

CODE FOR PROFESSIONAL SPECIALIZATION

Amendments approved by the Board of Governors

Resolution No. 120, series 2010

The Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, through the Commission on Professional Specialization, acting by virtue of authority vested by Article VII Section 3-E of the PMA By-Laws hereby promulgates this Code for Professional Specialization

ARTICLE 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. **TITLE.** This Code shall be referred to and known as the Code for Professional Specialization (CPS) of the Philippine Medical Association.

Section 2. **PURPOSE.** This Code shall:

1. Govern the activities of members who have undergone specialized training in the different fields of medicine.
2. Form and organize the professional societies in specialized disciplines, and determine the relationship of such specialty societies to each other.
3. Standardize the composition and function of the certifying Board of each specialty/subspecialty

Section 3. **IMPLEMENTING BODY.** As provided under the By-Laws of the Association, the Commission on Professional Specialization shall have the exclusive authority to promulgate and enforce all provisions, rules and regulations, policies relative to the conduct of specialty societies

ARTICLE II COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL SPECIALIZATION

Section 1. **COMPOSITION.** The Commission shall be composed of a Chairperson and eight (8) members appointed by the President with the concurrence of the Board who must be a member in good standing of his respective specialty and the Philippine Medical Association.

A. QUALIFICATIONS

1. Chairperson – must be a Past President of any of the eight divisions.
2. Members - must be the Incumbent President of each of the eight (8) specialty divisions or their designated representative.

B. TENURE OF APPOINTMENTS

1. Chairman – The Chairman shall serve for a term of One (1) year. He/She may be appointed for a maximum of two consecutive terms.
2. Members – The Commission shall consist of eight (8) members, who shall serve for a term of one (1) year.

Section 2. **REMOVAL FROM OFFICE** – The Chairman and members of the Commission can be replaced by voluntary resignation, death or incapacity and the President with the concurrence of the Board of Governors shall immediately appoint a new member to fill the vacancy, and the member appointed shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 3. **FUNCTIONS** - The Commission on Professional Specialization shall have the following functions.

1. To coordinate the activities of the various divisions
2. To study and recommend measures to strengthen the recognized specialty societies and to standardize their respective certifying board.
3. To receive the annual report of the divisions and make necessary recommendations to the Board of Governors.
4. To monitor and evaluate the activities of the divisions and make appropriate recommendation to the Board of governors
5. To resolve problems referred by the divisions
6. To make recommendation regarding creation/formation of additional divisions as the need arises.

ARTICLE III DIVISIONS, SPECIALTY AND SUB-SPECIALTY SOCIETIES

Only one specialty or sub-specialty society in each discipline shall be recognized by the Commission.

Section 1. **DEFINITION**

- 1.1 Specialty division is a recognized aggregation of various specialty and subspecialty societies, bounded with unifying or common features. These divisions are: Anesthesiology, Family and Community Medicine, Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pathology Pediatrics, Radiology, and Surgery
- 1.2 Specialty society is an organization of licensed physicians which has a nationally recognized training program and a specialty board which certifies its individual members as to training and competence in the practice of their discipline.
- 1.3 Sub-specialty society is an organization of licensed physicians under and recognized by the lead society whose members underwent further training in a particular field of the lead specialty

Section 2. **QUALIFICATIONS**

- 2.1 Specialty Division: a division maybe recognized as a division if it meets the following requirements:
 - 2.1.1. It must be composed of one or more specialty and one or more subspecialty societies.
 - 2.1.2. The societies within the divisions must be composed solely of physicians licensed to practice in the Philippines.

2.1.3. It should have mechanism of recognizing and monitoring of specialty/ subspecialty societies within the division.

2.2 Specialty Societies - a society may be recognized as a specialty society if it meets the following requirements

2.2.1 It shall be national in scope and shall have no less than (50) active members.

2.2.2 Its members shall be engaged in the practice of the same specialty.

2.2.3 Its members shall be active members of their respective PMA Component medical societies.

2.2.4 It shall have a Constitution and By-Laws consistent with the By-Laws of the PMA.

2.2.5 It represents a specialty where no other society of the same specialty holds charter with the PMA.

2.2.6 It shall have a system of accreditation and evaluation of its training programs.

2.2.7 It shall have a specialty Board that evaluates and certifies the competency of the graduates of its accredited training programs.

