



## Second round consultation on proposed registration standard

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28 November 2011

### Second round consultation on a proposed registration standard for granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of intern training

The Medical Board of Australia (the Board) has undertaken consultation on a proposed registration standard for granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of intern training. The submissions received by the Board are published on the Board's website at [www.medicalboard.gov.au](http://www.medicalboard.gov.au) (excluding any who have requested that their submission not be published).

Given the level of interest in this registration standard, the Board has agreed to undertake a further round of consultation with key stakeholders, on a revised version of the standard.

#### Issues arising out of the previous round of consultation

There was general support for the draft registration standard. Respondents recognised the need for increased flexibility of intern training and many emphasised the importance of ensuring that standards of intern training were not compromised.

The registration standard defines the basic requirements of an approved intern year for granting general registration. It also aims to provide provisional registrants with a degree of certainty that they will be granted general registration if they meet the requirements of the National Law, any relevant registration standards, and if they perform satisfactorily.

Respondents were keen to learn more about a range of detail about the intern year, much of which lies outside the scope of a registration standard. The Board agrees that much of the additional information should be developed to support the intern year, and there should be further consultation about it.

The Board has asked the Australian Medical Council, the Board's appointed accreditation authority to assist it to develop much of the additional information regarding the intern year. This additional information will be in the form of supporting documents such as learning objectives, assessment instruments and a framework for accreditation.

The additional work includes:

### **1. Setting learning objectives for PGY1**

The AMC will customise the Australian Curriculum Framework for Junior Doctors as a basis for developing learning objectives for the PGY1 year. This will involve drafting learning objectives for particular rotational experiences, as defined in the registration standard, to support greater flexibility and enable junior doctors to meet learning outcomes in a wide range of hospital and community health care settings. This will build on work done by Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Councils and AMC.

### **2. Intern assessment and sign off**

A process will be developed for signing off interns as having met the requirements of provisional registration in the national system. The aim is for an efficient and cost effective national framework for assessment aligned to the purpose and learning objectives.

This work will include development of term supervisor reports that are consistent with the registration standard, based on work to set learning objectives for the intern year and for specific terms and will provide a rigorous and consistent approach with greater guidance for supervisors. This work will also include harmonizing processes for dealing with unsatisfactory term reports.

### **3. National framework for intern training accreditation process**

The Board recognises that in a National Registration Scheme, it is desirable for some of the different approaches to intern training accreditation across the country to be rationalised and harmonised. This is necessary in order to achieve greater national consistency, assure training standard across the country and provide an equitable basis for allocation of Board funds which support this accreditation process.

The AMC will:

- develop consistent national standards for intern training, building on existing state-based guidelines and review of curriculum objectives and assessment requirements
- develop a consistent national process for accreditation of intern posts
- develop a process for assessment of postgraduate medical council/intern training accreditation authority review against agreed national standards/process.

### **Maintenance of standards**

Traditionally, intern accreditation authorities and intern training organisations have worked cooperatively to raise standards of intern training over time, in a quality assurance model. The Board supports the continuation of such a model and believes that this will be achieved through a robust, transparent and acceptable intern accreditation process.

Some respondents were concerned that the registration standard represented a lower standard than currently required in some states and territories and that implementation of a minimum standard would not encourage training providers to continue to maintain high standards for training. The Board is aware of this concern and through the accreditation process, will be working to ensure that standards of intern training are preserved and raised over time.

Some respondents pointed out that some general practice settings may not be able to provide the appropriate experience in emergency medicine. Each term in emergency medical care, regardless of the setting will need to be evaluated and accredited against agreed standards.

The other concern expressed regarding the term in emergency care related to the length of service defined in the registration standard. The eight week term is a minimum requirement and can be longer if intern training facilities can arrange this.

There was a range of rotations that some respondents felt should be included in the registration standard. There is sufficient scope within the registration standard to allow for other terms to be accredited on a case by case basis.

### Modifications made to the registration standard

The draft registration standard has been revised and is attached. The main changes made include to:

1. rephrase the references to ambulatory care so that it is not a mandatory requirement for the intern year. The change reflects a widely held view that while experience in ambulatory care is desirable, it may not be practical and achievable in all cases
2. amend the standard to clarify that Australian and New Zealand graduates who complete their internship outside of Australia or New Zealand will not be eligible for general registration. They can apply for provisional registration to undertake 12 months approved supervised practice to familiarise themselves with the Australian health care system before being eligible for general registration
3. delete the statement about exceptional circumstances to remove any ambiguity that general registration may be granted if requirements has not been met under exceptional circumstances. If a registrant cannot meet the requirements for general registration, they may be granted renewal of provisional registration to allow them to complete requirements satisfactorily
4. Allow up to three years for the completion of the intern year. This is consistent with the National Law which provides for a 12 month period of provisional registration and two renewals.
5. re-phrase the description of the term in emergency – to state that the term is generally undertaken in emergency medicine or select general practices with exposure to emergency medicine.

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

### Submissions

The Board is now seeking further feedback on the revised 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](mailto:medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au) by close of business on **Tuesday 3 January 2012**. 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](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

## Draft registration standard

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28 November 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 practise 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 an 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](http://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 approved hospital, general practice or ambulatory locations. The 47 weeks of experience must be completed within a period of no more than three 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 close supervision in the assessment and management of patients with acute undifferentiated illnesses, including assessment and management of acutely ill patients. Generally, this is a term in emergency medicine or select general practices 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, or 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 three years of commencement.

#### *Location*

For the purpose of granting general registration, the Board will accept satisfactory training undertaken outside of Australia or New Zealand, for a term not exceeding 12 weeks, where that term has been prospectively accredited to Australian standards.

Australian and New Zealand graduates who have undertaken an internship outside of Australia or New Zealand will be eligible to apply for provisional registration and will be required to undertake 12 months approved supervised practice to familiarise themselves with the Australian health care system before being eligible for general registration.

#### *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, three years for part time internship).

### **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: