

**The Specialist Training Programme
In Paediatrics
with reference to
The Health Care Professions Act 2003
And
Malta's Formal Accession to the EU**

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Ref: MPA/PT/2004/11

The Maltese Paediatric Association (MPA) shall be the competent professional association to determine and monitor, from time to time, the requirements for Specialist Training in Paediatrics and to certify the completion of Specialist Training in Paediatric in the Maltese Islands.

An Outline of Specialist Training in Paediatrics

1. Basic Paediatric Training:

1.1. Entry requirements:

- 1.1.1. basic degree in medicine and surgery from the University of Malta or equivalent recognised in the EU
- 1.1.2. registration with the Medical Council of Malta

1.2. Outline of Basic Paediatric Training:

- 1.2.1. a minimum of 18 months full-time training in a supervised training post in acute hospital paediatrics in a teaching hospital

AND

- 1.2.2. a minimum of 6 months full-time supervised training in community paediatrics

1.3. Progression to Higher Paediatric Training:

- 1.3.1. completion of Basic Training

AND

- 1.3.2. possession of the MRCP(UK) (Paediatric option) and/or MRCPCCH and/or equivalent diploma/degree recognised by the EU.

2. Higher Paediatric Training

2.1. Entry Requirements:

- 2.1.1. basic degree in medicine and surgery from the University of Malta or equivalent recognised in the EU
- 2.1.2. registration with the Medical Council of Malta
- 2.1.3. completion of Basic Paediatric Training

- 2.1.4. possession of MRCP(UK) (Paediatric option) and/or MRCPCH and /or equivalent diploma/degree recognised in the EU.
 - 2.2. **Outline of Higher Paediatric Training:**
 - 2.2.1. a minimum of 4 years full-time training which shall include
 - 2.2.1.1. a mandatory period of 2 years in a full-time supervised training post in acute hospital paediatrics in a teaching hospital
AND
 - 2.2.1.2. a further 2 years in a full-time supervised training post in acute hospital paediatrics in a teaching hospital and/or in Community Paediatrics.
3. **Certification of Specialist Training**
 - 3.1. The MPA shall be the sole competent professional association to certify the completion of specialist training in Paediatrics in the Maltese Islands.
 - 3.2. On fulfilling all the conditions of completion of Higher Paediatric Training the candidate shall inform the Secretary of the MPA in writing and must submit all the necessary documentation in support of the claim as determined by the MPA. Within a period of 60 days the Paediatric Specialist Training Subcommittee (PSTS) as defined in Appendix section 7.6 shall examine and verify the validity of the professional qualifications, work experience and clinical expertise attained by the candidate, and may interview the candidate directly if deemed necessary. The PSTS shall then advise the MPA Committee in writing of the candidate's satisfactory completion or otherwise of the Higher Paediatric Training. Once the MPA Committee is satisfied that a candidate has attained the status of a Specialist the Committee shall submit the candidate's name to the Specialist Accreditation Committee for its inclusion in the Specialist Register in Paediatrics.
 - 3.3. The PSTS shall be empowered to recommend the applications of medical practitioners for inclusion in the sub-specialty registers of Paediatrics.
4. Medical practitioners who have attained the status of Registrar grade or higher in the Department of Paediatrics of St. Luke's Hospital, Malta, and who have worked under supervision on a full-time basis in the said Department for a minimum of six years at Registrar grade or higher by the day that the Health Care Professions Act 2003 comes into force (21st November 2003) shall be recommended for certification of completion of Higher Paediatric Training as per clause 3.2 above.
5. Without prejudice to the "An Outline of Specialist Training in Paediatrics" on pages 2 and 3 of this document, the MPA shall abide by the provisions of the Health Care Professions Act 2003, with particular reference being made to Article 53 clauses 1,2,3 and 4 of the said Act, when the MPA committee and the PSTS shall be assessing whether medical practitioners hold the necessary

qualifications for registration in the specialist register of Paediatrics prior to the day of Malta's formal accession to the EU on the 1st May 2004.

6. In view of Article 53 clauses 1 and 2 of the Health Care Professions Act 2003, the MPA shall recommend for inclusion in the specialist register of Paediatrics any medical practitioner who came in possession of the MRCP(UK) and/or MRCPCH and/or an EU equivalent before the Health Care Professions Act 2003 came into force on 21st November 2003 and who is currently in employment in the Department of Paediatrics in Malta

Appendix

7. Definitions:

- 7.1. **Supervised training post**: a formal substantive full-time training post in a teaching hospital under the supervision of designated tutors.
- 7.2. **Designated tutor**: persons nominated by the MPA who have been in possession of the MRCP (UK) (Paediatric option) or the MRCPCH or EU equivalent for a minimum of seven years and whose name is on the Specialist Register of Paediatrics.
- 7.3. **Teaching hospital**: as defined by the Medical Council of Malta (Part III, Health Care Professions Act 2003)
- 7.4. **Acute Hospital Paediatrics**: secondary and/or tertiary care paediatrics as practised in the Department of Paediatrics in Malta or an equivalent institution in the EU; this includes hands-on experience in paediatric emergency medicine e.g. Paediatric Emergency and Admitting Department, Labour Ward deliveries, and in the care of acutely ill children on the general paediatric wards and the Neonatal and Paediatric Intensive Care Unit. The acute hospital training will include the care of acute and chronically ill children with a wide disease spectrum including infectious diseases, respiratory disorders, congenital heart disease, childhood malignancy, endocrine and metabolic disorders, haematological disorders, renal and gastrointestinal diseases, epilepsy and other neurological problems and children with chronic disabilities. The training shall include night rota duties and attendance at the Children's Outpatient Clinics under the overall supervision of the Consultant staff. Work experience under this section must be verified as per section 3.2 above.
- 7.5. **Community Paediatrics**: active participation and clinical work in community paediatrics (Non-Hospital Paediatrics) including work in the Health Centre paediatric clinics, School Medical Service and the Child Development Assessment Unit. During the 4 year period of higher paediatric training all trainees assigned to Community Paediatrics will be expected to work night rota duties in acute hospital paediatrics.
- 7.6. **Paediatric Specialist Training Subcommittee (PSTS)**: constituted by the MPA Committee on the latter's election during the AGM. The PSTS shall have a tenure of 2 years and shall be composed of a) a Chairperson nominated by the MPA Committee b) The Chairman of

Paediatrics and c) the most senior designated tutor as defined in section 7.2 above. In the event that members b) and/or c) decline(s) to accept the task, the MPA Committee shall nominate a member/s of its choice. The PSTS shall regulate its own proceedings and is directly accountable to the MPA Committee.

8. Log Book: the log book shall be issued by the MPA to all trainees in Paediatrics; all entries in the log book shall be endorsed by the tutors and shall be subject to an annual inspection by the PSTS during the month of December.

Dr. Paul Soler
President

Dr. Valerie Said Conti
Secretary

Dr. Joseph Mizzi
Vice-President

Dr. John Torpiano
Treasurer

Dr. Claudia Chetcuti Ganado
Member

30th March 2004