



Proposed registration standard for consultation

12 July 2011

Proposed registration standard for granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of intern training

Summary

This consultation paper seeks feedback on a proposed registration standard for granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand graduates on completion of intern training.

The *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory requires the Medical Board of Australia (the Board) to undertake wide-ranging consultation on proposed registration standards.

Up to 30 June 2010, the requirements for general registration were determined by each State and Territory Medical Board. All States and Territories required applicants for general registration to satisfactorily complete an intern year. There was a reasonably high level of consistency in requirements across all jurisdictions, though there were also some differences. From 1 July 2010 (and 18 October 2010 for Western Australia), the requirements for granting general registration and requirements for the intern year became a responsibility of the Medical Board of Australia.

The Board and the Australian Medical Council established a working party to develop this draft registration standard. The working party includes a representative of the Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Councils as well as junior doctors.

The proposed registration standard aims to achieve increased national consistency in the intern year. The draft registration standard provides for increased flexibility in training to address workforce needs and enable training for increased numbers of medical graduates. This is balanced with the need to ensure that the intern year continues to meet the educational needs of young graduates.

The proposed standard moves away from “general medicine” and “general surgery” and requires experience in “medicine” and “surgery” and focuses on the type of experience obtained, explicitly allowing for part-time internships and allowing for part of the internship to be undertaken outside Australia. Eight weeks experience in “emergency medical care” is also proposed, rather than in

“emergency medicine”. This will allow for increased flexibility in the way that experience in emergency medicine is obtained, and allow inclusion of some rural general practice settings covering a rural emergency department. Guidelines on requirements for this experience are being developed and will be released for consultation.

Background

From 1 July 2010, the Medical Board of Australia has been responsible for the registration and regulation of medical practitioners under the National Law.

Section 38 of the National Law empowers the Board to develop and recommend to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council) registration standards about issues relevant to the eligibility of individuals for registration in the medical profession or the suitability of individuals to competently and safely practice the profession.

The Board has previously developed and consulted on a range of registration standards that have now been approved by the Ministerial Council. The approved standards can be accessed at www.medicalboard.gov.au.

Submissions

The Board is now seeking feedback on the draft registration standard for granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand graduates on completion of intern training.

Please provide written submissions by email, marked “Standard for Intern Training” to medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au by close of business on **12 September 2011**. Submissions by post should be addressed to the Executive Officer, Medical, AHPRA, GPO Box 9958, Melbourne 3001.

The Board publishes submissions on its website to encourage discussion and inform the community and stakeholders.

We will not place on our website, or make available to the public, submissions that contain offensive or defamatory comments or which are outside the scope of the reference. Before publication, we may remove personally identifying information from submissions.

The views expressed in the submissions are those of the individuals or organisations who submit them and their publication does not imply any acceptance of, or agreement with, these views by the Board.

The Board also accepts submissions made in confidence. These submissions will not be published on the website or elsewhere. Submissions may be confidential because they include personal or other sensitive information. Any request for access to a confidential submission will be determined in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth), which has provisions designed to protect personal information and information given in confidence.

Please let us know if you do not want us to publish your submission, or want us to treat all or part of it as confidential.

A link to the National Law is available at www.ahpra.gov.au.

Draft registration standard

12 July 2011

Registration standard for granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of intern training

Summary

The Medical Board of Australia (the Board) has established this standard under section 52 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* ('the National Law') as in force in each state and territory, and in accordance with section 38(2) of the National Law. It defines the supervised intern (provisional registration year) training requirements that must be completed in order for graduates of Australian and New Zealand medical programs accredited by the Australian Medical Council and approved by the Medical Board of Australia to be eligible for general registration.

Graduates of these programs of study are required to hold provisional registration and to satisfactorily complete 12 months of supervised practice as an intern before being eligible for general registration.

Internship is a period of mandatory supervised general clinical experience. It allows medical graduates to consolidate and apply clinical knowledge and skills while taking increasing responsibility for the provision of safe, high quality patient care. Diagnostic skills, communication skills, management skills, including therapeutic and procedural skills, and professionalism are developed under appropriate supervision. Internship also informs career choices for many graduates by providing experience in different medical specialties including general practice, and providing a grounding for subsequent vocational (specialist) training.

Completion of the internship leads to general registration. General registration indicates that the practitioner has the skills, knowledge and experience to work as a safe entry level medical practitioner able to practice within the limits of their training.

