



Public consultation

24 March 2016

Consultation on draft revised registration standard for specialist registration

Summary

This public consultation paper released by the Medical Board of Australia (the Board) seeks feedback from stakeholders on a draft **revised** registration standard for specialist registration.

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), empowers the National Boards to develop registration standards for the approval of the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council).

The National Law requires the National Boards to ensure there is wide-ranging consultation on the content of any proposed registration standard, code or guideline.

Consultation process

The Board is inviting general comments on the draft revised registration standard as well as feedback on the following questions.

1. From your perspective, how is the current registration standard working?
2. Is the content and structure of the draft revised registration standard helpful, clear, relevant and more workable than the current standard?
3. Is there any content that needs to be changed or deleted in the draft revised registration standard?
4. Is there anything missing that needs to be added to the draft revised registration standard?
5. Do you have any other comments on the draft revised registration standard?

Please provide written submissions by email, marked: 'Draft revised registration standard for specialist registration' to medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au by close of business on **31 May 2016**.

Submissions for publication on the Board's website should be sent in Word format or equivalent.¹

Submissions by post should be addressed to the Executive Officer, Medical, AHPRA, GPO Box 9958, Melbourne 3001.

¹ You are welcome to supply a PDF file of your feedback in addition to the word (or equivalent) file, however we request that you supply a text or word file. As part of an effort to meet international website accessibility guidelines, AHPRA and National Boards are striving to publish documents in accessible formats (such as word), in addition to PDFs. More information about this is available at www.ahpra.gov.au/About-AHPRA/Accessibility.aspx

Publication of submissions

The Board publishes submissions at its discretion.

The Board generally publishes submissions on its website to encourage discussion and inform the community and stakeholders. Please advise us if you do not want your submission published.

We will not place on our website, or make available to the public, submissions that contain offensive or defamatory comments or which are outside the scope of the subject of the consultation. Before publication, we may remove personally-identifying information from submissions, including contact details.

The views expressed in the submissions are those of the individuals or organisations who submit them and their publication does not imply any acceptance of, or agreement with, these views by the Board.

The Board accepts submissions made in confidence. These submissions will not be published on the website or elsewhere. Submissions may be confidential because they include personal experiences or other sensitive information. Any request for access to a confidential submission will be determined in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth), which has provisions designed to protect personal information and information given in confidence. Please let us know if you do not want us to publish your submission, or want us to treat all or part of it as confidential.

Published submissions will include the names of the individuals and/or the organisations that made the submission, unless confidentiality is requested.

Background

Under section 38(2)(c) of the National Law, the National Boards may develop and recommend to the Ministerial Council registration standards about the eligibility of individuals for registration or the suitability of individuals to competently and safely practise the profession. Under section 12, the Ministerial Council may approve a registration standard recommended by a National Board.

The Board developed the current registration standard for specialist registration under the National Law. The current standard was approved by the Ministerial Council and came into effect on 14 June 2011 following wide-ranging consultation. The standard is due for review and the Board has developed a revised draft for consultation.

The National Law empowers the Board to grant specialist registration in a recognised specialty or field of specialty practice to persons who are eligible (s.57) qualified (s.58) and suitable (s.60) for specialist registration. The current registration standard and the proposed draft revised registration standard sets out the Board's requirements for granting specialist registration.

Proposed changes to the current standard

The proposed changes to the current standard are mostly editorial in nature, restructuring and re-wording the standard to improve readability and clarify current requirements. It is not proposed to change the current requirements for specialist registration and no new requirements are proposed.

The following are the key changes proposed.

Removal of information about the dual meaning of 'fellowship'

Under the National Law, the Board has approved the qualification of 'fellowship' of an Australian Medical Council accredited specialist medical college as providing a qualification for specialist registration. The **current** standard describes the dual meaning of 'fellowship' to differentiate between the approved qualification of 'fellowship' against 'fellowship' the ongoing affiliation with or membership of a specialist medical college.

The difference between qualification requirements for registration and college requirements for ongoing affiliation/membership is often confused by stakeholders. To avoid confusion and clarify requirements for registration, it is proposed that the current information on the dual meaning of 'fellowship' is removed from the standard.

