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2025

GUIDELINE ON FELLOWSHIP ORTHOPAEDIC IN SPINE SURGERY

**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 Orthopaedic in Spine Surgery

Awarding Body

KPJ Healthcare Berhad

Programme Director

Dr. Nurul Azwa Mohamad Noor
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgery (Spine Surgery)
KPJ Ampang Puteri Specialist Hospital
Kuala Lumpur

Main Clinical Supervisors

Dr. Nurul Azwa Mohd Noor
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgery (Spine Surgery)
KPJ Ampang Putri Specialist Hospital

Dr. Shaharuddin Abdul Rhani
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgery (Spine Surgery)
KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital

Dr. Abdul Malik Mohamed Hussein
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgery (Spine Surgery)
KPJ Damansara Specialist Hospital

Dr. Abdul Hadi Husin
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgery (Spine Surgery)
KPJ Tawakkal Specialist Hospital

Duration of Training

3 Months (12 Weeks)

Training Hospitals

- KPJ Ampang Puteri Specialist Hospital
- KPJ Damansara Specialist Hospital 2
- KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital
- KPJ Tawakkal Specialist Hospital

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**.
- Eligible to apply for **Temporary / Limited Registration with the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC)** for the fellowship period.
- Preferred/advantageous (any one):
 - Completed specialist qualification in Orthopaedics (e.g., MS Ortho, FRCS Ortho, or equivalent).
- **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 senior orthopaedic surgeon (preferably in spine).
 - One from the Head of Orthopaedic Department (or equivalent authority).
- 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 Orthopaedic in Spine Surgery is 3 months training to provide basic theoretical knowledge on key concepts in spine surgery, anatomy, pathology, indications, patient selection, peri-operative management, and complication recognition/management.

The programme also provides clinical exposure in operative and peri-operative care of spine surgery patients, including experience with minimally invasive spine surgery (MISS) techniques, an under direct consultant's supervision.

Overview

Duration: 3 months (full-time)

Objective:

1. Provide basic theoretical knowledge on key aspects of spine surgery.
2. Offer clinical exposure to spine surgical procedures, including minimally invasive techniques.
3. Emphasize multidisciplinary care in managing spine disorders.
4. Promote safe surgical practices and evidence-based patient care.
5. Foster professional development and regional collaboration among ASEAN Orthopedics surgeons.

Rotations & Clinical Exposure

Month 1:

Duration	:	1-3 Weeks
Focus	:	• Outpatient consultations (spine disorders)
		• Spine imaging interpretation (MRI/CT/X-ray)
		• Spine case discussions and rounds
Clinical Supervisor	:	Dr. Nurul Azwa Mohd Noor KPJ Ampang Puteri Specialist Hospital
Hospital	:	KPJ Ampang Puteri Specialist Hospital

Month 2:

Duration	:	1-3 Weeks
Focus	:	• Observe elective spine surgeries (decompression, fusion, scoliosis correction)
		• Pre-op and post-op management
		• Attend OR briefings and consent processes
Clinical Supervisor	:	Dr. Shaharuddin Abdul Rhani KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital
Hospital	:	KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital

Month 3:

Duration	:	1-3 Weeks
Focus	:	• Attend MDT meetings (neuro, ortho, rehab)- Observe MIS (minimally invasive spine) and trauma cases- Case-based learning: spinal infection, tumors
Clinical Supervisor	:	Dr. Abdul Malik Mohamed Hussein KPJ Damansara Specialist Hospital
	:	Dr. Abdul Hadi Husin KPJ Tawakkal Specialist Hospital
Hospital	:	KPJ Damansara Specialist Hospital
	:	KPJ Tawakkal Specialist Hospital

Clinical Activities & Exposure

Activities	Exposure
Clinics	- Attend outpatient oncology clinics, chemotherapy day-care, inpatient rounds and ward reviews. - Observe chemotherapy day-care services - Participate in inpatient ward rounds and case reviews
Inpatient/Ward	- Daily ward rounds with supervising consultants - Exposure to patient management for solid tumours, haematological malignancies and palliative care - Observe multidisciplinary supportive care (nutrition, rehab, psychosocial)
Teaching & Academic	- Weekly teaching sessions, seminars and journal clubs - Case presentation by fellow (at least once during fellowship) - Opportunity to contribute to audit, QI project or literature review (optional)
Procedures / Theatre	- Observe diagnostic and interventional oncology procedures (e.g., biopsies, port insertions, stem cell harvesting) - Attend surgical oncology procedures for solid tumours (observership only)
Radiology & MDT	- Attend weekly radiology review sessions (CT, MRI, PET) - Participate in tumour boards and MDT meetings for case discussions - Observe multidisciplinary decision-making and treatment planning
Supportive & Palliative Care	- Observe inpatient and outpatient palliative care consultations - Exposure to pain management, end-of-life discussions and holistic patient care

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. Nurul Azwa Mohamad Noor

Consultant Orthopaedic Surgery (Spine Surgery)
KPJ Ampang Puteri Specialist Hospital

Main Clinical Supervisors

Dr. Nurul Azwa Mohd Noor Consultant Orthopaedic Surgery (Spine Surgery) KPJ Ampang Putri Specialist Hospital	
Dr. Shaharuddin Abdul Rhani Consultant Orthopaedic Surgery (Spine Surgery) KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital	
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Dr. Abdul Hadi Husin Consultant Orthopaedic Surgery (Spine Surgery) KPJ Tawakkal Specialist Hospital	

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