

THE CHINESE ONCOLOGY SOCIETY:

Rules for the Medical Oncologist Examination

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- (02) 12.26.1990 Amended by the second preparation committee.
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Chapter 1: General Provisions

- Article 1: In light of domestic and international development in the medical profession, the Chinese Oncology Society (hereinafter referred to as "the Society") promulgates the "Rules of Medical Oncologist Examination," with the aim to train medical oncologists, raise medical oncology healthcare standards in Taiwan, and improve public health.
- Article 2: As a private academic organization, the Society certifies medical oncologists by affirming the professional level of their knowledge and skills in medical oncology, and does not conflict with any of the regulations stipulated in the "Medical Service Act" and the "Physicians Act" promulgated by the Government.

Chapter 2: Medical Oncologist Examination Review Committee

- Article 3: Members of the Medical Oncologist Examination Review Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") shall be recommended and appointed by the Society's Board of Directors. The Committee shall consist of fifteen members. This two-year position is without remuneration and may be renewed.
- Article 4: The fifteen committee members shall consist of qualified medical oncologists who are faculty members, chairpersons, or attending physicians at medical schools, medical centers, or teaching hospitals.
- Article 5: The Committee's Chairperson must be a member of the Committee, and shall be nominated by the Society's President and appointed after being confirmed by the Board of Directors. The Committee Chairperson shall oversee the Committee's operations, execute the Committee's resolutions, and report to the Board of Directors.
- Article 6: The responsibilities of the Committee are as follows:
1. To review the qualifications of applicants for medical oncologists.
 2. To hold the Medical Oncologist Examination, including creating the examination questions and determining the scores.
 3. To review and modify medical oncologist clinical training programs.
 4. To audit the facility and operations of medical centers and hospitals where medical oncologist clinical training programs are held.
 5. To review the qualifications of mentors of medical oncologist clinical training programs.
 6. To conduct re-review of qualifications and license renewal for teaching medical oncologists.
 7. To review manuscripts.
 8. To oversee other operations related to the medical oncologist examination.

Chapter 3: Eligibility of applicants for the medical oncologist

examination

Article 7: Applicants for the medical oncologist examination shall be members of the Society and meet criterion 1 or 2 as follows:

1. The applicant shall meet all of the following conditions:
 - a. Must have graduated from a domestic or foreign, public or private medical school.
 - b. Must have passed the medical licensing examination held by the Examination Yuan and received the certificate of qualification as a medical doctor.
 - c. Must have received a doctor's license or medical practice license issued by the national health authority.
 - d. Must have received clinical training in internal medicine and medical oncology at a teaching hospital and continue to practical medical oncology in a clinical setting. In addition, the applicant must also satisfy both of the following requirements:
 1. Residency training: Must have received at least three years of internal medicine residency training at a teaching hospital recognized by the Society; however, applicants who received residency training at a regional hospital or lower shall complete at least four years of training. Applicants shall also be certified in internal medicine.
 2. Medical oncologist training: Must have received the following training at a teaching hospital recognized by the Society (in accordance with Chapter 6, Article 18 in this document): 1) at least two years of medical oncologist training; 2) or at least three years of medical hematology and oncology joint training. Upon enrollment of training, the applicant must declare: 1) intention to acquire both certifications in hematology and oncology after the three-year joint training period; OR 2) intention to acquire either hematology or oncology certification after completing the first two years of joint training and acquire the other certification after completing the third year; OR 3) If the applicant receives medical hematology or oncology certification after two years of training in the corresponding field, he/she must report to the Society six months prior to the medical oncologist training and participate in the medical oncologist certification examination after receiving one year of continuous training; OR 4) two years of medical oncologist training at a foreign teaching hospital at the same level as domestic hospitals. However, the training time in medical oncology during the residency training period shall not be included.

Note: *The training program start date for foreign-trained internal medicine specialists who plan to receive training in Taiwan shall be the effective date of his/her ROC internal medicine certification.*
2. Certified medical oncologists from a foreign country who continue clinical practice in medical oncology, have effective medical practice license in Taiwan, and are approved by the Committee.

