

**SAUDI COMMISSION
FOR HEALTH SPECIALTIES**



**SAUDI SPECIALTY CERTIFICATE
CERTIFICATE OF PEDIATRICS
TRAINING PROGRAM**

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Saudi Specialty Certificate of Pediatrics Training Program

Introduction:

The Saudi Specialty Certification in Pediatrics requires successful completion of four years of full time training in an accredited educational program, and an evaluation including an examination to ensure that candidates possess the knowledge, skills, and experience required for the provision of high quality care in Pediatrics.

Objectives:

a) General Objectives:

1. To train and graduate competent and knowledgeable pediatricians capable of functioning independently.
2. To provide an educational environment that will promote the standard of healthcare delivery.

b) Specific Objectives:

At the end of the training, the candidate should have the following capabilities and skills:

1. Possess sound knowledge in the principles of Pediatrics.
2. Perform thoroughly and suitably oriented history and physical examination.
3. Be able to provide appropriate preventive care and anticipatory guidance and act as a child advocate.
4. Formulate a reasonable and comprehensive differential diagnosis, recognize and manage common disorders in Pediatrics as well as many of the rare ones, especially those that are amenable to treatment.
5. Select relevant investigations logically and conservatively, and interpret the results accurately.
6. Possess good skills in various diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in Pediatrics.

7. Recognize and manage emergency situations appropriately.
8. Communicate with patients, relatives, and colleagues properly.
9. Advise colleagues from other specialties in problems related to Pediatrics.
10. Keep orderly and informative medical records.
11. Educate and update himself/herself and others in his/her field.
12. Possess high moral and ethical standards.

Admission Requirements:

To be accepted in a training program, the candidate has to fulfill the following requirements:

1. Holding a medical degree from a recognized university.
2. Successful completion of a year of rotating internship before the actual start of training.
3. Passing the admission examination held by the commission.
4. Passing the personal interview.
5. Being medically fit and having a record of good conduct.
6. Provision of three recommendation letters from consultants confirming the suitability of the candidate for post graduate training.
7. Provision of a letter from the sponsoring organization approving that the candidate can join full time training program for the whole period of the program.
8. Signature of an obligation to abide by all the rules and regulations of the Training Program of the Saudi Specialty Certificate of Pediatrics.
9. Registration as a trainee at the Saudi commission for Health Specialties.

Training Requirements:

1. Training is a full time commitment. Residents shall be enrolled in a continuous full time training for the whole period of program.
2. Training is to be conducted in an institution accredited for training by the Scientific Board of Pediatrics.
3. Training shall be comprehensive and as per structure of the training program.
4. Trainee should be actively involved in patient care with gradual progression of responsibility under appropriate supervision.

Structure and Content of Training Program:

The Saudi Board recognize four levels of training categories divided into two stages:

A. Junior Residency [24 months, includes first year (R1) & second year (R2)] :

These two years are designed to provide a broad exposure to General Pediatrics. Under careful supervision by senior residents and staff, trainees will have ample opportunity to learn and refine clinical skills considered fundamental to Pediatrics, and to build a sound pediatric knowledge base.

• First Year (R1):

Training during this year includes the following:

General In-patient Pediatrics	6 months
Ambulatory Pediatrics	1 month
Emergency Pediatrics	1 month
Primary Care Clinic *	1 month
Perinatology	2 months
Holiday	1 month
Total	12 months

● **Second Year (R2):**

Training during this year is a continuation of the first year and includes:

General In-patient Pediatrics	2 months
Ambulatory Pediatrics	1 month
Emergency Pediatrics	2 months
Perinatology	2 months
PICU	2 months
Subspecialty**	2 months
Holiday	1 month
Total	12 months

* Primary care clinic rotation should be concentrated entirely on vaccination and well baby clinic.

** At this stage, residents are advised to take Cardiology and Neurology.

Some flexibility is permitted between first and second year rotations.

B. Senior Residency [24 months, third year (R3) & fourth year (R4)] :

At this stage senior residents are expected to develop supervisory skills. They shall have overall responsibility for leading teams of junior trainees in inpatient wards, PICU, ambulatory pediatrics, emergency departments, and neonatal or perinatal units:

● **Third Year (R3):**

Training during this year includes the following:

General In-patient Pediatrics	3 months
Perinatology	2 months
PICU	2 months
Subspecialty	3 months
Elective	1 month
Holiday	1 month
Total	12 months

● **Fourth Year (R4):**

Training during this year includes the following:

General In-patient Pediatrics	3 months
Ambulatory Pediatrics *	2 months
Emergency Pediatrics	2 months
Perinatology	1 month
Subspecialty	2 months
Elective	1 month
Holiday	1 month

Total **12 months**

* The ambulatory pediatric rotation should be done in two consecutive months.

Some flexibility is permitted between third and fourth year rotations.

Rotations in Pediatric Subspecialties:

Mandatory Subspecialties

These include cardiology and neurology. Residents are required to spend at least one month in each of the above subspecialties during the training program.

