

Revision of the DSRB Policy to Allow Dentists Registered under Temporary or Conditional Registration to be Principal Investigators

Dentists who have completed their basic dental training in foreign institutions may apply to the Singapore Dental Council (SDC) for temporary or conditional registration to practise in Singapore. During their employment in Singapore, some of these foreign-trained dentists would be expected to conduct clinical research and lead research groups because they have significant research training and experience, expertise and international reputation. However, the previous DSRB policy did not have provisions to allow conditionally registered and temporarily registered dentists to be Principal Investigators (PIs). As such, the DSRB policy has been revised earlier to allow conditionally registered dentists to be PIs.

Upon consultation with Prof Patrick Allen, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, National University of Singapore, and Prof Chew Chong Lin, President, SDC, the NHG Research Ethics Committee has recently reviewed and revised the DSRB policy to allow conditionally registered and temporarily registered dentists to be PIs. The requirements are similar to that imposed on conditionally registered medical doctors.

Requirements for Dentists to be Principal Investigators

For minimal risk studies, fully registered / conditionally registered / temporarily registered dentists can be PIs. For greater than minimal risk studies, fully registered / conditionally registered / temporarily registered dentists who are Associate Consultants and above can be PIs.

Additionally, the following set of conditions must be fulfilled before a Conditionally/Temporarily Registered dentist can be approved as the PI for a study:

- (a) The supervisor of the dentist must declare in writing that:
 - i. He/She is aware of, and supports, the involvement of the conditionally / temporarily registered dentist as PI;
 - ii. He/She will provide guidance and include research activities in regular progress reports to SDC; and
 - iii. Based on the conditionally / temporarily registered dentist's current progress and technical and ethical competency, the conditionally / temporarily registered dentist is deemed competent to assume the role of PI and affirms that the conditionally / temporarily registered dentist has adequate dental expertise to provide clinical care and make clinical decisions for the safety and welfare of the subjects.
- (b) The conditionally / temporarily registered dentist declares that his/her involvement in research as PI has been provided to SDC and no objection has been received from SDC.
- (c) The Department Representative and Institutional Representative / Institutional Officer approve of the conditionally / temporarily registered dentist to be the PI of the study.

For more information on temporary and conditional registration for dentists, please refer to the SDC website via the link below.

http://www.healthprofessionals.gov.sg/content/hprof/sdc/en/leftnav/information_for_dentists/register_as_a_dentist.html

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