

# MEDICAL AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES





# Introduction

This booklet is one of a series of 20 booklets prepared by MIDA for the purpose of providing investors with relevant information on establishing projects in the identified services sub-sectors in Malaysia. The complete list of booklets is as follows:

- Booklet 1:** General Policies, Facilities and Guidelines
- Booklet 2:** Regional Operations
- Booklet 3:** Research and Development (R&D) Services
- Booklet 4:** Logistics Services
- Booklet 5:** Specialised Technical Support Services
- Booklet 6:** Information and Communication Technology Services
- Booklet 7:** Environmental Management Services
- Booklet 8:** Distributive Trade Services
- Booklet 9:** Tourism and Travel Related Services
- Booklet 10:** Education and Industrial Training Services
- Booklet 11:** Legal Services
- Booklet 12:** Accounting, Auditing and Taxation Services
- Booklet 13:** Architectural Consultancy Services
- Booklet 14:** Surveying Consultancy Services
- Booklet 15:** Medical and Healthcare Services
- Booklet 16:** Engineering and Energy Consultancy Services
- Booklet 17:** Management Consultancy Services
- Booklet 18:** Market Research Services
- Booklet 19:** Advertising Services
- Booklet 20:** Quick Reference

*MIDA is the Government's principal investment promotion and development agency under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to oversee and drive investments into the manufacturing and services sectors in Malaysia. Headquartered in Kuala Lumpur Sentral, MIDA has 12 regional and 21 overseas offices. MIDA continues to be the strategic partner to businesses in seizing the opportunities arising from the technology revolution of this era. For more information, please visit [www.mida.gov.my](http://www.mida.gov.my) and follow us on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok and YouTube channel.*

*For the latest updates, please visit MIDA's website at [www.mida.gov.my](http://www.mida.gov.my).*

# MEDICAL AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES

BOOKLET  
**15**

<b>1</b>	<b>UNDERSTANDING THE SUB-SECTOR</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>SETTING UP YOUR BUSINESS</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Registration with Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM)	4
2.2	Registration of Medical Practitioners with Malaysian Medical Council	4
2.3	Registration of Dental Practitioners with the Malaysian Dental Council (MDC)	6
2.4	Registration of Pharmacists with the Pharmacy Board of Malaysia	7
2.5	Registration of Nurses with Malaysia Nursing Board Malaysia	8
2.6	Registration of Midwives with the Midwives Board Malaysia	9
2.7	Registration with Ministry of Finance (MOF)	9
2.8	Business Licence	10
<b>3</b>	<b>EQUITY POLICY</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>OBTAINING TAX INCENTIVES</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1	Incentives for the Promotion of Healthcare Travel	11
4.1.1	Incentive for Private Healthcare Facilities	11
4.1.2	Double Deduction on Quality Accreditation	12
<b>5</b>	<b>EMPLOYING EXPATRIATE PROFESSIONALS</b>	<b>13</b>
5.1	Employment of Foreign Medical Practitioners	13
5.2	Automatic Employment / Professional Pass Approval for Medical Specialists	13
5.3	Employment of Foreign Dental Specialists	13
5.4	Employment of Foreign Pharmacists	14
5.5	Employment of Foreign Nurses	14
5.6	Employment of Foreign Midwives	15
<b>6</b>	<b>GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES (GATS), ASEAN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON SERVICES (AFAS) AND FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (FTAs)</b>	<b>15</b>

# MEDICAL AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES

## 1. UNDERSTANDING THE SUB-SECTOR

Malaysia has a robust and vibrant medical and healthcare industry, comprising both the public and the private sectors. With experienced and internationally-recognised doctors and well-trained medical staff, Malaysia is also a top destination for medical tourism in the region, with healthcare travellers hailing from Indonesia, the People's Republic of China, India, Bangladesh, Japan, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Australia, Singapore, and the United States.

Malaysia welcomes investments into this burgeoning sub-sector, especially in the growth areas of cardiology, fertility treatment, oncology, orthopaedics, general health screening, aesthetics, dental, and neurology.