Interns are required to perform satisfactorily under supervision in the following terms:

- A term of at least 8 weeks that provides experience in emergency medical care.
- A term of at least 10 weeks that provides experience in medicine.
- A term of at least 10 weeks that provides experience in surgery.
- A range of other approved terms to make up 12 months (minimum of 47 weeks full time equivalent service).

Terms must be accredited against approved accreditation standards for intern training.

Scope of application

This standard applies to graduates of Australian and New Zealand medical schools accredited by the Australian Medical Council and approved by the Medical Board of Australia who are applying for general registration as a medical practitioner having completed internship.

Requirements

General requirements

If the applicant for registration has previously been or is currently registered in a health profession in Australia under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme and has therefore provided information to a Board previously, some of these requirements may be waived.

Applicants are required to:

1. Provide evidence of having been awarded a primary degree in medicine and surgery, after completing an approved program of study from an Australian or New Zealand medical school accredited by the Australian Medical Council.
2. Submit documentation to confirm their proof of identity as per the proof of identity framework approved by the Board. The proof of identity framework can be found at the Board's website at www.medicalboard.gov.au.
3. Satisfactorily complete a criminal history check undertaken by the Board that meets the Board's criminal history registration standard.
4. Provide details of registration history including certificates of good standing/registration status from each registration authority with which the applicant has been registered in the previous ten years (supplied where possible directly to the Board from the relevant registration authority).
5. Confirm that they will comply with the Board's professional indemnity insurance registration standard.
6. Provide evidence of English language skills that meet the Board's English language skills registration standard.
7. Provide any other information the Board requires under section 80 of the National Law in order to determine whether the applicant is a suitable person to hold general registration

Specific requirements

1. Evidence of satisfactory completion of at least 47 weeks equivalent full time experience as an intern in supervised clinical practice completed in an approved hospital, general practice and ambulatory locations. The 47 weeks of experience must be completed within a period of no more than two years. It excludes annual leave but may include up to two weeks of professional development leave.
2. Evidence of satisfactory performance under supervision in the following terms:
 - A term of at least eight weeks that provides experience in emergency medical care. This term must provide experience under supervision in the assessment and management of patients with acute undifferentiated illnesses, including assessment and management of acutely ill patients. This is a term in emergency medicine or general practice with exposure to emergency medicine. Not all general practice posts will meet these requirements.

The suitability of posts to satisfy these requirements is to be assessed against guidelines issued from time to time by the Board.
 - A term of at least 10 weeks that provides experience in medicine. This term must provide experience under supervision in caring for patients who have a broad range of medical conditions and opportunities for the intern to participate in the assessment and admission of patients with acute medical problems; the management of in-patients with a range of general medical conditions; discharge planning, including preparation of a discharge summary and other components of handover to a general practitioner or a subacute or long term care facility, and ambulatory care.

- A term of at least 10 weeks that provides experience in surgery. This term must provide experience under supervision in caring for patients who have a broad range of acute and elective surgical conditions and/or who exhibit the common features of surgical illness including the metabolic response to trauma, infection, shock, and neoplasia.
- A range of other approved positions to make up 12 months (minimum of 47 weeks full time equivalent service). These terms provide experience in additional areas such as but not limited to aged care, anaesthesia, general practice, medicine, palliative medicine, psychiatry, rehabilitation medicine and surgery.

Terms must be accredited against approved accreditation standards for intern training positions by an authority approved by the Board.

3. Written confirmation that the applicant has met the above requirements including:
 - a) Satisfactory term supervisor reports.
 - b) An overall satisfactory rating awarded by the Director of Training, Director of Medical Services or other person authorised by the hospital and acceptable to the Board as appropriate to sign off on the satisfactory completion of the internship.

Specific circumstances

Part time internship

Internship undertaken part-time must be completed within two years.

Location

There may be particular circumstances where the Board will consider internship completed by graduates of approved Australian or New Zealand medical schools completed fully or in part outside Australia.

Where an applicant is able to provide evidence of satisfactorily completing a period of at least 47 weeks of supervised prospectively approved experience that meets the Specific Requirements detailed above, the Board is likely to grant the applicant general registration. This clinical experience must be prospectively approved and accredited to the Australian standard.

Required experience not completed

Applicants may apply to the Board for renewal of provisional registration if they have not completed all of the specific requirements within the anticipated period of time (12 months for full time internship, two years for part time internship).

Exceptional circumstances

Interns may seek recognition of exceptional personal circumstances that have affected their ability to successfully complete the internship requirements specified in this standard within the required timeframes.

Review

This standard will commence after it has been approved by the Ministerial Council. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.

Date of issue:

Date of review:

Last reviewed: