



Consultation paper 2

Proposals for registration standards for limited registration, a code of practice for the medical profession and a revised list of specialties and specialist titles

Issued by the Medical Board of Australia under the authority of Dr Joanna Flynn, Chair

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If you wish to provide comments on this paper, please lodge a written submission in electronic form, marked 'Registration standards' at Chair@medicalboard.gov.au by close of business on 10 February 2010.

Please note that your submission will be placed on the Board's website unless you indicate otherwise.

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1 Background

The Medical Board of Australia ('the Board') commenced operation on 1 July 2010. From 1 July 2010 the Board will commence registering medical practitioners under the *Health Practitioner National Law Act 2009* (the 'National Law'). Medical practitioners already registered by State and Territory medical registration boards will transition to registration under the National Law.

Section 38 of the National Law empowers the Board to develop and recommend to the 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.

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

In October 2009, the Board released a consultation paper inviting comment on proposed requirements with respect to criminal history checking, English language skills assessment, professional indemnity insurance, continuing professional development and recency of practice, as well as a list of proposed specialties and associated specialist titles to apply under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme ('the National Scheme').

The Board has now revised these draft standards and its proposed list of specialties and specialist titles, in light of the feedback received, and has submitted them for approval by the Ministerial Council in accordance with requirements of sections 12 and 13 of the National Law.

2 Purpose of this paper

This is the second in a series of consultation papers released by the Medical Board of Australia since its establishment. This consultation paper has been prepared in order to seek the views of the sector on a number of additional registration standards that the Board considers should be in place prior to commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme on 1 July 2010.

Specifically, this consultation paper invites comment on three proposals:

Proposal 1

Proposed registration standards setting out requirements for:

- (a) limited registration for area of need registration; and
- (b) limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice.

Proposal 2

A proposal that the Board adopt the Australian Medical Council's code of practice *Good Medical Practice* as a code of the Medical Board of Australia, commencing 1 July 2010, in order to provide guidance to medical practitioners registered by the Board on matters of professional practice.

Proposal 3

The Board's revised list of specialties and specialist titles, for the purposes of specialist registration as a medical specialist under the National Law.

Further detail on each of these proposals is set out below.

Interested parties are invited to make written submissions on these proposals, before the Board makes its second submission to the Ministerial Council under section 12 of the National Law.

Submissions on the content of this consultation paper will be accepted up until close of business on 10 February 2010.

2.1 Proposal 1: Limited registration standards

The National Law empowers the Board to grant limited registration as a medical practitioner to persons who are not qualified or eligible for general registration but who meet the eligibility requirements for limited registration set out in section 65.

There are four types of limited registration under the National Law:

- limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice (section 66)
- limited registration for area of need (section 67)
- limited registration in the public interest (section 68); and
- limited registration for teaching or research (section 69).

In this second round of consultation, the Board has prepared two further registration standards for comment. These draft standards set out the Board's proposed requirements for persons who, while not eligible for general registration, apply for:

- limited registration in an area of need under section 67 of the National Law; or
- limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice under section 66 of the National Law.

See Attachments A and B below, for these draft standards.

Submissions are invited on the content of these draft standards.

Once consultation has been completed and the revised standards have been submitted to and approved by the Ministerial Council, web based materials will be prepared to assist prospective applicants in understanding and navigating the process of preparing and submitting an application for registration.

2.2 Proposal 2: A Code of Practice for the medical profession

Section 39 of the National Law empowers the Medical Board of Australia to develop and approve codes and guidelines to provide guidance to registered medical practitioners and about other matters relevant to the exercise of its functions.

The Board has determined that the establishment of a code of practice for the medical profession is a matter of priority for commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The purpose of such a code would be to provide guidance to the medical profession and members of the community, on the professional conduct of medical practitioners, and to provide a benchmark against which medical practitioners may assess their own conduct, and that of their peers.

The Board acknowledges the significant resources and expertise involved in developing the Australian Medical Council's Code, titled *Good Medical Practice: A Code of Practice for Doctors in Australia*, and the level of support achieved from the profession for the Code which was endorsed by the Joint Medical Boards Advisory Committee of the AMC and has subsequently been adopted by a number of state and territory medical boards.

Therefore, the Board is seeking comment from the sector on whether the Board should approve the AMC code *Good Medical Practice* as the Board's code of practice for medical practitioners, in order to define clear, national standards of practice for the medical profession in Australia. If the Board proceeds to adopt the AMC Code as its own, then the Code will be subject to regular review by the Board.

You may download a copy of the AMC's Good Medical Practice from the Board's website at www.medicalboard.gov.au.

2.3 Proposal 3: List of specialties and specialist titles

Section 13 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009 (Qld) specifies the medical profession as a profession for which specialist recognition will operate under the National Law. Sections 57–61 empower the Medical Board of Australia to grant specialist registration.

Section 13 of the National Law requires the Board to submit to the Ministerial Council for approval, its recommended list of specialties and specialist titles, in order to exercise its powers to grant specialist registration under the National Law.

In October 2009, the Board invited public comment on a draft list of specialties and specialist titles, prior to seeking the approval of the Ministerial Council.

The Board has now revised its proposed list of specialties and specialist titles, in light of the feedback received, and on 22nd December submitted the list for approval by the Ministerial Council. The Board's submission to the Ministerial Council can be viewed in full at the following address: www.medicalboard.gov.au.

At its meeting of 15 December 2009, the Board decided that, given the extent of the changes that have been made to the list of proposed specialties in light of feedback received, it would provide a second opportunity for interested parties to comment on the list, prior to the Ministerial Council meeting to consider the Board's submission.

Thus, further comment is invited on the revised list of specialties and specialist titles set out at Attachment C below.

Attachment A Proposed registration standard – limited registration for area of need

The following draft registration standard on limited registration for area of need has been prepared under section 38 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009. This draft standard specifies the proposed requirements of the Medical Board of Australia.

Medical Board of Australia

Registration standard – limited registration for area of need

Summary

The Medical Board of Australia has established this standard under section 67 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (Qld) ('the National Law'), and in accordance with section 38(2)(a) of that Act.

This standard applies to international medical graduates (IMGs) who do not qualify for general registration under section 52 or specialist registration under section 57 of the National Law, who apply for limited registration for area of need under section 67 or renewal of limited registration for area of need under Part 7 Division 9 of the National Law.

This standard sets out the requirements that an applicant for registration must meet in order to be granted limited registration to practise as a medical practitioner in an area of need, under section 67 of the National Law. Three pathways are available, with specific requirements for each:

- competent authority pathway
- standard pathway
- specialist pathway.

All medical practitioners granted limited registration for area of need will be expected to comply with the requirements of registration set out in this standard, including compliance with a supervision plan and provision of regular reports from their supervisors of safe and competent practice and satisfactory progress towards meeting the qualifications required for general registration or specialist registration.

The Minister for Health in the relevant State or Territory is responsible under section 67(5) of the National Law for determining whether an area of need exists in the jurisdiction or part of the jurisdiction the subject of the application.

Scope of application

This standard applies to international medical graduates (IMGs) applying for limited registration in an area of need under section 67 of the National Law, or for renewal of limited registration for area of need under Part 7 Division 9 of the National Law.

Requirements

For initial registration

General requirements:

1. Presentation in person to a Board office or authorised delegate with proof of identity (100 points of identity) — a list of permitted documents is available on the Board's website at the following address: www.medicalboard.gov.au.
2. Evidence of conferral of a primary degree in medicine and surgery, after completion of a clinical medical curriculum of at least four academic years, leading to an entitlement to registration in the country issuing

<p>the degree to practise clinical medicine.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Primary source verification of medical qualifications from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates International Credentials Service (EICS). 4. Evidence of successful completion of a medical internship or equivalent in accordance with guidelines issued from time to time by the Board. 5. Evidence of English language skills that meets the Board's English language registration standard. 6. Evidence of work practice history that meets the Board's Recency of practice registration standard including a resume that describes full practice history and any clinical or procedural skills, any gaps and overlaps in practice history from date of qualification, in accordance with guidelines issued from time to time by the Board. 7. Details of registration history including certificates of good standing/registration status from each registration authority with which the applicant has previously been registered in the previous 5 years (supplied directly to the Board from the relevant registration authority). 8. Statement from the sponsoring employer including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) employer contact details (b) position description including key selection criteria addressing clinical responsibilities and qualifications and experience required (c) name and qualifications of Board-approved clinical supervisor/s. 9. Area of need declaration for the area and/or position, from the responsible Minister for Health or delegate in the jurisdiction in which the designated area of need position is located. 10. A supervision plan, prepared in accordance with any supervised practice guidelines issued from time to time by the Board, providing details of approved supervisor/s and how supervision will be provided to ensure the prospective practitioner's ongoing development and safe practice. 11. Satisfactory completion of a criminal history check undertaken by the Board that meets the Board's Criminal history registration standard. 12. Any other information the Board requires under section 70 in order to determine whether the applicant is a suitable person to hold limited registration. <p>Specific requirements:</p> <p>In addition to the general requirements above, specific requirements apply depending on the pathway through which the applicant is seeking to qualify for registration (competent authority pathway, specialist pathway or standard pathway).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Competent authority pathway: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) certificate of Advanced Standing issued by the Australian Medical Council (b) results of a pre-employment structured clinical interview (PESCI) required for any (nonspecialist) position in general practice, a private or public hospital, or any other position as determined by the Board (c) board assessment of training, skills and experience of the applicant against the position description for the designated area of need position. 2. Standard pathway: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) successful completion of the Australian Medical Council MCQ examination (b) proof of application to undertake a pre-employment structured clinical interview (PESCI) that is required for any (nonspecialist) position in general practice, a private or public hospital, or any other position as determined by the Board (c) results of PESCI if undertaken. 3. Specialist pathway: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Australian Medical Council assessment of specialist qualifications of applicant, via the relevant specialist medical college against position description for designated area of need position
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- (b) letter of recommendation from relevant specialist college that applicant is qualified to practise in the area of need position, including any recommended limitations on the nature and extent of practice.