### Medical and Healthcare Services



Includes:

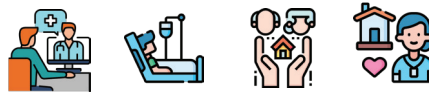
- General medical services<sup>1</sup>
- Dental services
- Pharmaceutical services

Excludes:

Business Activity	Central Product Classification Code
• Medical speciality services	93122

<sup>1</sup> Refers to forensic medicine, nuclear medicine, geriatrics, micro-vascular surgery, neurosurgery, cardiothoracic surgery, plastic surgery, clinical immunology and oncology, traumatology, anaesthesiology, intensive care specialist, child psychiatry and physical medicine

### General Medical Services



Classification:

Malaysia Standard Industrial Classification (MSIC) Code 86201

Includes:

- Consultation and treatment activities of general physicians and medical specialists
- Activities of doctors of general medicine or medical specialists or surgeons in health institutions (including hospital outpatient clinics and departments of prepaid groups of physicians) or private practice.
- Activities carried out in clinics such as those attached to firms, schools, homes for the aged, labour organisation, and fraternal organisations as well as in patients' homes

Excludes:

Business Activity	MSIC Code
• In-patient hospital activities	86101 (Hospital Activities)
• Para-medical activities	86909

### Dental Services



Classification:

Malaysia Standard Industrial Classification (MSIC) Code 86203

Includes:

- General or specialised dental practices carried out in private clinics, hospitals, or institutions of higher education

### Pharmacy, Nursing, and Midwifery



Classification:

Malaysia Standard Industrial Classification (MSIC) Code 86909

Includes:

- All activities for human health not performed by hospitals or by medical doctors or dentists

## 2. SETTING UP YOUR BUSINESS

### 2.1 Registration with Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM)

The setting up of a medical or health care practice requires the intended professional to register with the Companies Commissions of Malaysia (SSM) under the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2012 (LLP 2012), or to incorporate a company under the Companies Act 2016 (CA 2016). A foreign company shall not carry on business in Malaysia unless it incorporates a local company, or registers a branch in Malaysia.

A 'Foreign Company' is defined under the Companies Act (CA 2016) as:

- a company, corporation, society, association or other body incorporated outside Malaysia, or
- an unincorporated society, association, or other body which under the law of its place of origin may sue or be sued, or hold property in the name of the secretary or other officer of the body or association duly appointed for that purpose, and which does not have its head office or principal place of business in Malaysia.

Persons intending to set up private practices in the medical and health services are required to fulfill the necessary licensing conditions specified by the respective licensing authorities of the accredited professional services. The licensing conditions are as follows:

Accredited Professional Services	Licensing Conditions	Licensing Authorities
Medical Services	Full Registration Certificate and Annual Practising Certificate	Malaysian Medical Council
Dental Services	Registration Certificate and Annual Practising Certificate	Malaysian Dental Council
Pharmacy Services	Full Registration Certificate Licence A under Poisons Act 1952	Pharmacy Board of Malaysia Licensing Officer

### 2.2 Registration of Medical Practitioners with Malaysian Medical Council

Medical practitioners intending to practise medicine in Malaysia are required to register with the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC), in accordance with the Medical Act 1971. Only medical graduates from recognised institutions listed in Schedule 2 of the Medical Act 1971 are eligible for automatic registration. Graduates from unrecognised medical schools need to sit and pass the medical qualifying examination to be eligible for registration. Exemption, however, may be given to graduates from unrecognised schools with postgraduate degrees and having no fewer than five (5) years of clinical experience.

There are three (3) types of registration allowed under the law:

**a) Registration as Provisionally Registered Medical Practitioners (Section 1 Medical Act 1971)**

Under the Medical Act, 1971, newly-qualified medical graduates wishing to practise medicine are required to be provisionally registered before undergoing internship. Provisionally registered practitioners need to obtain experience for a period of two (2) years, in hospitals approved by the Medical Qualifying Board (MQB), in five out of six compulsory disciplines comprising Paediatrics, Medicine, Surgery, Orthopaedics, Obstetrics, Gynaecology, and Emergency Medicine. However, at the moment, the Ministry of Health (MOH) does not allow foreign medical graduates to do internship in Malaysia.

**b) Registration as Fully Registered Medical Practitioners**

Upon completion of internship and to the satisfaction of the MQB, practitioners who have been provisionally registered with the MMC as well as those who have been provisionally or fully registered with other Medical Councils can apply for full registration.