Other subspecialties

Residents (with the approval of the training program supervisor) may select out of the remaining subspecialties whatever seems suitable for their training requirements. In general, the resident may rotate in any of the following subspecialties:

1. Allergy/Immunology
2. Endocrinology
3. Gastroenterology
4. Genetics and Metabolic Disorders
5. Hematology and Oncology
6. Infectious Diseases
7. Nephrology
8. Pulmonology
9. Rheumatology

The total time spent in any subspecialty during the training program should not exceed two months.

Electives:

Two elective rotations throughout the program would be allowed. The trainee will have a choice of either doing more of the previously mentioned subspecialties or other areas related to Pediatrics such as Anesthesia, Chronic Care Units, Dermatology, ENT, Pediatric Surgery, Pediatric Psychiatry, Radiology, Research Project, etc.

Academic Activities:

Training program shall include supervised lectures, seminars, clinical meetings, grand rounds, journal clubs, etc. Residents are required to attend at least 75% of these activities each year.

Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training:

- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification is a pre-requisite for admission to Part one Examination.
- Advanced Pediatric Life Support (APLS) certification is a pre-requisite for admission to the final examination.

Vacations, Holidays and On Call:

1. The Trainee is entitled to an annual leave of thirty days in addition to one of the Eid's leave.
2. Sick leaves, maternity leaves and exceptional "emergency" leaves for a period not exceeding ninety days shall be compensated for with an equivalent period of days before the trainee is awarded the Certificate of Training Completion.
3. Leaves that are not utilized in due time within the year shall not be shifted to the coming year.
4. The Training Program Supervisor may, in coordination with the chairman of the Regional Training Committee, grant the trainee a special leave for scientific purpose not exceeding seven days per training year to attend (scientific conferences or seminars in the same or similar Specialty), provided that he/she presents the proof for attending such activities.

5. On call duty should not be more than one every three nights (minimum of 6 calls per month, 24 hours per call except when working in emergency room). Residents are expected to perform regular duty the day after call and ensure continuity of care for their patients.

Evaluation:

1. Continuous Assessment

This include:

A. End of rotation evaluation:

At the end of each training rotation, the supervising consultant / team shall provide the training committee with an approved evaluation form about the resident's performance during that rotation. These evaluations constitute 65% of the continuous assessment.

B. Clinical Skills Evaluation:

This is to be done by the supervising consultant / team at the end of each training rotation. This constitutes 30% of the continuous assessment.

C. Academic activities:

Performance of the trainee in academic activities will be evaluated using standardized evaluation forms and the average shall constitute 5% of the continuous assessment.

2. The annual promotional examination:

The program shall incorporate an annual written and clinical examination. The written examination will constitutes 70% of the mark of the annual promotional examination while the clinical examination will constitutes 30% of the mark.

3. Annual Overall evaluation:

This include:

- a) Summation of the continuous assessment evaluations for the year (50% of the total mark).
- b) Result of the annual promotional examination (50% of the total mark).

Passing Mark: The trainee must score a general average of not less than 60% in the 2 parts above (a & b) provided that the mark in each part is not less than 50%.

Promotion:

- 1) The annual promotion (e.g. R1 to R2) depends on getting the passing mark of the annual overall evaluation.
- 2) The trainee who passes Part One Examination shall be exempted from attending the end-of-year examination in that year, provided that he/she scores an average of not less than 70% in the continuous assessment.
- 3) The trainee shall not be promoted to a senior resident unless he/she passes part one examination.

Specialty Examinations

A. First Specialty Examination (Part One Exam) :

1. This examination is held at least once per year in one or more of the training centers.
2. It is a written examination, and includes applied basic sciences and clinical Pediatrics.
3. Candidates are allowed to sit the examination after successful completion of nine months of training in the first year.
4. Passing the examination is a pre-requisite for promotion to senior residency.
5. Candidates are allowed a total of three attempts. Those failing the third attempt will be dismissed from the program.

B. Final Specialty Examination:

This examination is given to candidates after successful completion of training, as evidenced by an acceptable final in-training evaluation. It is held at least once per year in one or more of the training centers.

This examination consists of two parts:

A Written part: designed to evaluate knowledge and clinical judgement. Only successful candidates in this part are allowed to sit the clinical / oral part.

Candidates are allowed three years after completion of the training to pass this examination provided an evidence of continuing clinical practice is presented.

Clinical / Oral part: designed to test clinical skills, abilities, and judgement in the field of Pediatrics.

Candidates are allowed three years, after passing the written examination to pass this examination (irrespective of number of attempts) provided evidence of continuing clinical practice is presented.

Certification:

Candidates passing the final specialty examination are awarded **"The Saudi Specialty Certificate of Pediatrics" (SSCP).**

P.S. The latest Saudi Commission documents on "Rules of Procedure for Training" and "General Examination Rules and Regulations" and their amendments shall be followed in case of any conflict or contradiction to information in this booklet.