

Fact Sheet

1 May 2014

Endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered medical practitioners

Background

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) provides for the endorsement for acupuncture for all registered health practitioners, including medical practitioners.

It is a breach of the National Law for a person to take or use the title “acupuncturist” if that person is not registered by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia or if their registration has not been endorsed by one of the National Health Practitioner Boards.

Endorsement for acupuncture

The Medical Board of Australia (the Board) has developed a registration standard for *Endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered medical practitioners*. The registration standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council and sets out the requirements for endorsement of registration for acupuncture. It can be downloaded from the Board’s website at www.medicalboard.gov.au under ‘Registration Standards’.

Who can apply for endorsement?

Medical practitioners with general and/or specialist registration who meet the requirements of the Board’s registration standard may apply for endorsement of registration for acupuncture. An application form is available on the Board’s website at www.medicalboard.gov.au under “Registration”.

Individuals in the following circumstances **are not** eligible to apply for endorsement of registration for acupuncture with the Medical Board of Australia:

- Medical practitioners who are undertaking a course of study leading to an approved qualification for the endorsement of registration for acupuncture cannot have their registration endorsed as they do not have an approved qualification
- Medical practitioners with limited registration, non-practising registration or provisional registration
- Medical students.

Qualifications for endorsement of registration for acupuncture for medical practitioners

Approved qualifications

The approved qualifications for endorsement for acupuncture are:

1. The Graduate Certificate in Medical Acupuncture (Monash University) or
2. The Australian Medical Acupuncture Course

Eligible practitioners (with either qualification above) are also required to successfully complete the Fellowship of the Australian Medical Acupuncture College (FAMAC) Part 1 written and clinical examinations.

Transitional Arrangements – available until 30 June 2015

Arrangements have been made for the endorsement of registration for acupuncture for medical practitioners who do not have an approved qualification for acupuncture, but who were practising acupuncture before 1 July 2012.

Medical practitioners who do not hold an approved qualification and are captured by the following circumstances are eligible to apply for endorsement of registration for acupuncture up until 30 June 2015:

1. the applicant was accredited by the Joint Consultative Committee on Medical Acupuncture as at 30 June 2012 and has fulfilled the continuing professional development requirements for medical acupuncture for the previous triennium; or
2. the applicant has claimed 25 or more acupuncture-related Medicare item numbers* in the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2012

*Related Medicare item numbers are: 173, 193, 195, 197 or 199.

In accordance with the approved registration standard, after 30 June 2015 a medical practitioner applying for endorsement of registration for acupuncture must hold an approved qualification to be eligible for endorsement.

Recency of practice

The Board expects all medical practitioners to comply with the approved registration standard for recency of practice. This is available at www.medicalboard.gov.au.

Medical practitioners applying for endorsement of registration are required to provide evidence of work practice history that meets the Board's recency of practice registration standard, specifically in relation to the practice of acupuncture.

A person who has been awarded an approved qualification for acupuncture in the past 12 months prior to applying for endorsement of registration is taken to have complied with the Board's recency of practice registration standard.

Continuing professional development

The Board expects all medical practitioners to comply with the approved registration standard for CPD. This is available at www.medicalboard.gov.au. Medical practitioners whose registration is endorsed for acupuncture are required to undertake CPD specifically in acupuncture.

Medical practitioners who are on the Specialists Register and who are endorsed for acupuncture are required to comply with the CPD requirements of their specialist college. If possible, practitioners should include CPD activities related to acupuncture within their college program. If this is not available, they should undertake a minimum of 10 hours per year additional self-directed CPD that is relevant to acupuncture. Alternatively, they can complete another AMC accredited specialist college's CPD requirements for acupuncture.

Medical Practitioners who are not on the specialist register must either:

- undertake at least 20% of their CPD in acupuncture. For practitioners undertaking self-directed CPD, this equates to 10 hours per year or
- complete a specialist college CPD requirements for acupuncture.

Fees associated with application for endorsement and renewal of endorsement

An application fee applies for endorsement for acupuncture. Where a registered medical practitioner is granted endorsement of their registration for acupuncture, one annual registration fee applies to renew both the registration and the associated endorsement.