Under Section 14 of the Medical Act 1971 there are two types of full registration:

**Registration under Section 14 (1):**

Section 14 (1) to the Medical Act 1971 states:

*“Subject to the provisions of this Act, no person shall be entitled to be fully registered as a medical practitioner under this Act unless:*

- *He has been provisionally registered under Section 12*
- *He furnishes proof of having satisfied the provisions of Section 13”*

For Malaysian practitioners who have completed internship training locally, their respective employers must process and submit their application within 1 month of their completion. For Malaysian practitioners who completed internship overseas, the Evaluation Committee (EC) appointed by the MMC will determine whether they can be exempted from internship training here, upon the application made by individual applicants.

**Registration under Section 14 (3):**

Section 14 (3) in the Medical Act, 1971 states:

*“Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, any person may be fully registered under this section subject to such restriction and conditions as may be stipulated by the Minister, provided that the person seeking registration under this subsection possesses a qualification with respect to which the Minister, after consulting the Council, is satisfied that it is adequate.”*

For non-citizens who wish to practise in Malaysia, registrations are approved for a limited period, place, and scope of practice (study, employment, or research). All applications are to be made through their employer and duly screened by the EC. Eligible applications will be forwarded to the Minister of Health for approval for registration under Section 14 (3) of the Medical Act 1971.



Under the law, every fully registered practitioner must serve with the public services for a period of not less than two (2) years. This is normally known as the 'compulsory service', and must be completed before they are allowed to set up a private practice. Exemption may be considered on a case-by-case basis for Malaysian practitioners that are returning back from practicing abroad with specialties recognised by the National Specialist Register (NSR) that comply to with the following criteria:-

- Practitioners who are self-funding his/her study with more than ten (10) years of clinical experience irrespective of specialty or general practice.
- Practitioners who are aged above 45.
- Practitioners who are specialised in a field currently lacking within Malaysia.
- Practitioners who are to be employed as lecturers by the public or private higher education institutions for a period of not less than three (3) consecutive years.

#### **c) Temporary Registration under Section 16**

Temporary registration is only applicable to foreign medical practitioners who wish to practise in Malaysia. This type of registration is only approved for the purpose of postgraduate study or attachment training, demonstration during conferences, or research with institutions, universities or even private hospitals. The registration is renewable every 3 months.

Eligibility for temporary registration:

- the practitioner must be registered with a foreign Medical Council
- the practitioner has insurance to cover his practice in Malaysia
- the local practitioner acting as a guarantor for the application holds a valid and current Annual Practising Certificate (APC) issued by the MMC.

The practitioner applying for temporary registration need not possess a medical degree from recognised institutions listed in Schedule 2 of the Medical Act 1971.

Under the law, whilst holding temporary registration, practitioners are not allowed at any time to operate or set up a private practice.

### **2.3 Registration of Dental Practitioners with the Malaysian Dental Council (MDC)**

Under Section 19 of the Dental Act 1971, dental practitioners who wish to practise in Malaysia must possess a valid practising certificate.

#### **a) Registration as Dental Practitioners**

Malaysian citizens and permanent residents may apply for registration with MDC if they hold a recognised degree in dentistry. All practitioners who registered with the MDC are required to undergo one (1) year of compulsory service in the government sector.

#### **b) Annual Practising Certificate (APC)**

Dental practitioners who are registered with the MDC will be granted an APC under Section 19(2) of the Dental Act 1971, to enable them to practice dentistry in Malaysia. New applicants may submit their applications at any time of the year. All renewal applications must be



submitted to the MDC before 1 December of the year prior to the year for which the application is submitted. The APC is valid until 31 December of the year.

### **c) Temporary Practising Certificate (TPC)**

Foreign dental specialists who wish to practice in Malaysia may apply for a TPC through their prospective employers. The application shall be in the form and manner as stated in the Guidelines for Application for Temporary Practising Certificate endorsed by MDC.

Criteria for granting a TPC as outlined in the Guidelines for Application for Temporary Practising Certificate include, but are not limited to:

- Possession of a recognised dental qualification as listed in Schedule II of the Dental Act 1971;
- Be credentialed by a Specialist Sub-Committee of the National Specialist Register;
- Possession of a recent Letter of Good Standing;

Foreign dental specialists who hold a TPC are not allowed to set up their own dental practices, but they may be employed in institutions of higher education and private hospitals.