The draft **revised** standard will continue to set out the qualification requirements for specialist registration. These include:

1. holding an approved qualification for the specialty. 'Approved qualification' is defined in the National Law and the Board is required to publish a list of approved qualifications for registration. This list is accessible at www.medicalboard.gov.au under [Accreditation](#).
2. holding a qualification relevant to a recognised speciality that has not been approved by the Board and successfully completing an examination or other assessment required by the Board (known as the specialist pathway – specialist recognition).

Reference to guidance on the process for assessing Australian and New Zealand medical graduates with overseas specialist qualifications

Under the National Law, the accredited specialist medical colleges are responsible for assessing the training and experience of applicants for specialist registration who obtained their specialist qualifications overseas. Although there is a documented assessment process for specialist international medical graduates – 'the specialist pathway - specialist recognition', the process for the assessment of Australian and New Zealand medical graduates with overseas specialist qualifications had not been documented by the Board previously.

The Board has developed separate guidance on this process and has referenced the guidance in the draft **revised** standard. The reference in the draft **revised** standard does not change current

requirements for specialist registration for Australian and New Zealand medical graduates with overseas specialist qualifications.

Removal of information on the documentary evidence required for general registration

The **current** standard sets out the documentary evidence required from applicants applying for specialist registration who:

1. hold current general registration
2. are not qualified for general registration
3. are qualified for general registration but have not applied for general registration.

The proposed draft **revised** standard updates the way the requirements for specialist registration are set out to make it more readable and easier to follow. As this standard sets out the requirements for specialist registration, the requirements for general registration for those who are qualified but who have not applied for general registration have been removed. Persons who are qualified for general registration can apply for general registration and application information is available on the Board's website.

Removal of specific details in relation to primary source verification and the approved medical school directory

The **current** standard requires an applicant for registration to provide evidence of:

1. an application for, or the results of, primary source verification of their medical qualifications from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) International Credentials Service (EICS) and
2. being awarded a primary degree in medicine and surgery, after completing an approved course of study at a medical school listed in the current International Medical Education Directory (IMED) (online only) of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER), or other publications approved by the Australian Medical Council.

The ECFMG has replaced the manual EICS process with a streamlined electronic process for primary source verification, the Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPIC). The ECFMG is also replacing the IMED FAIMER directory with the online World Directory of Medical Schools (WDOMS).

The proposed draft **revised** standard retains the requirements for primary source verification of qualifications and holding a primary degree in medicine and surgery listed in an Australian Medical Council and/or Board approved publications but the specific details have been removed to allow for changes to names and processes over time.

The Board's website, registration application forms and other published documentation will continue to provide current information on how applicants can meet these requirements.

Options

The Board has considered the following options in developing this proposal.

Option 1 – Maintain the status quo

Option 1 is to continue with the existing registration standard. The registration standard established the Board's initial requirements for specialist registration under the National Law. The Board has, however, identified ways to improve the standard, including ensuring the currency of some requirements, the relevance of any information and the opportunity to clarify the language and structure to make it easier to understand.

Option 2 – Proposed revised standard

Option 2 is to consult on proposed minor changes to the current registration standard. Under this option the revised registration standard would continue to set out the Board's requirements for specialist registration. The revisions are mostly editorial in nature, restructuring and re-wording the standard to improve readability, clarifying current requirements where needed and ensuring currency of requirements and relevance of information.

Preferred option

The Board prefers Option 2.

Issues for consultation

Potential benefits and costs of the proposal

The benefits of the preferred option are that the draft **revised** standard:

1. is more user-friendly
2. maintains the balance between protecting the public and the impact on registrants and applicants for registration
3. has been reworded to be simpler, clearer and current.

The costs of the preferred option are likely to be minimal. Applicants, other stakeholders, AHPRA and National Boards will need to become familiar with the **revised** standard.

Estimated impacts of the draft revised registration standard

The changes proposed in the draft revised standard do not change current requirements, although more significant changes may emerge through consultation. There is little impact anticipated on practitioners, business and other stakeholders arising from the changes proposed.

