



## Special Purpose Policy – Standard (Non Specialist) Pathway

### 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to detail eligibility requirements and procedures for registration via the Standard (Non Specialist) Pathway.
- 1.2 The Standard (Non Specialist) Pathway is a nationally agreed assessment and registration process developed by the Australian Medical Council (AMC). It enables eligible International Medical Graduates (IMGs) gain Special Purpose registration initially and to progress towards obtaining General registration in Australia.

### 2 SCOPE

- 2.1 The Standard (Non Specialist) Pathway is for IMGs who do not hold specialist qualifications in another country, who are seeking registration to practice in Queensland.
- 2.2 IMGs who are eligible for the Competent Authority Pathway must follow that path.
- 2.3 Those exempt from the requirements of the Standard (Non Specialist) Pathway are:
  - short term (five weeks or less) Special Purpose registrants.

### 3 LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

- 3.1 *The Medical Practitioners Registration Act 2001* (the Act) provides for applicants who have obtained a primary medical qualification recognised by the World Health Organisation and International Medical Education Directory (IMED), which was obtained outside Australia or New Zealand, to be eligible for Special Purpose registration (Section 131).
- 3.2 For the purposes of the Standard (Non Specialist) Pathway, Special Purpose registrations under the following sections are appropriate:
  - Section 133 – Supervised training for AMC examinations, or
  - Section 134 – Medical teaching or research and connected practices, or
  - Section 135 – Practice in an Area of Need, or
  - Section 137 – For a particular purpose if deemed to be in the public interest
- 3.3 Section 140 of the Act empowers the Board to register a Special Purpose registrant for a period not more than 12 months at any one time.
- 3.4 If an applicant does not comply with the stated application requirement(s), the Board will consider the application has been withdrawn, pursuant to Section 46(5)(a) of the Act.
- 3.5 The Board may also decide to impose conditions on an applicant's registration as considered necessary pursuant to Section 141(1) of the Act.

## **4 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

4.1 Before an application for registration can be lodged with the Board, an applicant **must** have the following:

- passed the AMC Multiple Choice Questionnaire (MCQ)
- evidence of English language proficiency as determined by the English Language Policy
- a valid job offer in Queensland
- commenced verification of their primary medical qualifications through the AMC; and
- requested ORIGINAL Certificates of Registrations Status (CORS) from each licensing authority in each location (country, state or locality) where they have practised medicine, to be sent direct to the Board.

4.2 In determining an application for Special Purpose registration through the Standard (Non Specialist) Pathway the Board will consider the applicant's:

- fitness to practise
- qualifications
- knowledge
- skills
- experience

4.3 The Board will also consider the level, type and location of the position the applicant wishes to fill and the level of supervision required.

4.4 If the Board is not satisfied that the applicant is suitable for the position the Board will refuse the application.

4.5 When deciding an application for Special Purpose Registration the Board may also decide that special conditions are required to ensure safe and competent practice.

4.6 The Board will utilise the steps within the Standard (Non Specialist) Pathway to assist it in these considerations.

## **5 CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION**

5.1 As a Special Purpose registrant, the Board must impose a condition pursuant to section 140A requiring a registrant to practice in accordance with the supervised practice plan approved by the Board.

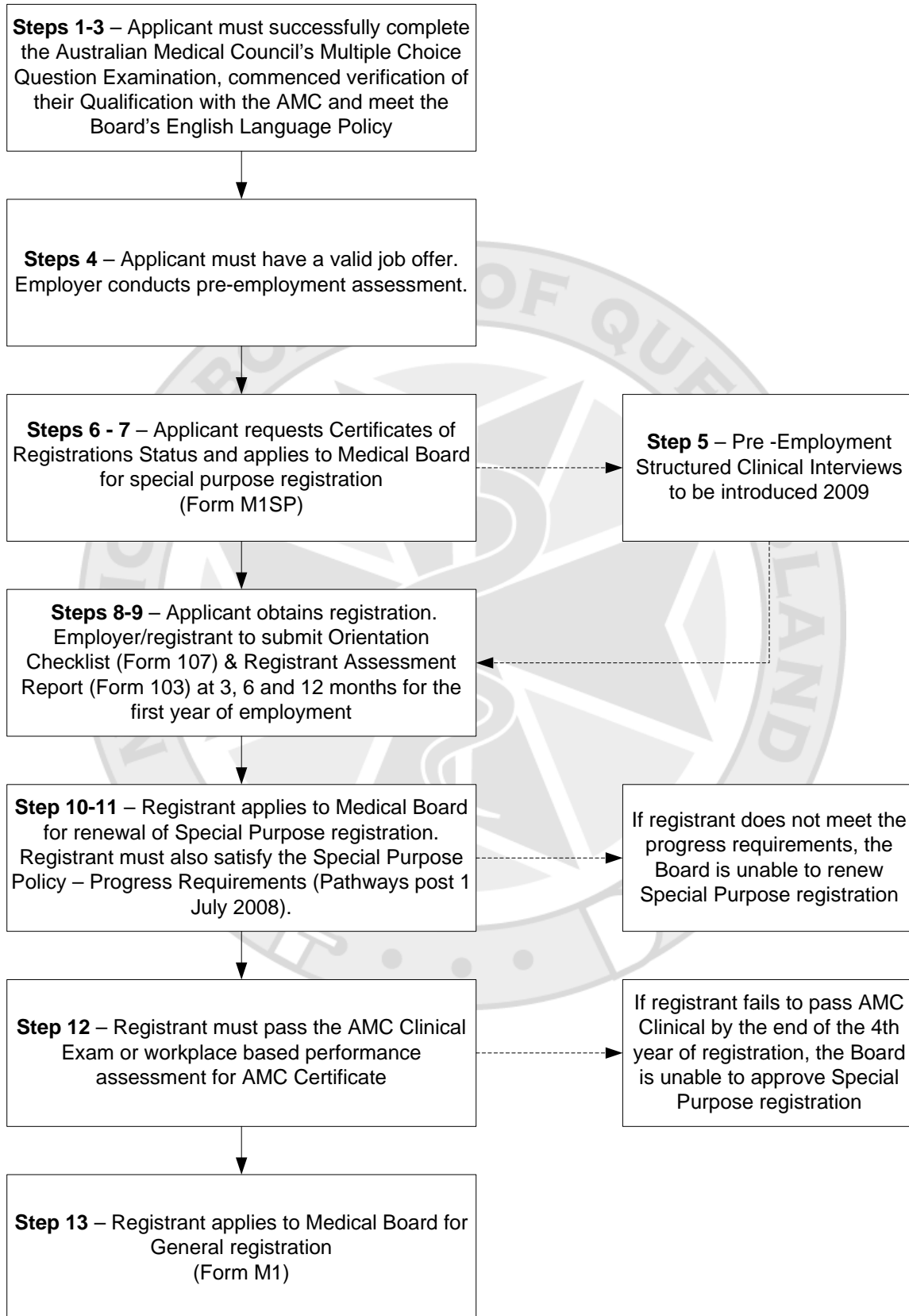
5.2 In accordance with the *Special Purpose Policy – Progress Requirements (Pathways post 1 July 2008)*, the Board will impose on each Special Purpose registrant a condition, pursuant to section 140B, to progress towards General or Specialist registration within a specified period.

## **6 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

6.1 Applications for Special Purpose registration lodged before 1 July 2008 and approved by the Board on or after 1 July 2008, must show evidence of successfully completing the AMC MCQ within the first 12 months of registration.

6.2 The Board will refuse to renew the Special Purpose registration if the registrant has not passed, or has not submitted evidence of passing the AMC MCQ in accordance with the Board's *Special Purpose Policy – Progress Requirements (Pathways post 1 July 2008)*.

## Steps to General Medical Registration in Queensland Standard (Non Specialist) Pathway



## 7 PROCEDURES TO OBTAINING GENERAL REGISTRATION THROUGH THE STANDARD (NON SPECIALIST) PATHWAY

7.1 The following table describes the Standard (Non Specialist) Pathway **from** obtaining Special Purpose Registration **to** applying for General Registration.