## **2.4 Registration of Pharmacists with the Pharmacy Board of Malaysia (PBM)**

Pharmacy graduates intending to practice as registered pharmacist in Malaysia are required to register with the Pharmacy Board of Malaysia (PBM), in accordance with the Registration of Pharmacists Act 1951 (ROPA 1951). Three types of registration exist under PBM:

### **a) Provisional Registration**

Under Section 6 of ROPA 1951, a pharmacy student who graduates from any PBM-recognised university is entitled to register as a provisionally-registered pharmacist (PRP) and subsequently obtain experience for a period of not less than one (1) year to the satisfaction of PBM before he/she can be registered as a fully-registered pharmacist in Malaysia. Upon registering as a PRP, he/she can choose to obtain the above said experience (a.k.a PRP training) either in the public sector or the private sector.

### **b) Full Registration**

Section 6B of ROPA 1951 states that a person is entitled for full registration if:

- He/she has completed the provisional training for not less than one (1) year to the satisfaction of PBM as mentioned above; or
- Has been registered by any registration body responsible for the registration of pharmacists recognised by the PBM if the PBM is satisfied that such person has gained experience.

### **c) Temporary Registration**

According to section 11A of ROPA 1951, a Temporary Registration (TR) can be issued to non-Malaysians (foreigners) who fulfill the criteria as following set by Pharmacy Board members:

- Spouses of Malaysians who:
  - Possess a basic degree in Pharmacy which is recognised by the PBM;
  - Pass the Board's Qualifying Examination to Practice Pharmacy; and

- Is a registered pharmacist in his/her origin country.

## 2.5 Registration of Nurses with Malaysia Nursing Board Malaysia

Under the Nurses Act 1950 and Midwives Act 1966, a person must be registered with the Malaysia Nursing Board (MNB) and possess a valid APC in order to practice nursing/midwifery in Malaysia as per statutory requirements.

### a) Registration with Malaysia Nursing Board Malaysia

For any person wanting to practise nursing in Malaysia, he/she needs to be trained in a nursing programme. MNB will only process the applications after the fees and all required documents are received, and when all requirements are complied.

The entry requirement of the programme must comply with prevailing policies of the government.

There are five (5) types of nurses as stated in the Nurses Act, 1950:

#### (i) Registered Nurse

‘Registered Nurse’ means a person who is admitted to the general part of the Register and who has undergone a three (3) year Diploma in Nursing Programme at a recognised School/ College of Nursing or University, and passed the Nursing Board Examination.

#### (ii) Assistant Nurse

‘Assistant Nurse’ means a person who is admitted to the supplementary part of the Nurses Act 1950 containing the title of assistant nurse, and who has undergone a two (2)-year training programme in a recognised School/College of Nursing, and passed the Assistant Nurses Examination set by the Nursing Board.

#### (iii) Mental Health Nurse

‘Mental Health Nurse’ refers to a person who is admitted to the supplementary part of the Nurses Act 1950, and is described as a nurse trained in nursing and care of persons suffering from mental health disorders, and who has undergone a one (1)-year training programme in a recognised School/College of Nursing.

#### (iv) Public Health Nurse

‘Public Health Nurse’ refers to a person registered under the supplementary part of the Nurses Act 1950, has been trained in Public Health Nursing, and who has undergone a one (1)-year training programme in a recognised School/College of Nursing or University.

#### (v) Community Nurse

‘Community Nurse’ refers to a person registered under the supplementary part of the Nurses Act 1950, and who has undergone two and half (2½) years of training in a recognised Community Nurses College.

### b) Annual Practising Certificate

It is the responsibility of the individual nurse/midwives to have a valid APC to practise nursing in Malaysia. The APC expires on 31 December every year, and must be renewed annually. All applications should be submitted to the Nursing Board Malaysia and/or Midwives Board Malaysia by 30 September each year.

