Fees – Medical Specialists who hold appointment as part time government medical officers under the *Coroners Act 2003*

**Policy number:** C3 (QH-POL-137)

**Publication date:** April 2014

**Purpose:** To outline the arrangements for fees paid to medical specialists who hold appointment as part-time Government Medical Officers (GMO).

**Application:** This policy applies to medical specialists who hold appointment as part-time Government Medical Officers working for:

- the Department of Health
- non-prescribed Hospital and Health Services
- prescribed Hospital and Health Services.

**Delegation:** The ‘delegate’ is as listed in the Department of Health Human Resource (HR) Delegations Manual and the Hospital and Health Services Human Resource (HR) Delegations Manual – HRM Functions of the Director-General, as amended from time to time.

**Legislative or other authority:**

- *Coroners Act 2003*
- *Coroners Regulation 2003*

**Related policy or documents:**

- Supplementary Benefit/Right to Private Practice benefits Options – Senior Medical Officers - Pathologists HR policy B50 (QH-POL-357)

**Policy subject:**

1. **Policy statement**

2. **History**
1 Policy statement

A medical specialist employed in a public hospital can hold appointment as a part-time GMO, and undertake post mortem examinations ordered by a coroner under the Coroners Act 2003, outside of normal duty time within Queensland Health facilities, as part of the required duties as a part-time GMO.

In these circumstances, the specialist is entitled to retain the prescribed fees under the Coroners Regulation 2003, however will not be entitled to award overtime payment for this duty which is undertaken in the capacity of part-time GMO.

The following applies to post mortem examinations undertaken by full-time medical specialists:

- The full-time medical specialist is entitled to retain the prescribed fees under the Coroners Regulation 2003. The full-time medical specialist is not entitled to award overtime payment for post mortem examinations undertaken in the capacity of part time GMO.
- If a post mortem examination is undertaken during time for which payment is made by Queensland Health, the fee paid to the specialist under the Coroners Regulation 2003 is to be paid by the specialist to Queensland Health.
- It is expected that the majority of post mortem examinations will be conducted in the medical specialist’s own time.

These arrangements do not apply to medical specialists employed in Queensland Health Clinical and Statewide Services. Refer to the Supplementary Benefit/Right to Private Practice benefits Options –Senior Medical Officers - Pathologists HR policy B50.

History:

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| April 2014 | • Policy reviewed as part of the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) HR Policy Integration project.  
             • Policy not applicable to QAS medical specialists. |
| February 2014 | • Policy formatted as part of the HR Policy Simplification project.  
                      • Policy amended to update references and naming conventions. |
| April 2008 | • Developed as a result of the HR Policy Framework consolidation |
| Previous   | • IRM 2.7-30 Fees – Coroners Rules 1959 – Medical Specialists Who Hold Appointment as Part Time Government Medical Officers |