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Provisional to General Registration - Medical Frequently Asked Questions

Smooth the path to unsupervised work

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Provisional to general registration - medical

What is provisional to general registration?

Medical interns with provisional registration seeking to work unsupervised as health practitioners in Australia must obtain general registration before they are eligible to work unsupervised.

AHPRA is asking all interns who are approaching the end of their internship to apply for their general registration early. Transition from provisional to general registration has been streamlined to reduce the burden on registrants and cut down turn-around time for assessment of applications.

What does the new application form mean?

The revised application form is available online and removes duplication. You do not need to resupply information previously given to AHPRA.

Only when applicants have conditions on their registration or there has been a change to their status (for example, an impairment or criminal history), will applicants be required to provide further information.

IMPORTANT: If you obtained your current provisional registration before July 2010, you are not eligible to complete the online form. You must complete the application for general registration form (AGEN-30). You can obtain this form (only hard copy available) at www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/Types/General-Registration.aspx.

Steps for transition from provisional to general registration:

You can apply online to change from provisional to general registration at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Provisional-General.aspx>. If you lodge your online application before your current registration expiry date, your provisional registration will remain in effect until your general registration is finalised and confirmed via email to you.

1. AHPRA is advised of interns eligible for general registration, confirming successful completion of the required period of supervised practice. This means that you do not need to send us any evidence of your successful completion of the internship.
2. AHPRA confirms registration, updates your general registration status on the Register of Practitioners and sends out registration certificates.
3. New general registrants are eligible to start working unsupervised as soon as their registration category has been updated to general registration on the Register of Practitioners.

Why apply early?

Processing registrations takes time and AHPRA is aiming to smooth the path to unsupervised practice. By applying for registration early, you will help AHPRA to process your application efficiently. This will enable you to be granted general registration as soon as possible after AHPRA is notified that you have successfully completed your internship and met any other requirements. As soon as you are granted your general registration, your details will be updated on the Register of Practitioners confirming your general registration without the need for supervision as an intern.

Who can apply?

All medical interns with provisional registration who are seeking general registration.

When can I apply?

You can apply online for general registration as soon as AHPRA's provisional to general online applications for interns opens in November. Watch the website from 10 November. AHPRA is recommending that provisional registrants apply for general registration at least four to six weeks before the end of their internship.

If you need to apply before the end of November, you can download the form from the website www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/Forms.aspx and submit in hard copy.

IMPORTANT: If you obtained your current provisional registration prior to July 2010, you are not eligible to complete the online form. You must complete the application for general registration form (AGEN-30). You can obtain this form (only hard copy available) at www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/Types/General-Registration.aspx.

What happens if I won't be finishing my internship this year?

If for any reason you will not be completing your internship, please contact the AHPRA customer service team on 1300 419 495 between 09:00am – 05:00pm Local Time with your provisional registration number, your name and date of birth and you will receive the appropriate form to enable you to apply to renew your provisional registration for a further 12 months.

If your application for general registration is unsuccessful, AHPRA will contact you directly and will work with you to renew your provisional registration.

Provisional to general registration application fees

How much will it cost?

There are no application fees for changing your registration from provisional to general. You will be required to pay the standard annual registration fee for general registration. For further information please see the schedule of fees on the Medical Board's website www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/Fees.aspx

Will I get a refund of my fees if I apply but do not successfully complete my internship?

If you apply for general registration but do not successfully complete your internship or choose to withdraw your application after it has been received, you will be required to pay the annual registration fee for provisional registration only and not general registration. AHPRA will refund you the difference between the two amounts.

See 'What happens if I won't be finishing my internship this year' question above for more information.

Registration standards

What are the Medical Board's registration standards?

You can access this information here: www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx

Do I need to provide any documentation to AHPRA once I finish my internship?

No. After you have completed your internship AHPRA receives confirmation that you have successfully completed the required period of supervised practice to transition from provisional to general registration. AHPRA will use this confirmation to finalise your registration.

What happens next?

How will I know if my application has been received?

As soon as AHPRA receives your application, it will be assigned to a registration team for processing. Make sure you have provided a valid email address with your registration, so AHPRA can send you an email confirming that we have received your application.

What will AHPRA do when they receive my application?

After receiving your application and any required supporting documentation, AHPRA will:

- begin the registration process to smooth the path from provisional to general registration
- undertake a criminal history check and
- complete all the steps towards registration, pending confirmation of you successfully completing your internship.

After you complete your internship:

- AHPRA will obtain direct confirmation that you have successfully completed your internship
- When AHPRA receives confirmation that you have successfully completed your internship, AHPRA will finalise your general registration (provided you meet all the relevant requirements), send you an email confirming that you are registered, publish updated details on the register of practitioners and, in due course, mail you a hard copy Certificate of Registration
- You then have general registration and are entitled to practise unsupervised when your general registration details are updated and published on the Register of Practitioners

How long will it take to process my application?

You will need to allow at least 4 weeks for processing once AHPRA has received your application. Your application cannot be finalised until AHPRA receives all the required documentation which includes advice that you have successfully completed your internship.

Registration

When will I be registered?

When AHPRA receives notification that you have successfully completed your internship and met all other requirements, we will finalise your application, send you an email confirming that you have been granted general registration, update your details on the register of practitioners and, in due course, mail you a hard copy Certificate of Registration.

You are registered and entitled to practise unsupervised when your general registration details are published on the Register of Practitioners with general registration. The Register is published at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registers-of-Practitioners.aspx>

AHPRA will also send you an email to confirm you have been granted general registration.

How will I know when I am registered?

When we have confirmed that you are eligible for general registration, we will:

- update your details on the Register of Practitioners for your profession
- confirm by email to the address you provide that you have been granted general registration
- mail you a certificate of registration (this takes 4-6 weeks)

Can I start work unsupervised before I am generally registered?

No. You cannot work unsupervised as a registered health practitioner until you have been granted general registration. However, if you lodge your general application before your current registration expiry date, your provisional registration will remain in effect until your general registration has been granted.

Can I work unsupervised before I get a Certificate of Registration?

Yes. You can work unsupervised as a registered health practitioner as soon as your general registration details are published on the Register of Practitioners <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registers-of-Practitioners.aspx>. You can print this out and use it as evidence of your general registration status with potential employers.

Further information

If you require more information about provisional to general applications for registration, please:

1. Review the information available on our website <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Provisional-General.aspx>
2. Online enquiry at www.ahpra.gov.au/about-ahpra/contact-us/make-an-enquiry.aspx. Please provide as much detail as possible so that we can direct your enquiry appropriately.
3. Speak with a Customer Service Consultant:
 - From within Australia on 1300 419 495 between 09:00am – 05:00pm Local Time
 - From overseas on +61 3 8708 9001 between 09:00am – 05:00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time