Relevant sections of the National Law

The relevant sections of the National Law are 38(2)(c), 57, 58, 59, 60 and 61.

Attachments

1. Draft **revised** *Registration standard: specialist registration*
2. The Board's statement of assessment against AHPRA's *Procedures for the development of registration standards, codes and guidelines* and COAG *Principles for best practice regulation*

The current registration standard for specialist registration is published on the Board's website, accessible from www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.

Registration standard

Specialist registration

Effective from: <<date>>

Review date: <<date>>

Summary

This registration standard sets out the requirements of the Medical Board of Australia (the Board) for an application for, and renewal of, specialist registration.

Background

Under section 13 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council) decides whether specialist recognition applies to a health profession on the recommendation from a National Board established for the profession.

Specialist registration applies to the medical profession.

Specialist registration can only be granted in a specialty that has been approved by the Ministerial Council. The Ministerial Council has approved a list of specialties, fields of specialty practice and specialist titles for the medical profession. The approved list is published on the Board's website.

Under the National Law, practitioners with specialist registration can use the protected title associated with their specialist registration in a recognised specialty or field of specialty practice. It is a breach of the National Law for practitioners to use a protected title if they do not have specialist registration in the relevant specialty.

The Board and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) maintain and publish an online Specialists register that contains the names and registration status of medical practitioners who are registered as specialists. Medical practitioners who have more than one specialist qualification may have specialist registration in more than one specialty and this is reflected on the register.

The specialist medical colleges accredited by the Australian Medical Council (the AMC) are currently the education providers for specialist training for the purposes of specialist registration. They also conduct the assessment and/or examination of specialist international medical graduates (IMGs) who are seeking to qualify for specialist registration in Australia. This assessment process for specialist IMGs is known as the specialist pathway - specialist recognition.

Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to individuals who apply for specialist registration, or who apply to renew their specialist registration.

Qualifications for specialist registration

Under section 58 of the National Law, you are qualified for specialist registration, if you:

1. hold an approved qualification for the specialty. A list of approved qualifications for specialist registration is published on the Board's website at www.medicalboard.gov.au
2. hold another qualification the Board considers to be substantially equivalent, or based on similar competencies to an approved qualification for the specialty
3. hold a qualification relevant to a recognised specialty that is not approved by the Board and you have successfully completed any assessment and/or examination required by the Board. The accredited specialist medical colleges currently conduct the assessment and/or examination of specialist IMGs
4. hold a qualification that qualified you for specialist registration (however described) under the National Law or the corresponding prior Act and you were previously registered under the National Law or the corresponding prior Act on the basis of holding that qualification for the specialty.

What must I do?

When you apply for specialist registration

Applicants with current general registration

You must provide evidence of:

1. being awarded an approved qualification for the specialty, or
2. holding a qualification relevant to a recognised specialty that is not approved by the Board and evidence you have successfully completed any examination or other assessment required by an accredited specialist medical college that qualifies you for specialist registration, or
3. holding a qualification that qualified you for specialist registration (however described) and previous registration under the National Law or the corresponding prior Act on the basis of holding that qualification for the specialty.

Applicants who are not qualified for general registration

This applies to specialist IMGs.

You must:

1. meet the requirements in the Board's approved registration standards for:
 - a. English language skills
 - b. recency of practice
 - c. professional indemnity insurance, and
 - d. continuing professional development
2. comply with the Board's proof of identity policy as published on the Board or AHPRA websites
3. satisfactorily complete a criminal history check in accordance with guidance issued from time to time by the Board or AHPRA
4. provide evidence that you have applied for, or have the results of, primary source verification of your medical qualifications from an authority(ies) approved by the Board

