

Statement

12 December 2011

Specialist register update

AHPRA has recently written to all registered medical practitioners with general and or specialist registration about their listing on the Specialist Register.

AHPRA is updating the Specialists Register – including a practitioners' specialty and field of specialty practice as a priority – to make sure the community has accurate and up to date information about medical specialists. Medicare Australia will in future also be relying on the Specialists Register to determine eligibility for Medicare specialist rebates.

The accuracy of practitioners' listing on the Specialists Register, including their specialty, with any field/s of specialty practice, will guide Medicare Australia to determine whether patients are able to access a specialist rebate.

- If you are a vocationally registered general practitioner (VR GP) and you are not listed as a specialist on the Specialists Register, you must complete and return the form sent to you by AHPRA to make sure that you continue to receive the relevant rebate from Medicare Australia
- If you have specialist and /or general registration and you have received a letter from AHPRA you need to open it, read it and act on it if your listing on the Specialists Register is not accurate and up to date
- The documentation you need to supply to AHPRA to support a change to your listing on the Specialists Register is:
 - documentation from the relevant college verifying Fellowship (e.g. copy of original fellowship) or
 - a copy of specialist assessment from college/s or
 - evidence from Medicare Australia that before 1 July 2010, you were entitled to receive a Medicare specialist rebate¹ or
 - evidence of Vocational Registration status granted by Medicare before 1 July 2010.

A detailed briefing note on updating the Specialists Register is published on the Medical Board of Australia website at <http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/Types/Specialist-Registration.aspx>.

Updating the Specialists Register includes making sure:

- practitioners' specialty and field of specialty practice are accurate and up to date before Medicare Australia begins to rely on the Specialists Register to determine rebates
- practitioners' specialist qualifications are accurate, up to date and published consistently
- practitioners' initial medical qualification is published accurately and consistently

For more information

- Visit www.medicalboard.gov.au for information about medical regulation
- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200

¹ To be eligible for specialist registration, you must have been eligible to receive a specialist Medicare rebate **and** concurrently held general registration