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2025 GUIDELINE ON FELLOWSHIP IN CARDIOLOGY

**For New Fellowship
Trainees**

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Message from the Chief Medical Officer



Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Lokman Saim,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the ASEAN KPJ Clinical Fellowship Programme. At KPJ Healthcare, we are deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of medical specialists by providing structured, high-quality training under the guidance of experienced medical consultants and clinical leaders.

This fellowship programme is designed not only to enhance your clinical knowledge and surgical skills but also to develop your professionalism, leadership, and compassion as a healthcare provider. Through this fellowship programme, I hope you will acquire new skills and knowledge that will enhance care for your patients, your institutions and your countries.

KPJ Healthcare believes that collaboration and knowledge-sharing are key to advancing healthcare standards across the ASEAN region. By participating in this programme, you are part of a wider network of physicians dedicated to improving the quality of care and making a lasting impact on the health of the ASEAN communities we serve.

I encourage you to embrace this journey with dedication and passion. On behalf of KPJ Healthcare Berhad, I extend my warmest congratulations to all fellows and wish you every success throughout your fellowship journey.

Warm regards,

Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Lokman Saim

Chief Medical Director

KPJ Healthcare berhad

INTRODUCTION

KPJ HEALTHCARE BERHAD INFORMATION

About KPJ Healthcare Berhad

KPJ Healthcare Berhad (KPJ) is one of Malaysia's leading private healthcare groups, established in 1981 under Johor Corporation (JCorp). Over four decades, KPJ has expanded from a single specialist hospital to a nationwide network of facilities supported by comprehensive healthcare services. The Group's focus is on safety, quality, and patient-centered care, guided by international clinical standards and continuous improvement.

Core Services

- **Specialist Hospitals & Centres:** Multidisciplinary care across medical, surgical, and diagnostic services, with centres of excellence in key specialties.
- **Ambulatory & Wellness:** Day-care surgery, screening, and preventive health programmes.
- **Education & Training:** KPJ University College and affiliated academies develop the talent pipeline for clinicians and allied health professionals.
- **Support Services:** Integrated pharmacy, laboratory, hospital support services, and medical tourism facilitation.

Quality & Accreditation

- Adoption of international benchmarks (e.g., MSQH/JCI accreditation at selected facilities), clinical governance, and patient safety frameworks.
- Robust digital health initiatives to enhance care coordination, data security, and patient experience.

Regional Presence & Partnerships

- Operations anchored in Malaysia with selected facilities abroad, supported by partnerships with universities, industry, and government agencies.
- Active engagement in regional knowledge-sharing and talent development.

Relevance to the Fellowship Programme

- **High clinical exposure:** Large and diverse patient volume with sub-specialty services.
- **Structured learning environment:** Access to mentors, simulations, and academic resources via KPJ University.
- **Quality & safety culture:** Fellows train within accredited systems emphasising outcomes, ethics, and patient safety.
- **Career network:** Opportunities for collaboration, research, and professional Progression Across the KPJ Ecosystem. Currently, there are 3 KPJ Clinical Fellowship Programme namely;
 - i. Fellowship Programme In Orthopaedic (Spine)
 - ii. Fellowship Programme In Oncology
 - iii. Fellowship Cardiology

1. PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Program Name

Fellowship in Cardiology

Awarding Body

KPJ Healthcare Berhad

Programme Director

Dr. Zul Hilmi Yaakob
Consultant Cardiologist
KPJ Tawakkal Specialist Hospital

Main Clinical Supervisors

Dr. Zul Hilmi Yaakob
Consultant Cardiologist
KPJ Tawakkal Specialist Hospital

Dr. Onn Akbar Ali
Consultant Cardiologist
KPJ Kajang Specialist Hospital

Dr. Noorfaizan Saaidin
Consultant Cardiologist
KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital

Dr. Ahmad Fazli Abdul Aziz
Consultant Cardiologist
KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Daud Sulaiman
Consultant Cardiologist
KPJ Damansara Specialist Hospital 2

Duration of Training

3 Months (12 Weeks)

Training Hospitals

- KPJ Tawakkal Specialist Hospital
- KPJ Kajang Specialist Hospital
- KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital
- KPJ Damansara Specialist Hospital 2

Criteria

- **Citizen:** Must be a citizen of any ASEAN country (excluding Malaysian citizens)
- **Medical Qualification:**
 - Possess a recognized Medical Degree (MBBS/MD or equivalent) from an accredited university acknowledged by the candidate's **home country Medical Council**.
 - Postgraduate qualification in Internal Medicine / equivalent is preferred.
- Preferred/advantageous (any one):
 - Prior exposure in **Internal Medicine or Cardiology** is an advantage
- **Clinical Experience:** Minimum of 1 year of clinical experience after completion of basic specialist training.
- **Reference:** Provide two current reference letters:
 - One preferably from a Head of Department or equivalent authority
 - One from a Senior Cardiologist / Physician familiar with the candidate's clinical work.
- The referees must confirm that the candidate is of **good professional standing** and has **adequate proficiency in English**, as the fellowship training will be conducted entirely in English.

2. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The ASEAN Fellowship in Cardiology is designed to provide participants with structured exposure to the principles and practices of modern cardiology. The programme combines clinical observership, academic learning, and multidisciplinary team involvement.

Overview

Duration: 3 months (full-time)

Objective:

1. Provide fellows with basic theoretical knowledge of the fundamental principles in cardiology, including diagnosis, management, and preventive strategies for common cardiovascular diseases.
2. Expose fellows to a wide range of clinical practices in cardiology, including outpatient and inpatient care, cardiac imaging, and multidisciplinary team discussions.
3. Facilitate observational exposure to interventional cardiology procedures, such as diagnostic angiography, percutaneous coronary interventions, and device implantation.
4. Develop an understanding of the integrated, multidisciplinary approach in managing patients with cardiovascular disease.