5. provide evidence of having been awarded a primary degree in medicine and surgery, after completing an approved course of study at a medical school listed in publications approved by the AMC and/or Board. An approved course of study means that you must be able to demonstrate that you have completed a medical curriculum of at least four academic years (full-time equivalent), leading to an entitlement to registration in the country issuing the degree to practise clinical medicine
6. provide evidence of successful completion of a medical internship or comparable. The Board may issue guidance on what defines a comparable medical internship
7. provide evidence of:
 - a. being awarded an approved qualification for the specialty, or
 - b. holding a qualification relevant to a recognised specialty that is not approved by the Board and evidence you have successfully completed any examination or other assessment required by an accredited specialist medical college that qualifies you for specialist registration, or
 - c. holding a qualification that qualified you for specialist registration (however described) and previous registration under the National Law or the corresponding prior Act on the basis of holding that qualification for the specialty.
8. provide a curriculum vitae that meets the standard format that has been approved by the Board
9. provide evidence of your registration history. This includes arranging for the Board to receive certificates of good standing / registration status (or equivalent type of certificate) from each registration authority that you have been registered with in the previous 10 years. The certificates should be supplied, where possible, directly to the Board from the relevant registration authority.

All applicants

Documents submitted to support an application for specialist registration must comply with the requirements for certifying and translating documents as published on the Board or AHPRA websites.

If you have previously been, or are currently registered in a health profession, in Australia under the National Scheme and have therefore provided information to a Board previously or your information is available to the Board through the AMC secure portal, some of the documentation requirements in this standard may be waived.

The Board may require you to provide any other information consistent with section 80 of the National Law to determine your eligibility and suitability for specialist registration.

At renewal of specialist registration

When you apply to renew your specialist registration, you must:

1. complete a renewal of registration application that includes the annual renewal statement in accordance with the provisions in the National Law, section 109
2. demonstrate compliance with any conditions or undertakings imposed on registration.

The Board may require further information, or may require you to undergo an investigation, examination or assessment consistent with section 110 of the National Law to determine whether to renew your registration.

Period of specialist registration

The Board will initially grant specialist registration for the period until the following 30 September. Thereafter, annual renewal of specialist registration will be granted for 12 months, with an annual expiry date of 30 September.

More information

Assessment of specialist IMGs

Under section 59 of the National Law, the Board has decided that any examination and/or assessment of a specialist IMG that is undertaken to assess the individual's ability to competently and safely practise in the specialty, will be conducted by the relevant specialist medical college that has been accredited by the AMC. This assessment process is known as the specialist pathway - specialist recognition.

Specialist pathway -specialist recognition

Specialist IMGs apply to the relevant specialist medical college for an assessment of comparability to an Australian trained specialist in the same specialty. Specialist IMGs who are assessed under this pathway as 'partially comparable' or 'substantially comparable' are not qualified for specialist registration until the college confirms that they have successfully completed any additional assessments, examinations or other requirements set by the college, to qualify for specialist registration.

Australian and New Zealand medical graduates with overseas specialist qualifications

Australian and New Zealand medical graduates with overseas specialist qualifications also apply to the relevant specialist medical college for an assessment of comparability to an Australian trained specialist in the same specialty. Australian and New Zealand medical graduates with international specialist qualifications are not qualified for specialist registration until the college confirms that they have successfully completed any additional assessments, examinations or other requirements set by the college to qualify for specialist registration.

The Board has published guidance on the assessment process for Australian and New Zealand medical graduates with overseas specialist qualifications accessible at www.medicalboard.gov.au.

Relationship between specialist registration and specialist medical colleges

Medical practitioners on the Specialists register are required to comply with the Board's *Registration standard for continuing professional development* (CPD). The standard requires specialist medical practitioners to meet the requirements for CPD set by the relevant specialist medical college for every specialty in which they hold specialist registration. There may be CPD activities undertaken that fulfill the CPD requirements of more than one college. Alternatively, specialist medical practitioners can choose a self-directed program of CPD only if the program meets the requirements for CPD set by the relevant college. For more information refer to the Board's registration standard for CPD.

There may be circumstances when a specialist medical college decides to revoke a medical practitioner's fellowship or membership of the college. This may be for one of a range of reasons, including because the practitioner is no longer considered to be suitable to be a fellow or member of the college or because of non-compliance with the college's CPD requirements. These practitioners will remain on the Specialists register until the individual surrenders their registration or a Tribunal decides to remove their name from the register, consistent with the provisions of the National Law.

If a practitioner's fellowship or membership has been revoked by a specialist medical college because they are not deemed to be suitable, particularly if there are issues of conduct, performance or impairment, the Board expects the college to notify the Board, in the interests of public safety. The Board will consider the matter and decide on the necessary course of action.