Issuance of APCs is only for local nurses who have obtained the required Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points as stipulated by the Nursing Board as follows:

- Matron, Tutor, Clinical Nurse and Sister: 35 – 40 CPD Points
- Staff Nurse: 25 – 30 CPD Points
- Community Nurse and Assistant Nurse: 15 – 20 CPD Points

### **c) Temporary Practising Certificate**

A TPC is issued to a foreign-trained nurse who is practising nursing in Malaysia. MNB will only process applications after the fees and all required documents are received and when all requirements are complied as stated under “FOREIGN TRAINED NURSES EMPLOYMENT CRITERIA” on MNB’s website: <http://nursing.moh.gov.my>.

## **2.6 Registration of Midwives with the Midwives Board Malaysia**

The Midwives Board Malaysia is a regulatory body for the registration of Midwives in Malaysia. The persons must have successfully undergone midwifery training, including domiciliary training, and passed the examination conducted by the Board.

## **2.7 Registration with Ministry of Finance (MOF)**

Any consulting firm intending to tender for Government contracts must register with MOF using the codes specified by MOF.

Conditions that must be fulfilled for registration with MOF:

- Firm with accumulated/paid-up capital as follows:

Sole proprietorship	-	minimum of RM50,000
Partnership	-	minimum of RM50,000
Sdn. Bhd.	-	minimum of RM50,000
- The firm needs to have a legitimate office address, whether leased or its own property.
- The business premise is not allowed to use the address of an online office, P.O. Box, mailing box office services, or other premises where the traceability and capacity of the firm is difficult to be determined.
- The firm must have at least three staff members under permanent employment and contributing to the Employees Provident Fund (EPF), with the following composition:
  - one (1) professional with at least one degree in a related field;
  - one (1) semi-professional with at least a diploma in a related field; and
  - one (1) clerk.
- The owner of the firm must be appointed as a full-time Director, and can be appointed as part of the professional staff or the management, but is not allowed to be appointed as a worker in the firm.
- The owner of the firm must have the necessary professional qualification in the field of expertise applied for, in accordance with the provision of the relevant laws and regulations, and is required to submit his relevant CV/work experience.

- The professional staff and the semi-professional staff are required to submit their first degrees or diplomas together with their relevant CVs/work experience.
- All equity/shareholders must have at least five (5) years of working experience in the field of expertise applied for after obtaining their first degree.
- The field of expertise submitted for registration with MOF must be consistent with the practising licence issued by the respective Professional Boards.
- The consulting firm needs to have an active current account.
- For professions whose ethics of service are governed by the Professional Boards, the equity/shareholders shall be registered with their respective Professional Boards. The field of expertise to be registered with MOF will be the expertise approved by the Professional Boards.
- For professions whose ethics of service are yet to be governed by the Professional Boards, the field of expertise to be registered with MOF will be based on the academic qualification and the working experiences of the owner.
- The consulting firm is required to submit its registration certificate with the Professional Board as compliance with the provisions of the Act of the Professional Board for purposes of carrying out consultancy services.

Application must be made through [www.eperolehan.gov.my](http://www.eperolehan.gov.my).

Please refer to the above website for policy of registration, registration code, and other relevant information.

## **2.8 Business Licence**

Companies intending to set up an office are required to obtain a business premise/signboard licence from the respective local authorities, depending on the nature of the business activity.

There are 155 local authorities in Malaysia responsible for approving business premise and signboard licences. The requirements for obtaining a business premise/signboard licence may vary from one local authority to another.

Applicants are advised to contact the relevant local authority (based on the location of the business premises) regarding the specific rules and regulations pertaining to business premise/signboard registration. The fees may vary according to each of the local authorities.

Contact details for local authorities are available in the Quick Reference Booklet in this series.

## **3. EQUITY POLICY**

To increase local participation in business, the Government encourages joint-ventures between Malaysian and foreign investors.

Starting 17th July 2020, the setting up of a new private healthcare facility with foreign equity is subject to approval by MOH.

## 4. OBTAINING TAX INCENTIVES

---

### 4.1 Incentives for the Promotion of Healthcare Travel

#### 4.1.1 Incentive for Private Healthcare Facilities

Companies that establish new private healthcare facilities, or existing private healthcare facilities undertaking expansion/modernisation/refurbishment, for purposes of promoting healthcare travel are eligible to apply for the income tax exemption equivalent to Investment Tax Allowance (ITA) of 100% on the qualifying capital expenditure incurred within a period of five (5) years. The allowance can be used to offset against 100% of the statutory income for each year of assessment. Any unutilised allowance can be carried forward to subsequent years until fully utilised.