Continuing limited registration for area of need is contingent on the practitioner maintaining their employment in the designated area of need position. The Board may cancel the practitioner's registration if they leave the employment position or their employment is terminated.

Requirements for renewal of registration

1. Renewal of limited registration area of need will be subject to the practitioner meeting the following requirements:
 - (a) completion of an annual renewal form in accordance with section 107 of the National Law, including an annual statement in accordance with section 109
 - (b) demonstrated compliance with any conditions on registration including satisfactory assessment report/s from the approved supervisor or mentor acting under the terms of the practitioner's approved supervision plan; and
 - (c) documentary evidence in accordance with any guidelines issued from time to time by the Board, demonstrating satisfactory progress towards general registration or specialist registration, within a maximum period of four years.
2. The Board may refuse to renew the practitioner's registration if:
 - (a) the practitioner's employment in the designated area of need position ceases or is terminated; or
 - (b) the practitioner fails to comply with supervision requirements; or
 - (c) during assessment or supervision, major deficiencies are identified in the practitioner's practice that the Board considers are significant or which constitute a danger to the community.

Definitions

Area of need for health services means a jurisdiction or part of a jurisdiction where the responsible Minister for Health decides under section 67(5) that there are insufficient health practitioners practising in the particular health profession to meet the needs of people living in the jurisdiction or part of the jurisdiction.

Supervision plan means a plan that sets out the arrangements or proposed arrangements for clinical supervision of the medical practice of the applicant for registration or registered practitioner.

Review

This standard applies from 1 July 2010. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.

Attachment B Proposed registration standard – limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice

The following draft registration standard on limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice has been prepared under section 38 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*. This draft standard specifies the proposed requirements of the Medical Board of Australia for granting limited registration to applicants under section 66 of the National Law.

Medical Board of Australia

Registration standard – limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice

Summary

The Medical Board of Australia has established this standard under section 67 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (Qld) ('the National Law'), and in accordance with section 38(2)(a) of that Act.

This standard applies to international medical graduates (IMGs) who do not qualify for general registration under section 52 or specialist registration under section 57 of the National Law, who apply for limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice under section 66 or renewal of limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice, under Part 7 Division 9 of the National Law.

This standard sets out the requirements that an applicant for registration must meet in order to be granted limited registration to practise as a medical practitioner undertaking postgraduate training or under supervised practice, under section 66 of the National Law. Three pathways are available, with specific requirements for each:

- competent authority pathway
- standard pathway
- specialist pathway.

All practitioners granted limited registration will be expected to comply with the requirements of registration set out in this standard, including compliance with a training or supervision plan and provision of regular reports from their supervisors of safe and competent practice and satisfactory progress towards meeting the qualifications required for general registration or specialist registration.

Scope of application

This standard applies to international medical graduates (IMGs) applying for limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice, under section 66 of the National Law, or for renewal of limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice, under Part 7 Division 9 of the National Law.

Requirements

For initial registration

General requirements:

1. Presentation in person to a Board office or authorised delegate of Board with proof of identity (100 points

of identity) — a list of permitted documents is available on the Board's website at the following address: www.medicalboard.gov.au.

