

Authority

This standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law) with approval taking effect from 1 July 2010.

Summary

The Medical Board of Australia has established this standard under section 66 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 (Qld)* ('the National Law'), and in accordance with section 38(2) of that Act. It applies to international medical graduates (IMGs) who do not qualify for general or specialist registration.

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 supervised practice, under section 66 of the National Law.

All practitioners granted limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice must comply with the requirements for registration set out in this standard, including:

- compliance with a supervision plan
- compliance with a training plan
- authorising and facilitating the provision of regular reports from their supervisors to the Board regarding their safety and competence to practise
- satisfactory performance in the postgraduate training or supervised practice position
- if intending to practise medicine in Australia longer term, providing evidence to confirm satisfactory progress towards meeting the qualifications required for general registration or specialist registration.

These requirements are established under this standard to ensure safe and competent practice for the period of limited registration.

The Board will be including the requirements of limited registration on the National Register pursuant to section 225(p) of the National Law.

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 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.

Applicants are required to provide certified documentation identifying changes of name when the name of the applicant is different to the name on the primary degree in medicine and surgery and/or the name used with previous registration authorities.

2. Evidence of having been awarded a primary degree in medicine and surgery, after completing an approved course of study at a medical school listed in the current International Medical Education Directory (IMED) (online only) of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research, or other publications approved by the Australian Medical Council. An approved course of study means that the applicant must be able to demonstrate that they have completed a 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. Evidence of application for primary source verification of medical qualifications from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates International Credentials Service (EICS). The Board may take action under Part 8 of the National Law if the practitioner's medical qualifications are not verified. The New South Wales Medical Council may take action under the relevant law in that jurisdiction.
4. Evidence of successful completion of a period of internship or comparable, 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. This must include a resume that describes the applicant's full practice history and any specific clinical training undertaken. Any gaps and/or overlaps in practice history from date of qualification to the present must be included and explained.
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 ten years (supplied where possible directly to the Board from the relevant registration authority).



8. Sponsoring employer's written confirmation of offer of employment.
9. Statement from the sponsoring employer including:
 - a) employer contact details
 - b) position description including key selection criteria addressing clinical responsibilities and qualifications and experience required
 - c) name, qualifications and contact details of the proposed clinical supervisor/s.
 - d) details of a supervision plan, prepared in accordance with any supervised practice guidelines issued from time to time by the Board, providing details of supervisor/s and how supervision will be provided to ensure the medical practitioner's ongoing professional development and safe practice.
 - e) details of a training plan, prepared in accordance with any training plan guidelines issued from time to time by the Board, providing details of the purpose, anticipated duration, location, content and structure of training and the anticipated date of any examinations or assessments.
10. Written confirmation from the proposed supervisor that they agree to provide supervision and to comply with supervision obligations as required by the Board.
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.

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. There are three pathways to registration:

- competent authority pathway
 - standard pathway
 - specialist pathway – specialist recognition and short term training
1. Competent authority pathway:
 - a) certificate of Advanced Standing issued by the Australian Medical Council
 - b) satisfactory results of a pre-employment structured clinical interview (PESCI) required for any non specialist position if the Board determines the PESCI is necessary. The Board will base its

decision on the nature of the position and level of risk.

2. Standard pathway:
 - a) successful completion of the Australian Medical Council MCQ examination
 - b) satisfactory results of a pre-employment structured clinical interview (PESCI) required for any non specialist if the Board determines the PESCI is necessary. The Board will base its decision on the nature of the position and level of risk.
- 3a. Specialist pathway¹ – specialist recognition:
 - a) specialist college assessment (coordinated by the Australian Medical Council) as either:
 - substantially comparable; or
 - partially comparable
 - b) where possible, recommendations from the specialist college about necessary training for specialist recognition.
- 3b. Specialist pathway – short term training:

Typically, medical practitioners in this pathway have satisfied all the training and examination requirements to practise in their specialty in their country of training or are specialists-in-training in another country and wish to undertake specialised training in Australia.

 - a) Statement from the overseas specialist college or body awarding the specialist qualification, or with whom the applicant is a trainee in the country of training:
 - confirming the applicant's trainee status with the college/body
 - outlining the content, structure and length of the training program
 - confirming that the applicant is no more than 2 years from completing their specialist training
 - confirming that the applicant has passed a basic specialist examination or satisfactorily completed substantial training (generally 3 or more years i.e. PGY 5); and
 - identifying the objectives of the training to be undertaken in Australia or

OR:

 - confirming the applicant's specialist qualification in their country of training.
 - b) Written confirmation from the applicant that they will be returning to their country of training at the end of the period of postgraduate training or supervised practice.

¹This does not qualify applicants for specialist registration

Requirements on limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice

The Board establishes requirements on the medical registration of all limited registrants. The requirements relate to the requirement for the registrant to:

- comply with the supervision plan approved by the Board
- comply with the training plan approved by the Board
- ensure that supervisors provide regular reports to the Board regarding the registrant's safety and competence to practise
- perform satisfactorily in the position for postgraduate training or supervised practice
- provide evidence to confirm the satisfactory progress towards meeting the qualifications required for general registration or specialist registration if the practitioner is intending to practise medicine in Australia longer term
- restrict their practice to the approved position.

If a practitioner with limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice does not maintain their employment in the designated position, they are unable to comply with the requirements on their practice and therefore cannot practise medicine.

The Board will grant limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice for a period of up to 12 months.

The Board will be including the requirements of limited registration on the National Register pursuant to section 225(p) of the National Law.

Requirements for renewal of registration

1. Renewal of limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice 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 or requirements on registration
 - c) satisfactory performance in the position
 - d) 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 if the practitioner is intending to practise medicine in Australia longer term

- e) any additional investigation, information, examination or assessment required by the Board in accordance with section 80 of the National Law.

The Board will not renew limited registration more than three times. However, a new application for limited registration can be made.

2. The Board may refuse to renew the practitioner's registration if:
 - a) the practitioner's employment ceases or is terminated
 - b) the practitioner fails to comply with supervision requirements
 - c) the practitioner fails to comply with the training plan
 - d) the practitioner fails to demonstrate satisfactory progress towards general registration or specialist registration
 - e) during assessment or supervision, deficiencies are identified in the practitioner's practice that the Board considers are significant.

Applications for variation in changed circumstances

If a practitioner has a significant change in circumstances, such as a change from the original training plan or a change in position, they must submit a new application for limited registration. However, practitioners can apply to the Board for a variation if there is a minor change to their circumstances, such as a change in their supervisor.

When making an application for a variation, the Board requires details of the change of circumstances from the sponsoring employer and confirmation from the registrant that they agree to the change in circumstances. Supporting documentation of the change must be submitted.

If the Board considers that the variation is significant, it will require the registrant to submit a new application.

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.

Review

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