



Post-Fellowship recognition in Obstetric Medicine Policy

Approved by	SOMANZ Executive Council
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Associated SOMANZ Documents	* Post-Fellowship recognition in Obstetric Medicine application form and guide * Post-Fellowship recognition in Obstetric Medicine referee report form * Post-Fellowship recognition in Obstetric Medicine assessor guide and marking sheet
Applicability	Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

ABBREVIATIONS

SOMANZ – Society of Obstetric Medicine Australia & New Zealand

RACP - Royal Australasian College of Physicians

AHPRA - Australian Health Professionals Regulation Agency

MCNZ – Medical Council of New Zealand

1. INTRODUCTION

Post-Fellowship Recognition in Obstetric Medicine is the process by which RACP Fellows (Divisions, Faculties or Chapters) or those with equivalent qualifications can apply to SOMANZ for Obstetric Medicine Certification and subsequent recognition by SOMANZ as an Obstetric Physician. When you apply for post-Fellowship recognition in Obstetric Medicine, the SOMANZ Council will assess whether your competence, knowledge, skills and experience are at or above the level expected of someone who has completed the relevant requirements for the SOMANZ Certificate. SOMANZ will issue the Obstetric Medicine Certification if sufficient points are met from specific criteria.

Post-Fellowship Recognition in Obstetric Medicine is not designed to replace post-Fellowship training in Obstetric Medicine. Post-Fellowship training is the standard pathway available to Fellows who wish to be recognised in Obstetric Medicine in addition to their other fellowship/s. Post-Fellowship training is prospectively approved and supervised in accordance with the requirements for training in Obstetric Medicine.

Please note that the SOMANZ Obstetric Medicine Certificate is not recognised as a separate or additional qualification by the RACP and as yet Obstetric Medicine is not recognised by AHPRA or MCNZ as a separate specialty. SOMANZ will recognise individuals as an “Obstetric Physician” based on successful completion of their RACP training (in any specialty) and the issuing of the SOMANZ Obstetric Medicine certificate through a) the Advanced Training pathway b) the Post-Fellowship Training pathway or c) a successful application through this Post-Fellowship Recognition in Obstetric Medicine pathway.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the process by which Fellows can apply for Obstetric Medicine Certification by SOMANZ and be recognised by SOMANZ as an Obstetric Physician. This is usually for the purpose of supporting an application for a role as an Obstetric Physician at an institution, to support a review by credentialing committees or to enable supervision of Obstetric Medicine trainees.

3. SCOPE

The policy applies to Fellows practising in Obstetric Medicine who have not completed Advanced Training or Post-Fellowship Training in Obstetric Medicine but wish to be considered by SOMANZ for Obstetric Medicine Certification.

The SOMANZ Obstetric Medicine Certificate is not recognised as a separate or additional qualification by the RACP and as yet Obstetric Medicine is not recognised by AHPRA or MCNZ as a separate specialty. Specialty recognition for medical registration purposes is the responsibility of the relevant regulatory bodies in Australia and in Aotearoa New Zealand.

4. POLICY CONTENT

4.1. Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply to SOMANZ for Post Fellowship Recognition of Obstetric Medicine, an applicant must:

- a) hold a Fellowship of the RACP (Divisions, Faculties or Chapters) or equivalent qualification
- b) have registration as a Specialist Physician with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) or vocational registration in Internal Medicine with the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ)
- c) be a current financial member of SOMANZ and continue to hold financial membership if accredited
- d) have worked a minimum of 12 months full time (or part time on a pro-rata basis) in the field of Obstetric Medicine, either in a consultant position or in a supervised clinical training position.
- e) complete the application form
- f) provide a copy of their full Curriculum Vitae and any other supporting documents requested.
- g) provide the contact details of two referees who are currently recognised as Obstetric Physicians by SOMANZ with one report required from a current or past head of service or clinical lead (if your institution has this role)
- h) pay the prescribed application fee when submitting the application [AUD \$800 for New Zealand applicants; AUD \$880 (includes GST) for Australian applicants].

4.2. Assessment process for post fellowship recognition in Obstetric Medicine

4.2.1 Recognition is based on an assessment to determine if a Fellow's competence, knowledge, skills and experience is at the level expected of someone who has completed the SOMANZ prescribed Obstetric Medicine Training program.

4.2.2 The assessment of the applicant's knowledge, skills and experience will take account of the:

- a) Length, breadth and seniority of professional experience compared to the expected graduate outcomes of the SOMANZ training program. The applicant's obstetric medicine practice should include managing women with a broad range of medical disciplines in a variety of clinical settings as outlined in the [Obstetric Medicine Curriculum](#).
- b) Currency of expert knowledge and skills in the specialty
- c) Evidence of past training time completed
- d) Supervision, teaching and education in Obstetric Medicine
- e) Research and academic activities relevant to Obstetric Medicine
- f) Leadership in the field of Obstetric Medicine

4.2.3 The applicant should refer to published supporting guidelines and complete the appropriate application form for Post-Fellowship Recognition in Obstetric Medicine.

4.3.4 It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the required supporting documentation to the application.

4.3.5 Applications will be considered by the relevant SOMANZ Committee or delegate(s) thereof against the following criteria. A minimum of **18 points** must be achieved to be considered for Post Fellowship Recognition in Obstetric Medicine by SOMANZ.