Chapter 4: Methods and procedures of the medical oncologist examination

Article 8: The ROC medical oncologist examination consists of written and oral tests. Examinees shall first take the written test. Only after passing the written test will the examinee be eligible for the oral test.

Article 9: Rules of the medical oncologist written test:

1. The written test of the medical oncologist examination is held annually. The Committee shall determine and announce the date and location of the test and notify the examinees individually.
2. The written test covers Basics of Oncology and Clinical Oncology (as defined in Chapter 5, Article 17).
3. The Committee assesses the test score and notify individual examinees within one month of the test.
4. Registration for the medical oncologist examination written test includes a processing fee of NTD\$2,000 (tentative amount). Should the examinee be unable to sit for the test due to any reason, no refund would be given.

Article 10: Rules of the medical oncologist oral test:

1. The oral test of the medical oncologist examination is held annually. The Committee shall determine and announce the date and location of the oral test and notify the examinees individually.
2. The oral test covers basic and clinical oncology knowledge and management of practical cases.
3. The Committee assesses the oral test score and notifies individual examinees within one month of the test.
4. Registration for the medical oncologist examination oral test includes a processing fee of NTD\$2,000 (tentative amount). If the examinee is unable to sit for the test due to any reason, no refund will be given.

Article 11: The Committee determines the passing standards of the written and oral tests.

Article 12: The Committee shall report the list of examinees who pass the examination to the Board of Directors. The Board will then issue the "Certificate of Medical Oncologist." The certification and processing fee is NTD\$5,000.

Article 13: Examinees who fail to pass the oral test can keep the written test scores for a year and participate in the oral test in the following year.

Article 14: Certified medical oncologists from a foreign country shall follow Article 7, Item 2 and submit certification of service at foreign medical institution(s), certification of medical specialty, and three offprints of published articles. Once reviewed and approved by the Committee, the written test can be waived. But the examinee still must take the oral test.

Article 15: The ROC medical oncologist examination is held annually. The registration period starts in August. The examination is held in October. The results are announcement by the end of the year.

Chapter 5: Required training for medical oncologists

Article 16: Medical oncologist training shall be completed at a medical institution recognized by the Society.

Article 17: Medical oncologist training program shall cover Basics of Oncology and Clinical Oncology and be approved by the Society:

1. Basics of Oncology: Including Oncogenesis, Cancer Biology, Cancer Pathophysiology, Cancer Epidemiology, and Cancer Pharmacology.
2. Clinical Oncology: Including Medical Oncology, Hematology, Surgical Oncology, Radio-Oncology, Gynecologic Oncology, Urologic Oncology, Head and Neck Oncology, Oncologic Emergency Medicine, Oncologic Pharmacotherapy, Psycho-Oncology, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and Oncologic Clinical Trials and Statistics.
3. Treating cancer patients and participation in oncologic academic conferences at teaching hospitals or held by the Society.

Chapter 6: Qualifications for medical oncologist clinical training institutions

Article 18: Clinical training institutions shall be medical centers or regional hospitals determined by the Department of Health or hospitals recognized by the Society. A qualified institution shall meet the following criteria:

1. Provides a comprehensive medical oncologist training program as required by Chapter 5, Article 17.
2. Has at least three qualified clinical training mentors (as required by Chapter 7, Article 21), one of whom serves as the program director.
3. Has adequately staffed and equipped radiology (including diagnosis and treatment), nuclear medicine, immunology, anatomical pathology, and clinical pathology departments.
4. Has sufficient number of inpatient, outpatient, and emergency patients for trainees, so that throughout the training period, they are exposed to different oncologic diseases at all age groups and understand their management and treatment effectiveness.
5. Has comprehensive collecting, statistic, and tracking systems for medical records.
6. Holds periodic clinical oncologic conferences.

Article 19: Medical institutions applying for approval of clinical training programs should submit to the Society the following documents, which will be publicized upon approval by the Society:

1. Application form for participation in medical oncologist training.
2. Curriculum vitae (CV) of the director and mentors of the medical oncologist training program.
3. Description of medical equipment in regards with the medical oncologist training program.
4. Content and timetable of the medical oncologist training program.