The Board encourages any specialist medical college to notify the Board if it has revoked a practitioner's fellowship or membership for failing to comply with CPD requirements.

Register of Medical Practitioners and Specialists register

The names of medical practitioners with general and specialist registration are published on both the Register of Medical Practitioners and the Specialists register.

If you are only qualified for specialist registration your name is only recorded on the Specialists register. If your name is only on the Specialists register, you must restrict your scope of practice to the specialty or the field of specialty practice in which you hold specialist registration.

You may opt to surrender your specialist registration if:

1. you hold general and specialist registration and are no longer practising in the specialty
2. you hold specialist registration in more than one specialty and are no longer practising in one or more specialties.

You will not be required to meet the Board's registration standard for CPD for any specialties that you are no longer registered in.

Restricted scope of practice

If you hold specialist registration but do not qualify for general registration, you will have a restricted scope of practice compared with a medical practitioner who has both general and specialist registration.

The scope of practice of a medical practitioner who is granted specialist registration only will be restricted to their area of specialist practice, based on the advice from the relevant specialist medical college. Your scope of practice is recorded on the Specialists register.

Where your scope of practice is limited to an area of practice within a recognised specialty or field of specialty practice, conditions will be imposed on your registration reflecting your limited scope of practice. The conditions will appear on the Specialists register.

What happens if I don't meet this standard?

The National Law establishes possible consequences if you don't meet this standard, including that:

1. the Board can impose a condition or conditions on your registration or can refuse your application for registration or renewal of registration, if you do not meet a requirement in an approved registration standard for the profession (sections 82, 83 and 112 of the National Law), and
2. registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings about health practitioners as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice or conduct for the health profession (section 41 of the National Law).

If you breach any of the requirements of this registration standard or any of the Board's registration standards, codes or guidelines, the Board may take action in respect of health, performance or conduct under Part 8 of the National Law or an authority in a co-regulatory jurisdiction may take disciplinary action under their relevant legislation.

Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on <insert date of approval>

Registration standards are developed under section 38 of the National Law and are subject to wide ranging consultation.

Definitions

Approved qualification means a program of study accredited by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) and approved by the Board as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration. The current approved qualification for specialist registration is fellowship of a specialist medical college accredited by the AMC. Approved qualifications for general and specialist registration are published on the Board's website at www.medicalboard.gov.au.

National Law means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.

National Scheme means the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Specialist medical college means a college:

1. whose program of study has been accredited by the Board's accreditation authority, the Australian Medical Council, and
2. whose resultant qualification has been approved by the Board as providing a qualification for the purposes of specialist registration.

Review

This standard will be reviewed at least every five years.

Last reviewed: XXXX

This standard replaces the previously published registration standard from 14 June 2011.

DRAFT



Statement of assessment

Board's statement of assessment against AHPRA's *Procedures for the development of registration standards, codes and guidelines* and COAG *Principles for best practice regulation*

Registration standard: Specialist registration

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has *Procedures for the development of registration standards, codes and guidelines* which are available at: www.ahpra.gov.au

These procedures have been developed by AHPRA in accordance with section 25 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) which requires AHPRA to establish procedures for the purpose of ensuring that the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) operates in accordance with good regulatory practice.

Below is the Medical Board of Australia's (the Board) assessment of their proposal for its draft revised registration standard against the three elements outlined in the AHPRA procedures.

1. The proposal takes into account the National Scheme's objectives and guiding principles set out in section 3 of the National Law

Board assessment

The Board considers that the draft revised registration standard meets the objectives and guiding principles of the National Law.

The proposed standard:

1. provides for the high quality education and training of specialist medical practitioners
2. facilitates the rigorous and responsive assessment of internationally qualified specialists
3. facilitates access to services provided by health practitioners in the public interest.

The current and proposed standards define the Board's requirements for granting specialist registration to practitioners that have completed training and/or assessment delivered by education providers accredited by the Australian Medical Council under the National Law.

By providing pathways towards achieving specialist registration, the current and proposed standard promote access of specialist services.