Compulsory Criteria	Points
Obstetric Physician Endorsement and referee reports	
Two referee reports (see template), with one report required from a current or past head of service or clinical lead (if your institution has this role). To meet this compulsory criteria, the referee reports must be submitted by SOMANZ recognised Obstetric Physicians currently practicing in Obstetric Medicine and must clearly indicate the appropriateness of the applicant to be recognised as an Obstetric Physician.	2
Practice in Obstetric Medicine	
Have FRACP or equivalent <i>and</i> have registration as a Specialist Physician with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) or vocational registration in Internal Medicine with the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) AND Worked a minimum of 12 months full time (or part time on a pro-rata basis) in the field of Obstetric Medicine, either in a consultant position or in a supervised clinical training position. AND Minimum of six years (in the past twelve years) in clinical consultant specialist practice in a salaried appointment or referral practice with at least 0.2 FTE dedicated to Obstetric Medicine.	16
OR Minimum three years (in the past six years) in clinical consultant specialist practice in a salaried appointment or referral practice with at least 0.2 FTE dedicated to Obstetric Medicine.	8
OR Minimum eighteen months (in the past three years) in clinical consultant specialist practice in a salaried appointment or referral practice with at least 0.2 FTE dedicated to Obstetric Medicine.	4
Evidence* must be provided to support that your Obstetric Medicine practice encompasses a broad range of medical disciplines in the context of pregnancy as outlined in the Obstetric Medicine Curriculum on the RACP website and includes practice in a variety of clinical settings as per the Curriculum (e.g. out-patient practice, inpatient consults to maternity services, emergency calls to obstetric patients, pre-conception and post-partum review). <i>Registrar level positions cannot be considered in this category.</i>	

***Supporting evidence deemed suitable by SOMANZ include:**

1. A description of your practice (e.g. log book for 3 months) detailing the patients seen, gestations, and diagnoses.

2. Employment contract (includes FTE of obstetric medicine)
3. If your work includes private practice and you wish this to be credited as FTE in Obstetric Medicine please provide:
 - a. A letter of support from a referee who refers patients to you (e.g. Obstetrician colleague), which includes the duration of your collegial relationship and the scope of obstetric medicine patients referred to you – to support that you consult on women within a broad range of medical disciplines in a variety of clinical settings as outlined in the [Obstetric Medicine Curriculum](#)

Supplementary Criteria	Points
Clinical Training in Obstetric Medicine	
(a) Minimum 12 months full time (or part time on a pro-rata basis) in supervised clinical training in Obstetric Medicine. Candidate must show evidence of clinical supervision e.g. RACP supervisors training reports or equivalent.	12
OR	
(b) Minimum 6 months full time (or part time on a pro-rata basis) in supervised clinical training in Obstetric Medicine. Candidate must show evidence of clinical supervision e.g. RACP supervisors training reports or equivalent.	6
Supervision, teaching and education in obstetric medicine	
Minimum two years as a recognised supervisor of RACP Advanced Trainees or Post Fellowship Trainees in Obstetric Medicine or similar	1
Organising committee of an Obstetric Medicine related Annual Scientific Meeting	1
Evidence of regular teaching contributions to undergraduate, postgraduate or collegial (peer) courses or programs related to Obstetric Medicine as detailed in applicant's CV	2
Research and academic activities relevant to Obstetric Medicine	
Completion of University awards relevant to Obstetric Medicine:	
(a) Doctorate	6
OR	
(b) Masters level degree	4
Author of a minimum of four papers published in a peer-reviewed or refereed journal AND/OR A minimum of four abstracts (oral or poster) related to Obstetric Medicine presented at an international or national scientific meeting. <i>State meetings cannot be counted.</i> <i>Any combination of at least 4 papers or abstracts in this category will be counted</i>	2
State or national guideline authorship relevant to Obstetric Medicine	1
Member of an Editorial Board relevant to Obstetric Medicine	1
Reviewer of at least 3 articles/year for a Journal relevant to Obstetric Medicine (evidence required)	1
Leadership in the field of Obstetric Medicine	
At least 2 years membership of professional body council or committee relevant to Obstetric Medicine (e.g. SOMANZ, ISOM, ADIPS, National Maternal Mortality Review Committee.)	2

4.3. ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES

4.3.1 An assessment for recognition will result in one of the following outcomes:

- a) The applicant is not recognised in Obstetric Medicine and the applicant is directed to apply for Post-Fellowship training in Obstetric Medicine. See the [training page](#) of the SOMANZ's website for more information.
- b) The applicant is recognised by SOMANZ pending satisfactory completion of additional requirements determined by SOMANZ. A maximum of two calendar years will be allowed to satisfactorily complete the additional requirements.
- c) The applicant is awarded the SOMANZ Obstetric Medicine Certificate and recognised by SOMANZ as an Obstetric Physician.

5. RECONSIDERATION, REVIEW AND APPEALS

Appeals to decisions will only be considered if an applicant receives outcome a) – not recognised in Obstetric Medicine. Appeals must be lodged within one month of notification of the original decision and be accompanied by a \$100 additional reconsideration fee. Appeals will be taken to the SOMANZ Council for reconsideration.

No appeals to decisions recommending further completion of additional requirements (outcome b) will be considered.

6. REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed every three years or as required in the event of legislative changes or requirements. The policy may also be changed as a result of other amendments.
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