgery
Hungary			University Certificate in: Orthodontics , with the title: Fogszabalyozo szakorovs Periodontology, with the title: Parodontologus Pediatric Dentistry, with the title: Gyermekfogorvos
India			Master of Dental Surgery (MDS)
Iran			Iranian Specialty Certificate issued by the Iranian Ministry of Health
Iraq			Master Degree in one of the dental specialties

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Ireland	Certificate of Completion Specialist Training by the Dental Council & Inclusion on the Irish GDC Specialist Register	Specialized Fellowship / Specialized Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	University Certificate in: Orthodontics , with the title: Fogszabalyozo szakorovs Periodontology, with the title: Parodontologus Pediatric Dentistry, with the title: Gyermekfogorvos
Italy			University Certificate: Orthodontics: Diploma di Specializzazione in “Ortognatodonzia”
			Oral Surgery: Diploma di Specializzazione in “Chirurgia Odontostomatologica”
Jordan		Jordan Medical Board	Master in one of the dental specialties
KSA	Saudi Board		Master in one of the dental specialties
Lebanon			Dental Master degree with minimum of two (2) years course duration Diploma d’Universites (DUs) – with three (3) years specialist training under supervision

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Latvia			Certificate Issued by “The Riga Stradins University’s Faculty of Stomatology
Lithuania			Certificate Issued by “ The Kaunas University of Medicine” or “The University of Vilnius”
Netherlands	Certificate of Completion Specialist Training by the Dental Council & Inclusion on the Irish GDC Specialist Register	Specialization Certificate issued by the Specialist Registration Board (SRC) in: Orthodontics: Getuigschrift van erkenning en inschrijving als orthodontis in het specialistenregister	University Certificate in: Orthodontics , with the title: Fogszabalyozo szakorovs Periodontology, with the title: Parodontologus Pediatric Dentistry, with the title: Gyermekfogorvos
		Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery: Getuigschrift van erkenning en inschrijving als Kaakchirurg in het specialistenregister	
New Zealand	Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons		Master of Dental Surgery
			Doctor of Clinical Dentistry
			Membership of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons
Norway			Certificate Issued by “Oslo” or “Bergen” University & Registration in the Specialist Registration

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Pakistan			Fellowship of the College of Physicians and Surgeons (F.C.P.S.)
Philippines			Philippine Board
Poland			Evidence of registration as a Specialist by the Medical Centre for postgraduate Training & Voivodeship centres for postgraduate training
Portugal			University Certificate in: Orthodontics: Especialistaem Ortodontia & Must be registered with the Ordem dos Medicos Dentistas
			Oral Surgery: Especialistaem Cirurgia Oral (Oral Surgery) & must be registered with the Ordem dos Medicos Dentistas Faculty & Must be registered with The Romanian Collegiums of Dental Physicians
Russia			Kandidata Nauk Magista PhD
Slovakia			Certificate of specialization in: Orthodontics (CelustynOrtoped)
			Maxillofacial Surgeon (Maxilofacialny Chirurg)
			Paediatric dentistry (Pedostomatolog)



Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Singapore		Specialization certificate issued by the Dental Specialist Accreditation Council	
South Africa	MChD Degree (Master of Dentistry) & Registration with the Health-care professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)		
Sudan			Clinical MD in any dental specialty issued by Sudan Medical Specialization Board
Sweden		Certificate issued by the Swedish Board of National Health and Welfare (Training program must be conducted in Sweden).	
Switzerland		Fachzahnarzt anerkennung	
Syria			Higher Study Certificate issued by Ministry of Higher Education
			Syrian Specialization Certificate issued by the Specialist Training and Rehabilitation Authority
			Master Degree in one of the dental specialties.
Tunisia			Specialty Certificate issued by the National Authority

Country	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Turkey			Doctor of science in one of the recognized specialties from a Doctorate Program
United Arab Emirates			Clinical Master program accredited by MOHESR and recognized by Authorities in the UAE
United Kingdom	Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) AND Inclusion on the specialist register of GDC	Specialized Fellowship/ Specialized Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons Intercollegiate Specialty fellowship	
United States of America	American Board issued by the American Dental Association		Evidence of successful completion of university-based clinical residency program accredited by the American Dental Association (for Bahraini national only)
Venezuela			Completion of a university specialization degree "Título de Master" in a dental specialty with at least Two (2) years course duration
Others			Full time Masters or PhD Degrees of minimum Two (2) years course duration with evidence of clinical practice and a current registration.

*Note: New qualifications not motioned in this document should be evaluated and approved by **NHRA**

Recognized Specialties Titles for Licensing

Specialty Licensing Titles
Endodontics
Oral Radiology
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Oral Medicine
Oral Surgery
Orthodontics
Pediatric Dentistry
Primary Care Dentistry
Periodontics
Prosthodontics
Restorative Dentistry
Conservative dentistry
Geriatric dentistry
Special needs Dentistry
Implantology
Dental Public Health

Visiting Dentists:

Health care facilities may apply for dentists to visit their institution and provide health care 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 week prior to the scheduled visit
2. In some cases, visiting dentists who do not fulfill the categorization criteria of a consultant may be granted a visiting license if they are categorized as a specialist and in certain conditions for example:
 - a. If the specialty needed is rare in kingdom of Bahrain.
 - b. If there is a paucity in the number of consultants in a certain specialty in kingdom of Bahrain
 - c. If the visiting dentist has been requested to share his clinical and academic experience and has distinctive work such as obtaining a patented technology in dentistry and such cases will be studied individually.
3. The NHRA may grant visiting licenses to any dentist based on the review of individual applications



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