

## Statement

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13 April 2012

### Eligibility for specialist registration

The Medical Board of Australia (the Board) is responsible for granting specialist registration under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (National Law) as in force in each state and territory. The National Law governs the operations of the Board in all areas of its work. The Board grants specialist registration to applicants who are qualified, eligible and suitable.

The Board and AHPRA are jointly responsible for keeping the Register of Medical Practitioners and the Specialists Register. AHPRA will finalise the Specialists Register in April 2012, ensuring that listings of practitioners' specialty and field of specialty practice are accurate and up to date providing information for the community which is in the public interest.

#### Eligibility for specialist registration

The Medical Board has published a [registration standard for specialist registration](#), after wide ranging consultation and approval by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. The registration standard defines the various requirements for granting specialist registration. This standard took effect on 14 June 2011.

The registration standard for specialist registration confirms that a person is qualified for specialist registration if they hold:

1. an approved qualification. The Board has approved the qualification of fellowship of all the AMC accredited specialist colleges
2. a qualification relevant to the specialty, usually from a country outside Australia, when the applicant has been assessed by an AMC accredited specialist college and has completed all requirements for a qualification that is approved by the Board.

Under the transitional arrangements in the National Law, the Board agreed that a range of other medical practitioners who did not have a fellowship of a specialist college that is accredited by the Australian Medical Council were to be included on the specialist register as a 'one-off' transitional arrangement at the start of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme in July 2010 (October 2010 for WA).

These other practitioners included:

1. Medical practitioners on the general practice vocational register on 30 June 2010
2. Medical practitioners recognised as specialists by a state or territory medical board
3. Medical practitioners who had been recognised by Medicare Australia as specialists after being assessed by a Specialist Recognition Advisory Committees (SRACs) or an Overseas Specialist Advisory Committees (OSACs).

No other medical practitioners are eligible to be recognised as specialists through these routes after 30 June 2010. A person entered on to the Vocational Register after 1 July 2010 who is not otherwise qualified for specialist registration whether by virtue of transitional arrangements or possessing a relevant fellowship qualification is not eligible for specialist registration.

### **Medicare rebates**

Eligibility to bill items under Medicare is determined by legislation and regulations administered by the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) and the Department of Human Services (DHS).

DoHA has confirmed that the introduction of the Specialist Register does not change current eligibility to access the MBS. Practitioners who are not included on the Specialist Register but who are currently eligible to bill A1 items (e.g. by virtue of participating in various current Australian Government programs), will continue to be eligible to bill A1 items, (provided they continue to meet the requirements of the program in which they are participating).

Information about access to the Medicare arrangements is available at <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/>

### *For more information*

- Visit [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://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
- Medicare - <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/>