#### Eligibility Criteria

- The company must be incorporated in Malaysia under the Companies Act 1965 or Companies Act, 2016
- The private healthcare facility must be approved and licensed by the Ministry of Health (MOH) Malaysia
- The private healthcare facility must be registered with the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC) as 'A Healthcare Facility for the Promotion of Healthcare Travel'.
- For each private healthcare facility:-
  - Healthcare travellers shall form no less than 10% of its total patients for each year of assessment; and
  - At least 10% of its gross income from that qualifying project for each year of assessment is generated from healthcare travellers.

#### Where

- Private healthcare facilities' refers to private hospitals or ambulatory care centres
- Qualifying capital expenditure' refers to capital expenditure incurred in relation to buildings, plant and machinery, medical devices, or other facilities in accordance with criteria as set out by the Ministry of Finance and used for the purpose of the qualifying project, which shall be verified by the Ministry of Health.
- Healthcare traveller' refers to
  - A non-Malaysian citizen who participates in the Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) Programme and his dependents;
  - An expatriate who is non-Malaysian citizen holding a Malaysian work permit and his dependents; or
  - A non-Malaysian citizen who visits and receives treatment from private healthcare facilities in Malaysia.

Applications for new private healthcare facility projects must be submitted to MIDA online via the [InvestMalaysia Portal](#) prior to commencement of business, together with the approval for establishment (Form 2) from MOH.

For expansion/modernisation/refurbishment projects of existing private healthcare facilities, applications must be submitted to MIDA before the first qualifying capital

expenditure is incurred, together with the approval for expansion/modernisation/refurbishment (Form 6) from MOH.

This incentive expires on 31 December 2022, and applications should be submitted to (and received by) MIDA on or before this date.

#### 4.1.2 Double Deduction on Quality Accreditation

Private healthcare facilities registered as members of MHTC are entitled to enjoy a double deduction incentive on expenditures incurred for the purpose of obtaining quality accreditation from the following quality accreditation bodies/organisations:-

Accreditation Bodies / Organisations	Country of Origin
Joint Commission International Accreditation (JCIA)	United States of America
Malaysian Society for Quality in Health (MSQH)	Malaysia
CHKS Accreditation Unit (CHKS)	United Kingdom
The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards Australia (ACHS)	Australia
Accreditation Canada	Canada

The double deduction incentive is given under the provision of Section 34(6)(ma), Income Tax Act 1967.

#### The double deduction incentive is subject to the following conditions:-

- Applicant is responsible to ensure that the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua)'s recognition awarded to the above accreditation bodies/organisations is legitimate and valid during the year of assessment;
- Applicant must obtain full accreditation from the above accreditation bodies/organisations and ensure the full accreditation awarded is legitimate and valid during the year of assessment and recognised by ISQua;
- Applicant must comply with the rules and regulations determined by MHTC; and
- Applicant must comply with the guidelines and regulations determined by IRB.

Claims should be submitted to IRB online at [http://www.hasil.gov.my/index1.php?bt\\_lgv=2](http://www.hasil.gov.my/index1.php?bt_lgv=2).

## 5. EMPLOYING EXPATRIATE PROFESSIONALS

---

### 5.1 Employment of Foreign Medical Practitioners

Under the Medical Act 1971, expatriate practitioners are only registered to practise medicine with a specific employer and for a specific time, either in the public service or private sector.

For the purpose of employment, any interested practitioners from foreign countries should apply directly to their prospective employers, who will submit the applications for registration or licensing to the MMC. Expatriates should not submit their applications directly to the MMC.

Employers will arrange the applications for the Employment Pass for their respective expatriates. Application can be submitted to the Immigration Headquarters in Putrajaya or any Immigration State Office.

Spouses and children of expatriates can apply for Dependant Passes once the expatriates have been issued with the Employment Pass. The Dependant Passes may be applied for either together with the application for the Employment Pass or after the Employment Pass has been approved. Spouses and children of expatriates who enter the country on visit (temporary employment or professional) passes will be issued visit (social) passes.