Article 20: Clinical training medical institutions that meet the qualifications before the passage of the 5.2.2009 resolution at the first General Meeting of the fifteen term of the Society may apply to the Society as medical oncology pre-training hospitals. With the Society's approval, the institution may train medical oncologists jointly with qualified training hospitals. Rules for pre-training hospitals and joint training program are as follows:

1. A pre-training hospital refers to a medical oncologist training hospital recognized by the Society of which the training program has only one director and one mentor. The hospital's equipment, procedure, and case management meet the Society's qualifications for medical oncologist training institutions.
2. A pre-training hospital can provide joint training programs with a training hospital recognized by the Society. However trainees at the pre-training hospital must spend half of the training time (one year in medical oncologist training program only) at the fully qualified training hospital.
3. To offer a joint training program, a pre-training hospital must obtain an official notice of agreement from the intended joint training hospital and submit to the Society its proposal, curricular content, and timetable for the joint training program.
4. The applicant pre-training hospital shall submit CV of all directors and mentors at the pre-training hospital and the joint training hospital relevant to the joint training program, description of medical equipment and healthcare conditions of the pre-training hospital, and medical oncologist training curricular content and timetable to the Society for review.

Article 21: At a medical oncologist training hospital recognized by the Society, every two mentors can train one trainee. The limit on trainee number at each training hospital can be cumulative.

Article 22: The Committee has the right to appoint committee members to audit the operations and training conditions of approved medical oncologist training institutions. If the institution is found to be in violation of the Society's rules, the Committee can request the institution to address the deficiency in written request. Should the institution fail to fulfill the Society's requirements in two years, the institution may be disqualified as a medical oncologist training institution.

Chapter 7: Qualification for mentors of medical oncologist clinical training programs

Article 23: In addition to medical oncologist qualifications recognized by the Society, the director and mentors of the training program shall have the following qualifications:

1. The director of the program must be an associate professor or higher at a medical school or be a full-time medical oncology attending physician with at least ten years of experience at a teaching hospital.
2. Mentors must be full-time medical oncology attending physicians with at least five years of experience in teaching.

Article 24: The appointment of the director and mentors of the medical oncologist training program should be full-time. In case of a mentor losing physician or medical oncologist qualifications, or failing to fulfill the mentoring responsibilities, as regarded by the Committee, the qualifications as a mentor can be revoked.

Chapter 8: Disqualification of medical oncologists

Article 25: Certified medical oncologist shall be disqualified under any of the following conditions:

1. Disqualification of membership by the Society.
2. Revocation of license to practice medicine in Taiwan.

Article 26: Members who fail to complete re-review and license renewal within the required period in accordance with Chapter 9, Articles 26 and 27 are considered voluntary surrender of certification. However the member can re-apply in accordance with the rules stated in Chapter 4.

Chapter 9: Re-review of medical oncologists

Article 27: Qualified medical oncologists shall apply for re-review every six years. The Committee shall review and certify the qualifications. Upon approval, the certification will be renewed. The processing and nominal fee is NTD\$3,000.

Article 28: The applicant for re-review shall meet any of the following criteria with documentation support:

1. Continue to practice medical oncology in a clinical setting (must include certificate of employment).
2. Two publications within the past six years (with the applicant being the first author or the corresponding author in at least one publication). Copies or offprints of the publications are required.
3. Participation in at least six academic activities held by the Society or in relevant fields within the past six years, totaling 30 hours or more. Certificate of attendance is required.

Article 29: The re-review of medical oncologists is held annually. The application starts in September. The license renewal is completed by the end of the year.

Chapter 10: Addendum

Article 30: The implementation provisions of this document shall be formulated separately by the Board of Directors.

Article 31: All of the Society's rules, as well as any proposed amendments, must be approved at a General Meeting and subsequently filed with the Ministry of the Interior and the Department of Health before implementation.