

Proposed registration standard for granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of intern training

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (Medical Deans), comprises the 18 medical schools in Australia and the two New Zealand schools. The organisation is committed to the continual development and advocacy of medical education, training and research in Australia and New Zealand and is actively engaged in identifying, addressing and leading national issues in these areas.

Medical Deans is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the “Proposed registration standard for granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of intern training”.

The comments in this submission have been categorised under the following headings:

1. General Policy Issues on the Standard
2. Operational Issues with implementing the Standard

1. General Policy Issues on the Standards

- Medical Deans welcomes the proposed shift from experience in ‘general medicine’, ‘general surgery’ and ‘emergency medicine’ to experience in ‘medicine’, ‘surgery’, and ‘emergency medical care’. The proposed wording reflects the clinical placements currently undertaken by interns.
- Medical Deans supports the flexibility described in the draft standard around experience in emergency medicine and use of general practice settings more broadly.
- Medical Deans supports the use of overseas experiences that partly or fully satisfy requirements for general registration.
- The draft standard outlines workplace experience requirements. It should also include educational and supervision standards and some form of assessment which would contribute to end of year sign off prior to general registration. One suggestion is that the assessment could be based on achievement of learning objectives from the Australian Curriculum Framework for Junior Doctors, which are used to map clinical skills curricula by many Australian medical schools.
- The draft standard includes exposure to ambulatory practice during the medicine term. Medical Deans feels this will be difficult to achieve for all

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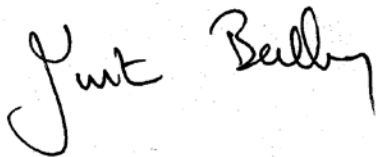
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interns and it would probably be better to state that such exposure is desirable.

- 'Satisfactory term supervisor reports' should be defined. Some interns may receive a poor report for a rotation early in the year, but progress to a satisfactory standard by the end of the year.

Operational Issues with implementing the Standards

- There is no definition of '1 week'. It should be defined in terms of hours or time of the day.
- The Standard should state that Interns need to work a mixture of shifts, including access to work outside of 9-5 in order to gain experience in emergency care. However any work undertaken outside 9-5 should not allow students to be left unsupervised.
- There is no mention in the standard about how interns will be assessed and the consequences if they do not pass this assessment.
- The Surgery rotation needs to be better defined. Is it hours in the Operating Theatre, ward based care of pre and post op patients, and/or demonstration of a minimal skills set to allow the Intern to be an effective surgical assistant or other experience?
- Medical Deans welcomes the allowances for part-time internships and interruptions to internship. The Board might like to consider including provisions for deferral of internship (eg for maternity leave or illness), and include details such as the length of time following deferral that graduation would be acceptable before some form of bridging/refresher course was required (perhaps up to 1 year?).



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President
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