



Communiqué

Medical Board of Australia meeting: 18 December 2013

The Medical Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

Audits for medical practitioners

All registered medical practitioners are required to comply with the Board's registration standards. Each time a practitioner applies to renew their registration, they must make a declaration that they have met the registration standards for their profession. AHPRA and the National Boards are developing a nationally consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with the mandatory registration standards:

- Continuing Professional Development
- Criminal History
- English Language Skills
- Professional Indemnity Insurance
- Recency of Practice.

The Board and AHPRA are currently finalising the audit methodology for medical practitioners' audit, which has been informed by pilot audits conducted for the chiropractic, nursing and midwifery, optometry and pharmacy professions. Auditing of medical practitioners will start from early 2014. A random sample of medical practitioners will be audited each year.

Guidelines on cosmetic medical and surgical procedures

In 2012, the Board consulted on supplementary guidelines to *Good Medical Practice: A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia* on cosmetic medical and surgical procedures. After feedback from that consultation, the Board decided not to develop supplementary guidelines but instead, to develop specific guidance about the professional standards expected when medical practitioners perform cosmetic medical and surgical procedures.

The Board has drafted *Guidelines on cosmetic medical and surgical procedures* and has recently undertaken preliminary consultation. The Board is considering the feedback received so far and will consult publicly on the guidelines in early 2014.

The consultation paper will be published under the News section of the Board's [website](#). The Board is seeking feedback from practitioners and the community during the consultation.

Accreditation decisions

One of the objectives of the National Law is to facilitate the provision of high quality education and training of health practitioners. The accreditation function is the primary way of achieving this. The National Law defines the respective roles of the Board and its appointed accreditation authority, the Australian Medical Council (AMC), in the accreditation of medical schools and medical specialist colleges and in the development and approval of registration standards.

The AMC accredited the following programs of study and on that basis, the Board approved the accredited programs of study as providing a qualification for the purpose of registration:

Accreditation of medical schools

Australian National University

The accredited medical programs are the:

- Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) (four-year graduate-entry) – approved to 31 December 2018
- Medicinae ac Chirurgiae Doctoranda (four-year graduate-entry) - approved to 31 December 2019.

The MBBS is in 'teach-out' phase, which means only currently enrolled students will complete this course.

Monash University

The accredited medical programs are the:

- Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (four year course) - approved to 31 December 2017
- Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (five year course) - approved to 31 December 2017.

University of Melbourne

The accredited medical programs are the:

- Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery/Bachelor of Medical Sciences (MBBS/BMedSc) (six year course) - approved to 31 December 2015
- Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (four and one half year course) - approved to 31 December 2015.

The MBBS and the MBBS/BMedSc are in 'teach-out' phase (to be replaced by the Doctor of Medicine program), which means only currently enrolled students will complete these courses.

Accreditation of specialist medical colleges

Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

The Board approved the accredited training programs and continuing professional development program in the recognised specialty of obstetrics and gynaecology leading to fellowship of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists as providing a qualification for the purposes of specialist registration to 31 December 2019.

Australasian College of Dermatologists

The Board approved the accredited education program and continuing professional development program in the recognised specialty of dermatology leading to fellowship of the Australasian College of Dermatologists as providing a qualification for the purposes of specialist registration until 31 December 2017.

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

The Board approved the accredited quality improvement and continuing professional development program and the following training programs in the recognised specialty of general practice leading to fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) as providing a qualification for the purposes of specialist registration until 31 December 2019:

- Vocational Training Pathway
- General Practice Experience (Practice Eligible) Pathway
- training program of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians accredited by the RACGP, and
- Specialist Pathway Program.

Accreditation of postgraduate medical councils

Under the National Law, an applicant for general registration who has an approved qualification is, among other things, required to have successfully completed any period of supervised practice in the profession required by an approved registration standard.

The Board has an approved registration standard for granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of intern training. This standard defines the supervised practice that applicants for general registration are required to complete and states that all terms 'must be accredited against approved accreditation standards for intern training positions by an authority approved by the Board'.

At the request of the Board, the AMC has undertaken work to implement a national standards framework for intern training. Under the national framework, the AMC will review and accredit the authorities that accredit intern training programs in each jurisdiction against the *Procedures for Assessment and Accreditation of Intern Training Accreditation Authorities*. These authorities are commonly known as postgraduate medical councils (PMCs).

The AMC has received initial reports from the following PMCs. On that basis, the AMC has granted initial accreditation and the Board has approved them as authorities that accredit intern positions:

- Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) – NSW
- Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV)
- Northern Territory Postgraduate Medical Council (NTPMC)
- Canberra Region Prevocational Management Committee (CRPMC) – ACT.

This initial accreditation and approval continues until the AMC completes a formal review.

The Board has granted preliminary interim approval to the following PMCs to accredit intern positions in their jurisdictions until 31 March 2014 pending their submission of a short report to the AMC:

- Postgraduate Medical Council of Queensland (PMCQ)
- Postgraduate Medical Council of Western Australia (PMCWA).

National standards framework for intern training

As requested by the Board, the AMC has developed a national standards framework for intern training to support the approved registration standard for granting general registration to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates after completion of the intern year.

As part of the framework, the AMC has developed a suite of intern training documents:

- Intern training – Intern outcome statements
- Intern training – Guidelines for terms
- Intern training programs – National standards for programs
- Intern training – Assessing and certifying completion
- Intern training – Term assessment form
- Intern training – Domains for assessing accreditation authorities
- Guide for interns.

Further information is available in the fourth joint newsletter released by the AMC and the Board on the framework. The newsletter is available on both the Board's [website](#) and the [AMC website](#).

Dr Joanna Flynn AM

Chair, Medical Board of Australia

13 January 2014