2. Evidence of conferral of a primary degree in medicine and surgery after completion of a clinical medical curriculum of at least four academic years, leading to an entitlement to registration in the country issuing the degree to practise clinical medicine.
3. Primary source verification of medical qualifications from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates International Credentials Service (EICS).
4. Evidence of successful completion of a period of internship or equivalent, in accordance with guidelines issued from time to time by the Board.
5. Evidence of English language skills that meets the Board's English language registration standard.
6. Evidence of work practice history that meets the Board's Recency of Practice registration standard including a resume that describes full practice history and any clinical or procedural skills, any gaps and overlaps in practice history from date of qualification, in accordance with guidelines issued from time to time by the Board.
7. Details of registration history including certificates of good standing/registration status from each registration authority with which the applicant has previously been registered in the previous 5 years (supplied directly to the Board from the relevant registration authority)
8. Statement from the sponsoring employer (if any) including:
 - (a) employer contact details
 - (b) position description including key selection criteria addressing clinical responsibilities and qualifications and experience required
 - (c) name and qualifications of clinical supervisor/s approved by the Board.
9. Satisfactory completion of a criminal history check undertaken by the Board that meets the Board's Criminal history registration standard.
10. Any other information the Board requires under section 70 in order to determine whether the applicant is a suitable person to hold limited registration.

Specific requirements

In addition to the general requirements above, specific requirements apply depending on the pathway through which the applicant is seeking to qualify for registration (competent authority pathway, specialist pathway or standard pathway):

1. Competent authority pathway:
 - (a) Certificate of Advanced Standing issued by the Australian Medical Council
 - (b) results of pre-employment structured clinical interview (PESCI)
 - (c) a supervision plan, prepared in accordance with guidelines issued from time to time by the Board, providing details of approved supervisor/s and how training or supervision will be provided to ensure the practitioner's satisfactory progression towards qualifying for general or specialist registration.
2. Standard pathway:
 - (a) successful completion of the Australian Medical Council MCQ examination
 - (b) results of a pre-employment structured clinical interview (PESCI) that is required for any (nonspecialist) position in general practice, a private or public hospital, or any other position as determined by the Board
 - (c) a supervision plan, prepared in accordance with any guidelines issued from time to time by the Board, providing details of how training or supervision will be provided to ensure the practitioner's satisfactory progression towards qualifying for general or specialist registration.
3. Specialist pathway:
 - (a) Australian Medical Council assessment of specialist qualifications of applicant as either:
 - substantially comparable; or
 - partially comparable.

- (a) A training plan prepared by the relevant specialist college and the applicant, in accordance with guidelines issued from time to time by the Board, and incorporating the following elements:
- purpose of training and anticipated duration
 - details of the institutions or locations where applicant will undertake training
 - an undertaking to provide regular progress reports, in accordance with any guidelines issued from time to time by the Board
 - proposed schedule of assessments by the relevant specialist college.

Requirements for renewal of registration

1. Renewal of limited registration area of need will be subject to the practitioner meeting the following requirements:
 - (a) completion of an annual renewal form in accordance with section 107 of the National Law including an annual statement in accordance with section 109
 - (b) demonstrated compliance with any conditions on registration including satisfactory assessment report/s from the approved supervisor or mentor acting under the terms of the practitioner's approved supervision plan; and
 - (c) documentary evidence in accordance with any guidelines issued from time to time by the Board, demonstrating satisfactory progress towards general registration or specialist registration, within a maximum period of four years.
2. The Board may refuse to renew the practitioner's registration if:
 - (a) the practitioner's employment in the designated area of need position ceases or is terminated; or
 - (b) the practitioner fails to comply with supervision requirements; or
 - (c) during assessment or supervision, major deficiencies are identified in the practitioner's practice that the Board considers are significant or that constitute a danger to the community.

Definitions

Supervision plan means a plan that sets out the arrangements or proposed arrangements for clinical supervision of the medical practice of the applicant for registration or registered practitioner.

Training plan means a plan that sets out the arrangements or proposed arrangements for clinical training that the applicant for registration or registered practitioner will undertake during the registration period.

Review

This standard applies from 1 July 2010. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.

