



UAEU

جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
United Arab Emirates University



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH SPECIALTIES

Internship Policy



Internship training is organized for doctors and dentists in the United Arab Emirates under the umbrella of the concerned health authorities and in accordance with the provisions of Federal Law No. (5) of 2019 regarding the organization of the practice of medicine profession, which defines the “internship period” as the mandatory, approved training period, which follows or precedes obtaining a bachelor’s degree or its equivalent in medicine or dentistry. In this context, the authorities apply a wide range of rules and requirements, and the experience is not without challenges in terms of training capacity and consistency of policies and standards.

The internship is globally known as a structured period of training for new medical and other health professions graduates to link their medical/health profession school learning to the realities of practice and to further postgraduate training. Internship period is considered as an important part of the medical education pathway, and it plays a critical role in transforming medical, dental, and other health professions graduates towards residency education and eventually independent practice. The essential training activities for interns happen as part of their interaction with patients and service delivery under supervision by qualified trainers who support interns in an ideal training environment. Supervision during internship training is considered essential in ensuring safe medical practice and effective patient care while imparting the required knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential for the subsequent integration of interns into residency training leading to independent practice.

In UAE internship is a known educational/training practice and has been organized under different health authorities and institutions. With the quest for structuring and regulating residency training and improving practice standards in the country, the need to evaluate and further develop the internship experience is identified.

Policy

In reference to the responsibilities of the National Institute for Health Specialties (NIHS) dictated by the Cabinet Decree No. (28) For the year 2014 and including setting standards for specialized health programs and accreditation of health institutes for training purposes

also covering internship period, the NIHS convened a committee representing relevant stakeholders to develop a policy for internship. The committee reviewed local and international experiences and discussed issues pertinent to the internship and stipulated some guidance for consideration. The following are the policy directions agreed upon:

1. The NIHS is to play a leadership and coordination role in working with stakeholders to develop a national policy and standards for the internship period essentially for doctors and dentists but extending in future to other health professions.
2. The internship period is recognized as the period of supervised practical/clinical training following completion of an accredited medical/health professions education program.
3. The regulation of internships lies beyond the jurisdiction of the medical/dental school/curriculum accreditation by CAA.
4. The mainstream of internship training is to follow the general approach of rotating among core clinical specialties, and some limited piloting/exemption for specialty-specific internships (PGY1) may be allowed.
5. The internship is to be implemented and supervised by competent authorities in accordance with the policy and standards.
6. The intern contemplates on the internship training period under technical and administrative supervision by an assigned supervisor or a supervision committee throughout the training period. The intern may not conduct any medical or therapeutic functions outside direct supervision.
7. The internship period is to be organized and managed to ensure a smooth transition into residency training including fulfilling the specific standards and competencies.
8. Expansion of internship training slots should observe the participation of a wide range of hospitals and health institutions in the public and private sectors.

9. Hospitals and health institutions are to be accredited for hosting internship training based on fulfilling the standards and requirements for internship set by the NIHS. Hospitals and health institutions with active accreditation status for residency training are recognized as Sponsoring Institutions for internship training according to the stipulated rules and regulations.
10. The initial complement, as well as any change in the complement of interns, must be stipulated by the NIHS accreditation decision.
11. In accordance with this policy, Interns must be licensed to practice by the pertinent Health Authorities.
12. The NIHS does not address or mandate a specific source of funding required to provide the financial support, this will be regulated by local policies and bylaws. However, the available support shall cover all educational and training needs stipulated in this program requirements.
13. The NIHS shall not be involved in the attestation, accreditation, or recognition of an internship training program in a non-NIHS-accredited institution, including those abroad. These activities are under the jurisdiction of regulatory health authorities which may use the NIHS requirements as standards.
14. The NIHS shall work in coordination with stakeholders to advocate for the new policy and standards for internship.
15. This policy may be revised periodically or as dictated by needs.

