

3 January 2012

Executive Officer, Medical
AHPRA
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001
Email: medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Dear Executive Officer

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

Thank you for seeking feedback from The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (the College) on the above document. The College has a number of comments to raise.

The College is very concerned that there is no mention of the importance of developing skills in the rational use of investigations. The preamble refers to the AMC undertaking further work with respect to developing learning objectives based on the Australian Curriculum Framework (ACF) for Junior Doctors. The College would like to suggest that the Board incorporate some reference to the ACF expectations with respect to investigations (Selects, requests and can justify investigations in the context of particular patient presentation, follow ups and interprets investigation results appropriately to guide patient management, identifies and provides relevant and succinct information when ordering investigations).

Possibly the best place for this is in paragraph 3, page 4, it could be amended thus (new text in italics):

"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, including the rational use of investigations, 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."

Alternatively the two parenthetical clauses could be formally enclosed in parentheses thus:

"Diagnostic skills (including the rational use of investigations), communication skills, management skills (including therapeutic and procedural skills), and professionalism are developed under appropriate supervision."

On pages 5, 6, Para 2, last item, "other approved positions", in order to achieve uniformity and completeness, perhaps the words "under supervision" should be included, as in other training modalities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra Graves". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "G".

Dr Debra Graves

Chief Executive Officer