The proposed standard if approved, will provide for the protection of the public by ensuring that only practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are granted specialist registration.

The draft revised registration standard also supports the National Scheme to operate in a transparent, accountable, efficient, effective and fair way by providing a clear and transparent framework for assessing applications for registration in a consistent manner.

2. The consultation requirements of the National Law are met

Board assessment

The National Law requires wide-ranging consultation on proposed registration standards. The National Law also requires the Board to consult the other National Boards on matters of shared interest.

The Board is ensuring there is public exposure of its proposals and the opportunity for public comment by undertaking an eight week public consultation process. The process will include the publication of the consultation paper (attachments) on its website and informing medical practitioners via the Board's electronic newsletter sent to more than 95% of registered medical practitioners.

The Board has drawn this paper to the attention of key stakeholders including the other National Boards.

The Board will take into account the feedback it receives when finalising its draft revised registration standard for submission to the Ministerial Council for approval.

3. The proposal takes into account the COAG Principles for Best Practice Regulation

Board assessment

In developing the draft revised registration standard for consultation, the Board has taken into account the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) *Principles for Best Practice Regulation*.

As an overall statement, the Board has taken care not to propose unnecessary regulatory burdens that would create unjustified costs for the profession or the community.

The Board makes the following assessment specific to each of the COAG principles expressed in the AHPRA procedures.

COAG Principles

A. Whether the proposal is the best option for achieving the proposal's stated purpose and protection of the public

Board assessment

The Board considers that its proposal is the best option for achieving the stated purposes and public protection. The Board proposes minor changes to an existing standard. The proposed changes ensure that requirements for registration remain relevant and current. There have been editorial changes to improve readability and ensure clarity of current requirements.

The community expects that medical practitioners who are entitled to call themselves specialists by virtue of their specialist registration have the training, knowledge and skills to provide specialist health services. The current and proposed standards define the approved training programs, examinations or other assessment that medical practitioners must complete to be granted specialist registration.

The Board publishes an online Specialists Register which lists the names and qualifications of specialist medical practitioners and their field of specialty. Only medical practitioners granted specialist registration can use the protected titles associated with their specialist registration. The Specialists Register enables the public to identify a specialist from a non-specialist medical practitioner.

The public can feel confident that a medical practitioner listed in the Specialists Register has met the education and training requirements required to provide specialist health services.

B. Whether the proposal results in an unnecessary restriction of competition among health practitioners

Board assessment

The Board considered whether its proposal could result in an unnecessary restriction of competition among health practitioners. The proposed standard does not change current requirements and is not expected to impact on the current levels of competition among health practitioners.

C. Whether the proposal results in an unnecessary restriction of consumer choice

Board assessment

The Board considers that the draft revised registration standard will support consumer choice by facilitating access to specialist health services provided by specialist medical practitioners.

D. Whether the overall costs of the proposal to members of the public and/or registrants and/or governments are reasonable in relation to the benefits to be achieved

Board assessment

The Board considered the overall costs of the draft revised registration standard to members of the public, medical practitioners and governments and concluded that the likely costs are minimal when offset against the benefits that the draft revised standard contributes to the National Scheme.

Subject to stakeholder feedback on the proposed revision and if approved by the Ministerial Council, the draft revised registration standard should have only minimal impact on the costs to applicants as the proposals do not change current requirements for registration.

E. Whether the proposal's requirements are clearly stated using 'plain language' to reduce uncertainty, enable the public to understand the requirements, and enable understanding and compliance by registrants

Board assessment

The Board considers the draft revised registration standard has been written in plain English that will help practitioners to understand the requirements of the standard. The Board has changed the structure of the standard and reviewed the wording to make the standard easier to understand.

F. Whether the Board has procedures in place to ensure that the proposed registration standard, code or guideline remains relevant and effective over time

Board assessment

If approved, the Board will review the revised registration standard at least every five years, including an assessment against the objectives and guiding principles in the National Law and the COAG principles for best practice regulation.

However, the Board may choose to review the standard earlier, in response to any issues which arise or new evidence which emerges to ensure the standards' continued relevance and workability.