

DRAFT INTERN REGISTRATION STANDARD FEEDBACK ROUND 2

PMcq invited to provide consultative feedback on the Draft Intern Registration Standard released for second round consultation by the Medical Board of Australia (MBA). PMcq welcomes this opportunity to participate in the development of this standard. The MBA requested all second round comment be submitted by 3 January 2012.

The revised Draft Standard was circulated by PMcq to key stakeholder groups for comment:

- PMcq members
- PMcq Accreditation Committee
- PMcq Junior Medical Officer Forum, and
- PMcq funding partners (Queensland Health).

COMMENT TO DATE

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

The Accreditation Committee strongly recommends that the word “continuous” be added to the duration of terms. This will prevent time spent in compulsory terms diminishing below the minimum duration specified through widespread ward call rostering practices. Ward call rostering practices can result in interns being rostered to other terms for at two weeks. Such a practice can reduce time spent in the core Medicine and Surgical terms to 8 weeks and in Emergency to 6 weeks. The insertion of the word continuous would protect the minimum time to be spent in each core term.

An example of such wording is provided below:

- A term of at least 10 **continuous** weeks that provides experience in Medicine

The Accreditation Committee requests clarification of the body/bodies responsible for accrediting overseas terms under the provisions of this draft stand.

In closing, the Accreditation Committee welcomes the additional work being performed by the Australian Medical Council (AMC). PMcq’s Accreditation Committee is keen to be involved in this work and is pleased to offer assistance to the AMC in development of this important work.

JUNIOR MEDICAL OFFICER FORUM

JMOF has commented on the requirements for core terms as part of an approved internship:

- The JMOF supports a 10 week core term in Medicine
- The JMOF supports a 10 week core term in Surgery, and
- The JMOF supports a variety of other approved terms to complete a full year.

The JMOF strongly encourages maintaining a 10 week core term in Emergency, to take place within an approved Emergency Department. The JMOF recognises that potentially in the future there may be a requirement for the Emergency core term outside of an emergency department. The JMOF is unable to support a change to the current standard without further delineation of core term learning objectives applicable to Emergency terms.

Further, the JMOF endorses the Australian and New Zealand Junior Medical Officer Forum (AJMOC) position regarding core Emergency terms. The JMOF has reached this position after careful consideration of the issues surrounding the Emergency term throughout Australia. It is felt that the Emergency term, at 10 weeks in an Emergency Department, is a vital part of an intern's progression to successful general registration.

SUMMARY

Both groups to have made comment available to date share a number of observations:

- Concern over ward call shortening time spent in core terms, particularly the emergency term experience from 8 weeks to 6 weeks – suggestion that the word “continuous” be inserted to protect minimum time to be allocated to each core term
- Uncertainty regarding which body/bodies will accredit overseas terms, and
- Support that emergency terms remain a minimum of 10 weeks given its importance in the intern's overall progression towards general registration.