



SPECIAL ISSUE: International Medical Graduates

A **nationally consistent** model of uniform pathways for international medical graduates (IMGs) is being phased in by all medical registration bodies in Australia.

As Queensland moves ahead with the introduction of the new pathways to registration, we will keep you up-to-date with regular announcements on our website: www.medicalboard.qld.gov.au

Note - development of the uniform pathways to registration is a work in progress.

While the broad parameters are reasonably clear, some of the detail is not settled and may be subject to change.

Improved registration processes for IMGs

By national agreement, the following uniform assessment pathways are being introduced for International Medical Graduates:

1. Competent Authority pathway
2. Standard pathway
3. Specialist pathway

1. Competent Authority Pathway

IMGs may progress along the competent authority pathway if they are seeking registration for a non-specialist position and have passed the AMC eligibility requirements for the Competent Authority pathway.

Information regarding eligibility for special purpose registration under the competent authority pathway (including Advanced Standing) is available from the AMC website www.amc.org.au.

The Medical Board of Queensland was the first agency accredited by the AMC to process applicants along this pathway.

Important dates

1 March 2008— IMGs seeking to renew existing special purpose registration must be able to demonstrate progress towards general registration or specialist registration (s138 and s111(2) excepted).

1 July 2008 — New IMG applicants with appropriate qualifications from the UK, USA, Canada and New Zealand should apply for AMC Advanced Standing Certificate in lieu of sitting the AMC exam.

1 July 2008 — New IMG applicants must have passed the AMC MCQ exam.

1 July 2008 — New IMG applicants with overseas specialist qualifications must have had their qualifications and experience assessed by the AMC.

2. Standard Pathway

IMGs not eligible under the Competent Authority or Specialist pathways may be assessed and registered via the Standard pathway. It is anticipated that from 1 July 2008, successful completion of the AMC Multiple Choice Exam will be a prerequisite for new applications for registration.

Information regarding the AMC examination timetable and examination centres, is available from the AMC website www.amc.org.au.

3. Specialist Pathway

Overseas trained specialists, or advanced trainees completing an overseas specialty qualification, may apply using the specialist pathway.

IMGs seeking registration via this pathway will need to have their qualifications assessed by the relevant Specialist College via the Australian Medical Council (AMC).

From 1 July, all other applicants will need to seek registration via the Standard or Competent Authority Pathway.



What this means for employers

1. Competent Authority
 - IMGs with Advanced Standing Certification from the AMC and an offer of employment can seek special purpose registration via the Competent Authority pathway and will not be required to sit an AMC MCQ examination
 - After 12 months of satisfactory supervised clinical practise the registrant can apply for a review of their practise in Queensland for the purpose of applying for the AMC Certificate
 - The AMC Certificate is a pre-requisite for a general registration application.
 - For more information on this pathway please visit the website www.medicalboard.qld.gov.au.
2. Standard Pathway
 - From 1 July 2008, all other IMGs seeking registration will have to successfully complete an AMC MCQ exam
 - Some positions in the postgraduate training categories may not meet the criteria for the Specialist pathway and applicants for these types of positions maybe required to proceed through the Competent Authority or Standard Pathways.
3. Specialist Pathway
 - Overseas trained specialists assessed by the College and supported for a position in Queensland (including deemed specialists) will not be required to sit an AMC MCQ examination.

Current Special Purpose Registrants

All current special purpose registrants and those approved before 1 July 2008 must continue to meet their obligations to progress towards eligibility for general or specialist registration. For more information on this policy please go to the Board's website www.medicalboard.qld.gov.au.

Ireland seeks Competent Authority status

The AMC is currently assessing an application from Ireland for competent authority status. Keep an eye on the Medical Board website for updates.

Assessment report revised

The *Special Purpose – Registrant Assessment Report* (Form 103) has been replaced with a version which is being adopted by all Australian medical boards.

The revised form (Version 2.0) is available on the Board's website: www.medicalboard.qld.gov.au/forms

This report is critical in the special purpose registration application process and is used to:

- assess whether a doctor's existing registration will be renewed
- assess whether a new registration will be approved
- verify that an applicant has undertaken 12 months of supervised clinical practice.

Please note:

Supervisors giving information to the Board on registrants under their supervision are afforded liability protection under law.

It should also be noted that the provision of false or misleading information or documents is an offence and may lead to disciplinary action by the Board.



Area of Need GP Guide

A general practice guide and self-assessment tool has been developed by the Medical Board for applicants seeking a GP position in a certified Area of Need.

The Guide provides information on the framework the Board uses when considering the level of supervision an applicant may require.

A copy of the guide is available on the Board website.

Orientation checklist to be introduced

To ensure all supervisors provide international medical graduates with assistance in gaining an understanding the medical system in Queensland, it will soon be a requirement that supervisors and individual IMGs certify to the Board that orientation was provided/received.

This certification will be required within three months of starting employment and will indicate the timing of orientation and the topics covered.

Watch the website for further updates.

Notification problems

Area of Need – Notification of Transfer of Registrants, including Rural Relief (Form 202) and Special Purpose – Notification of Change in Supervisor (Form 201) continue to cause problems.

When completing these forms please check that:

- they are lodged well in advance (The transfer start date cannot be earlier than the date the Board receives the form.)
- the forms are complete, the information is correct and all supporting documentation is attached.
- they are signed by the approved supervisor (no other member of staff can sign on their behalf).

In future, they may be returned to you without being processed if they are incomplete.

Complete transfer forms are processed within 48 hours from the time they are received.

Please be aware that transferring doctors must not start in their transfer position until their practice details have been amended on the Public Access Register.

For more information contact the Senior Assessment Officer (Monitoring and Assessment) on (07) 3405 4014.

Recognition of FACRRM

On 1 February 2007, the Australian Medical Council (AMC) notified 'initial accreditation' of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) as a training provider.

In assessing ACRRM's programs for initial accreditation, the AMC considered the current training pathways leading to fellowship of ACRRM: the Vocational Preparation Pathway, Independent Pathway, and Remote Vocational Training Scheme Pathway.

The AMC is yet to complete 'full accreditation' of the college for the approved pathways.

The AMC did not assess those pathways which no longer exist (i.e. the Grandfathering and Pioneer Pathway) and subsequently advised the Board it would not recommend recognition of a fellowship achieved through an unaccredited pathway.

Due to mutual recognition issues, the status of 'initial accreditation' of ACRRM for the purposes of registration is still the subject of discussion between state and territory medical boards within Australia.

The Medical Board of Queensland is currently reviewing what options may be available to reach a national consensus in relation to the implications of 'initial accreditation' of ACRRM.

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