Rotations & Clinical Exposure

Month 1:

Duration	:	1-3 Weeks
Focus	:	Observation:
		• Outpatient clinics, inpatient rounds, introduction to case discussions
		• Basic operative spine procedures (discectomy, decompression, simple fusion)
Clinical Supervisor	:	Dr. Zul Hilmi Yaakob KPJ Tawakkal Specialist Hospital
		Dr. Onn Akbar Ali KPJ Kajang Specialist Hospital
Hospital	:	KPJ Tawakkal Specialist Hospital
		KPJ Kajang Specialist Hospital

Month 2:

Duration	:	1-3 Weeks
Focus	:	Observation:
		• Complex spine surgeries (instrumentation, deformity correction, cervical & thoracolumbar procedures).
		• Multidisciplinary meetings (radiology, oncology, rehabilitation).
Clinical Supervisor	:	Dr. Noorfaizan Saaidin KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital
		Dr. Ahmad Fazli Abdul Aziz KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital
Hospital	:	KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital

Month 3:

Duration	:	1-3 Weeks
Focus	:	Observation:
		• Specialized/complex cases (tumor, infection, revision surgery)
		• Continued exposure to outpatient clinics and OR sessions
Clinical Supervisor	:	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Daud Sulaiman KPJ Damansara Specialist Hospital 2
Hospital	:	KPJ Damansara Specialist Hospital 2

Clinical Activities & Exposure

Activities	Exposure
Clinics	• Attend outpatient cardiology clinics. • Observe patient assessment, diagnostic planning, and management strategies. • Participate in case discussions during clinic sessions.
Inpatient/Ward	• Observe management of hospitalized cardiac patients (ACS, heart failure, arrhythmias). • Participate in daily ward rounds and multidisciplinary discussions
Diagnostic Procedures	• Observe ECG interpretation, echocardiography, stress tests, and other cardiac investigations. • Learn workflow and reporting procedures.
Interventional Procedures	• Observe coronary angiography, PCI, pacemaker/ICD implantation procedures. • Understand procedural indications, workflow, and post-procedure care.
Multidisciplinary Team Meetings	• Attend case discussions with cardiology, cardiac surgery, radiology, ICU, and rehabilitation teams. • Observe decision-making processes in complex cases.

3. PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT

The ASEAN Fellowship in Oncology (Observership) emphasizes both theoretical understanding and clinical exposure. Fellows are assessed in a structured manner to ensure active participation and achievement of programme objectives. The assessment framework includes the following components:

Assessment Components

The progress of the trainees will be assessed based on the following criteria:

Components	Description	Method of Evaluation	Minimum Requirements
Logbook	Record of all clinics, ward rounds, seminars, and operative cases observed	• Review by supervisor at the end of fellowship.	• Logbook completed and signed by supervisor.
Supervisor Feedback	Continuous assessment of professionalism, participation, and learning attitude.	• Structured feedback from fellowship supervisor(s)	• Satisfactory feedback report
Participation	Attendance and active participation in clinical activities	• Attendance record and supervisor observation	• Minimum 80% attendance
Final Evaluation	Overall assessment of knowledge gained and ability to apply learning.	• Exit presentation/discussion with supervisor panel	• Successful completion of final presentation.

4. CLINICAL SUPERVISOR



Programme Director

Dr. Zul Hilmi Yaakob
Consultant Cardiologist
KPJ Tawakkal Specialist Hospital

Main Clinical Supervisors

Dr. Zul Hilmi Yaakob Consultant Cardiologist KPJ Tawakkal Specialist Hospital	
Dr. Onn Akbar Ali Consultant Cardiologist KPJ Kajang Specialist Hospital	
Dr. Noorfaizan Saaidin Consultant Cardiologist KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital	
Dr. Ahmad Fazli Abdul Aziz Consultant Cardiologist KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital	
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Daud Sulaiman Consultant Cardiologist KPJ Damansara Specialist Hospital 2	

5. GENERAL RULES

i. Program Registration, Structure and Duration

- a. Fellows must hold valid medical registration and practicing privileges in Malaysia (temporary/limited registration for international fellows).
- b. All required documents (license, CV, endorsements, visa/immigration for international fellows) must be submitted prior to commencement.
- c. The fellowship duration will be specified in the appointment letter. The start and end dates are contractual and must be observed.
- d. Full-time participation is required throughout the programme.
- e. Fellows must adhere to clinical schedules, academic sessions, on-calls, and rotations as assigned.

ii. Attendance & Working Hours

- a. Full-time participation is required.
- b. Fellows must adhere to clinical schedules, academic sessions, on-calls, and rotations as assigned.
- c. Leave (annual, medical, emergency) must be applied for in advance and approved by the Programme Director.

iii. Clinical & Academic Duties

- a. Fellows shall participate actively in patient care, ward rounds, clinics, operating theatres, and procedures.
- b. Attendance at academic activities (lectures, case discussions, journal clubs, morbidity & mortality meetings) is compulsory.

iv. Logbook & Assessments

- a. Fellows must maintain a logbook of cases, procedures, and academic activities.
- b. Progress reviews and competency assessments will be conducted periodically by supervisors.
- c. Satisfactory completion of logbook and assessments is required for certification

v. Professional Conduct

- a. Fellows must adhere to hospital policies, patient confidentiality, and professional codes of ethics.
- b. Misconduct, negligence, or breach of ethics may result in disciplinary action, including termination of the programme.

vi. Completion & Certification

- a. A Certificate of Fellowship Completion will be awarded upon fulfilling training requirements, logbook verification, and supervisor endorsement.
- b. Fellows who fail to meet programme requirements may not be certified at the end of the programme.

APPENDICES