### 5.2 Automatic Employment / Professional Pass Approval for Medical Specialists

Employment/professional passes will be offered automatically to the following qualified medical specialists who return or come from abroad to serve in Malaysian hospitals:

- Malaysian or non-Malaysian medical specialists; and
- Non-Malaysian spouses who qualify as a professional as per stipulated in the Malaysian Classification of Occupation (MASCO).

However, this is subject to registration with the relevant professional bodies.

### 5.3 Employment of Foreign Dental Specialists

Foreign dental specialists may be employed in institutions of higher education under the Ministry of Higher Education or in private hospitals. Foreign dental specialists who practice in Malaysia must have a valid TPC. The application for the TPC must be made to the MDC through their employer.

Before applying for the Employment Pass for expatriates, the employer must apply for approval of the related post from the Expatriate Committee of the Immigration Department.

Upon approval of the expatriate posts, the employers should forward their applications for Employment Passes to the [Immigration Department](#) for endorsement.

Spouses and children of expatriates can apply for Dependant Passes once the expatriates have been issued with the Employment Pass. The Dependant Passes may be applied for either together with the application for the Employment Pass or after the Employment Pass has been approved. Spouses and children of expatriates who enter the country on visit (temporary employment or professional) passes will be issued visit (social) passes.



## 5.4 Employment of Foreign Pharmacists

Foreign pharmacists are allowed to work only in the private sector. These practitioners must have a valid TR Pharmacist Certificate issued by PBM, which is renewable every two (2) years. With a job offer letter from the employer, foreign pharmacists can apply for TR from PBM. Before they can be registered, they have to pass the Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination handled by PBM. Applicants are only allowed to start working after getting approval of PBM.

Expatriates who are registered as pharmacists abroad do not require any registration with PBM for the following posts:

- Manufacturing of Medicines involving GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice);
- Academic Staff of the Private Institutions of Higher Learning offering Pharmacy Courses; and
- Pharmacy Ward of the Private Hospitals

Before applying for the Employment Passes for expatriates, the employer must apply for approval of the related posts from the Expatriate Committee of the Immigration Department.

Upon approval of the expatriate posts, the employer should forward the application for Employment Passes to the Immigration Department for endorsement.

Spouses and children of expatriates can apply for Dependant Passes once the expatriates have been issued with the Employment Pass. The Dependant Passes may be applied for either together with the application for the Employment Pass or after the Employment Pass has been approved. Spouses and children of expatriates who enter the country on visit (temporary employment or professional) passes will be issued visit (social) passes.

## 5.5 Employment of Foreign Nurses

Foreign nurses are allowed to work in the private sector. However, the employer of the foreign nurses is required to obtain the TPC on behalf of the foreign nurses from MNB. Currently, Malaysia does not recruit foreign nurses to work in the public sector.

Before applying for the Employment Pass for expatriates, the employer must apply for approval of the related post from the Expatriate Committee of the Immigration Department.

Upon approval of the expatriate posts for nurses, the employers need to apply to the MNB for approval to be employed in the respective health facilities. Upon obtaining approval, they need to apply for the TPC from the MNB. The employers then have to forward the approval letter and the TPC to the Ministry of Education for the teaching permit, and to Immigration for the work permit (employment pass).

Spouses and children of expatriates can apply for Dependant Passes once the expatriates have been issued with the Employment Pass. The Dependant Passes may be applied for either together with the application for the Employment Pass or after the Employment Pass has been approved. Spouses and children of expatriates who enter the country on visit (temporary employment or professional) passes will be issued visit (social) passes.

## **5.6 Employment of Foreign Midwives**

Currently, Malaysia does not recruit any foreign midwives.

## **6. GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES (GATS), ASEAN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON SERVICES (AFAS) AND FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (FTAs)**

---

Updates and information regarding the Schedule of Specific Commitments of GATS, AFAS, and FTAs are available from MITI's website at [www.miti.gov.my](http://www.miti.gov.my).



**Malaysian Investment Development Authority**

MIDA Sentral, No.5, Jalan Stesen Sentral 5, Kuala Lumpur Sentral, 50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: (603) 2267 3633 Fax: (603) 2274 7970 Website: [www.mida.gov.my](http://www.mida.gov.my)

E-mail: [investment@mida.gov.my](mailto:investment@mida.gov.my)

Edition : 2021<sup>©</sup>