Attachment C Proposed list of specialties, fields of specialty practice and related specialist titles

Proposed specialty	Proposed fields of specialty practice	Proposed specialist titles
Addiction medicine	—	Specialist in addiction medicine
Anaesthesia	—	Specialist anaesthetist
Dermatology	—	Specialist dermatologist
Emergency medicine	—	Specialist emergency physician
General practice	—	Specialist general practitioner
Intensive care medicine	—	Specialist intensive care physician
Medical administration	—	Specialist medical administrator
Obstetrics and gynaecology		Specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist
	Gynaecological oncology	Specialist gynaecological oncologist
	Maternal–fetal medicine	Specialist in maternal–fetal medicine
	Obstetrics and gynaecological ultrasound	Specialist in obstetrics and gynaecological ultrasound
	Reproductive endocrinology and infertility	Specialist in reproductive endocrinology and infertility
	Urogynaecology	Specialist urogynaecologist
Occupational and environmental medicine	—	Specialist occupational and environmental physician
Ophthalmology	—	Specialist ophthalmologist
Paediatrics and child health		Specialist paediatrician
	Clinical genetics	Specialist paediatric clinical geneticist
	General paediatrics	Specialist general paediatrician
	Neonatal and perinatal medicine	Specialist neonatologist and perinatologist
	Paediatric cardiology	Specialist paediatric cardiologist
	Paediatric clinical pharmacology	Specialist paediatric clinical pharmacologist
	Paediatric emergency medicine	Specialist paediatric emergency physician
	Paediatric endocrinology	Specialist paediatric endocrinologist
	Paediatric gastroenterology and hepatology	Specialist paediatric gastroenterologist and hepatologist
	Paediatric haematology	Specialist paediatric haematologist
	Paediatric immunology and allergy	Specialist paediatric immunologist and allergist
	Paediatric infectious diseases	Specialist paediatric infectious diseases physician
	Paediatric intensive care medicine	Specialist paediatric intensive care physician
	Paediatric medical oncology	Specialist paediatric medical oncologist
Paediatric nephrology	Specialist paediatric nephrologist	

	Paediatric neurology	Specialist paediatric neurologist
	Paediatric nuclear medicine	Specialist paediatric nuclear medicine physician
	Paediatric palliative medicine	Specialist paediatric palliative medicine physician
	Paediatric rehabilitation medicine	Specialist paediatric rehabilitation physician
	Paediatric respiratory and sleep medicine	Specialist paediatric respiratory and sleep medicine physician
	Paediatric rheumatology	Specialist paediatric rheumatologist
Pain medicine	—	Specialist pain medicine physician
Palliative medicine		Specialist palliative medicine physician
Pathology		Specialist pathologist
	General pathology	Specialist general pathologist
	Anatomical pathology (including cytopathology)	Specialist anatomical pathologist
	Chemical pathology	Specialist chemical pathologist
	Haematology	Specialist haematologist
	Immunology	Specialist immunologist
	Microbiology	Specialist microbiologist
	Forensic pathology	Specialist forensic pathologist
Physician		Specialist physician
	Cardiology	Specialist cardiologist
	Clinical genetics	Specialist clinical geneticist
	Clinical pharmacology	Specialist clinical pharmacologist
	Endocrinology	Specialist endocrinologist
	Gastroenterology and hepatology	Specialist gastroenterologist and hepatologist
	General medicine	Specialist general physician
	Geriatric medicine	Specialist geriatrician
	Haematology	Specialist haematologist
	Immunology and allergy	Specialist immunologist and allergist
	Infectious diseases	Specialist infectious diseases physician
	Medical oncology	Specialist medical oncologist
	Nephrology	Specialist nephrologist
	Neurology	Specialist neurologist
	Nuclear medicine	Specialist nuclear medicine physician
	Respiratory and sleep medicine	Specialist respiratory and sleep medicine physician
Rheumatology	Specialist rheumatologist	
Psychiatry	—	Specialist psychiatrist
Public health medicine	—	Specialist public health physician
Radiation oncology	—	Specialist radiation oncologist
Radiology	Diagnostic radiology	Specialist radiologist

	Diagnostic ultrasound	Specialist radiologist
	Nuclear medicine	Specialist in nuclear medicine
Rehabilitation medicine	—	Specialist rehabilitation physician
Sexual health medicine	—	Specialist sexual health physician
Sport and exercise medicine	—	Specialist sport and exercise physician
Surgery		Specialist surgeon
	Cardio-thoracic surgery	Specialist cardio-thoracic surgeon
	General surgery	Specialist general surgeon
	Neurosurgery	Specialist neurosurgeon
	Orthopaedic surgery	Specialist orthopaedic surgeon
	Otolaryngology — head and neck surgery	Specialist otolaryngologist
	Oral and maxillofacial surgery	Specialist oral and maxillofacial surgeon
	Paediatric surgery	Specialist paediatric surgeon
	Plastic and reconstructive surgery	Specialist plastic and reconstructive surgeon
	Urology	Specialist urologist
	Vascular surgery	Specialist vascular surgeon