2.3 Sub-specialty Societies – a society may be recognized as a sub-specialty society if it meets the following requirements:

2.3.1 It shall be national in scope and shall have no less than (15) active members.

2.3.2 Its members shall be engaged in the practice of the same sub-specialty.

2.3.3 Its members shall be active members of their respective PMA component medical societies

2.3.4 Standard for training and system of accreditation of its training program.

2.3.5 The subspecialty may or may not be boarded

2.2.6 It shall have a Constitution and By-Laws consistent with the PMA By-Laws.

2.2.7 It represents a sub-specialty where no other society of the same sub-specialty holds charter with the PMA.

2.2.8 It must be recognized by the Specialty Society of the Division.

Section 3. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF SPECIALTY AND SUB-SPECIALTY SOCIETIES

3.1 They shall be autonomous in their internal affairs.

3.2 They shall be represented in the General Assembly by the President or any duly designated representative from the lead specialty society of the division.

3.3 They shall have the privilege to participate in the scientific programs and other activities of the PMA.

3.4 They shall be entitled to publish scientific papers of their members in the Journal of the PMA.

3.5 They shall have the privilege of PMA accreditation of their scientific activities.

3.6 They shall have the privilege to be endorsed by the PMA to the appropriate agencies as the recognized specialty and sub-specialty society. (i.e. PRC, PHIC, SEC)

Section 4. RESPONSIBILITES OF LEAD SPECIALTY OF DIVISIONS, SPECIALTY AND SUB-SPECIALTY SOCIETIES

4.1. Divisions

- 4.1.1. The lead specialty of the division shall endorse for recommendation the recognition of new specialty/ subspecialty in the division
- 4.1.2. The lead specialty society, shall call a meeting of the division at least once a year to discuss issues and concerns which shall be elevated to the Commission,
- 4.1.3. The lead specialty society, shall collect annual reports required by the PMA below.

4.2. Specialty Society and Subspecialty Societies

- 4.2.1. They shall indicate the words “Specialty or sub-specialty society of the PMA” in all their official stationeries, posters, printed programs and other media of communication.
- 4.2.2. They shall render an annual report of their activities as well as recommendations to the Commission on Professional Specialization.
- 4.2.3. They shall submit a complete update list of their recognized sub-specialty societies together with their list of members annually.
- 4.2.4. They shall pay their annual dues to the PMA.
- 4.2.5. They shall submit all their scientific publications and newsletters to the PMA.
- 4.2.6. They shall ensure that their members remain in good standing with the PMA and their component society.
- 4.2.7. They shall ensure that their members strictly adhere to the PMA Code of Ethics
- 4.2.8. They shall encourage their members to actively participate in the activities of local component societies such as : Medicine Week, Annual Convention (if any), Annual elections, payment of PMA and component dues annually
- 4.2.9. At local levels, register activities of chapter with subspecialty societies in the local component societies of PMA.
- 4.2.10. They should see to it that activities of the societies must not be in conflict with the major activities of the PMA, such as the Annual Convention, PMA National Election and other activities deemed necessary.

Section 5. LEAD SPECIALTY SOCIETIES – The recognized lead specialty societies of the eight (8) divisions are as follows:

Anesthesiology	-	Philippine Society of Anesthesiologist
Family & Community Medicine	-	Philippine Academy of Family Physicians
Medicine	-	Philippine College of Physicians
Obstetrics & Gynecology	-	Philippine Obstetrical & Gynecological Society
Pathology	-	Philippine Society of Pathologists
Pediatrics	-	Philippine Pediatric Society
Radiology	-	Philippine College of Radiology
Surgery	-	Philippine College of Surgeons

**ARTICLE IV
RECOGNITION
TERMINATION AND WITHDRAWAL**

Section 1. RECOGNITION

- 1.1 As provided for in Article III Section 5 of the Code, there are eight (8) specialty societies designated as lead specialty societies of the corresponding eight (8) divisions. Any changes in the designation shall have the approval of at least two thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board of Governors.
- 1.2 Recognition of sub-specialty shall be through the lead specialty society of the Division, provided that such recognition shall be in accordance with Article III of the Code.
- 1.3 Annual dues – Annual dues for specialty and sub-specialty societies will be provided in the Administrative Code of the PMA and this shall be paid to the PMA.

Section 2. TERMINATION OF RECOGNITION – Upon recommendation of the Commission on Professional Specialization and subject to the approval by the Board of Governors, the charter of a specialty society may be cancelled on any of the following grounds.

- 2.1 Failure to submit the annual report to the Commission on Professional Specialization for two (2) consecutive years.
- 2.2 Failure to pay the annual dues to the PMA for two (2) consecutive years.
- 2.3 An act inimical against the profession or the PMA.

Section 3. WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION.

3.1 Any specialty society may withdraw recognition from the PMA upon presentation of a Board Resolution ratified by at least 2/3 of the general membership to the President of the PMA through the Commission on Professional Specialization.