	Description	Board Requirements
<b>Pre Registration</b>		
<b>Step 1</b> Mandatory screening (Basic Competence)	The MCQ examination focuses on essential medical knowledge involving understanding of the disease process, clinical examination, diagnosis, investigation, therapy and management, as well as on the candidate's ability to exercise discrimination, judgment and reasoning in distinguishing between the correct diagnosis and plausible alternatives. Refer to the <a href="#">AMC website</a> .	Applicants need to submit evidence to the Board that they have passed the AMC MCQ.
<b>Step 2</b> Primary source verifications	In accordance with the National Policy on Verification of Qualifications, when applying for registration an applicant must include evidence that they have applied to the AMC for verification of primary medical qualifications.	Applications for verification of qualifications are available from the <a href="#">Australian Medical Council (AMC) website</a> . The Board must receive the verification direct from the AMC.
<b>Step 3</b> English language proficiency	Evidence of English language proficiency is to be provided in accordance with the Board's policy.	Applicants need to submit evidence to the Board of competency in speaking and communicating in English as determined by the <a href="#">English Language Policy</a> .
<b>Step 4</b> Applicant obtains valid job offer <b>and</b> Pre employment assessment	Applicant must seek an offer of employment in Queensland  Pre-employment assessment (conducted by employer or recruiter) is to establish whether an applicant has the knowledge and experience to practice safely and effectively in the position for which they are seeking registration. An applicant's suitability for employment must be assessed by the employer by matching their curriculum vitae and application with the position description.	The recruitment and selection process is undertaken by the employers and/or recruiters. Original letter of employment, position description and employer to complete Form 100.
<b>Step 5</b> Pre employment Structured Clinical Interview (PESCI)	The pre-employment structured clinical interview may be undertaken by an AMC accredited provider. The Board will determine if a PESCI is required.	A pre-employment structured clinical interview, against the position description will be carried out by an AMC accredited provider. This is under development with an expected commencement January/February 2009.

	Description	Board Requirements
<b>Step 6</b> Certificates of Registrations Status (CORS)	A CORS is valid for 3 months from date of issue and must be current at the time of application. All CORS must be original and sent directly from the licensing authority to the Board.	The Board must have received an original CORS, direct from each licensing authority in each location (country, state or locality) where the applicant has practised medicine.
<b>Step 7</b> Special Purpose Registration	Special Purpose registration will be considered when the practitioner has lodged all the necessary requirements as outlined above and on the application form.	To apply for Special Purpose registration the applicant must complete and comply with the instruction on the Application for Special Purpose Registration (Form M1SP)  Special Purpose registration may be granted for a period of no more than 12 months.
<b>Post Registration</b>		
<b>Step 8</b> Orientation	All IMGs are expected to be given an orientation by their employer to the Australian health system, workplace and culture in order to work successfully in the Australian health environment. A requirement to undertake orientation is an integral part of the supervision and assessment plan (Form 102) submitted with the initial registration application.	IMGs and Supervisors must complete <b>within the first month of commencing employment</b> , the Orientation Checklist (Form 107) and submit as evidence of completion of a satisfactory orientation program as an attachment to the Registrant Assessment Report (Form 103) after 3 months from employment commencement.
<b>Step 9</b> Supervision and Assessment	The purpose of supervision is to ensure that the practitioner is performing at an acceptable standard. Supervision must occur according to agreed guidelines and at a level prescribed in the conditions on the practitioner's registration. The supervision period introduces and sets in place a culture of continuous learning and professional development.	Supervision reports are required according to an agreed schedule and on an ad hoc basis if issues with the IMG's practise are identified. Refer to the MBQ's; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidelines for Supervisors of International Medical Graduates;</li> <li>• Special Purpose – Supervised Practice Plan (Form 102); and</li> <li>• the Registrant Assessment Report (Form 103).</li> </ul> A registrant needs to be assessed at <b>three, six and twelve</b> months for the first year of practice <b>in a new position</b> .
<b>Registration Renewal – Every 12 months from initial registration</b>		
<b>Step 10</b> Continuing Professional Development	IMGs must demonstrate satisfactory progression towards the AMC Certificate and General registration.	In accordance with the requirements of the <i>Special Purpose Progress – Progress Requirements (Pathways post 1 July 2008)</i> , a registrant seeking renewal of their Special Purpose registration must provide evidence of satisfactory progress towards General registration

	Description	Board Requirements
<b>Step 11</b> Registration Renewal	Renewal of Special Purpose Registration is granted provided the registrant is continuing in the same approved special purpose activity.	The Board will consider renewals if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registrant is still eligible</li> <li>• Registrant continues to be fit for practise</li> <li>• All forms and reports have been received</li> <li>• Registrant is making satisfactory progress towards General registration (Step 11).</li> </ul> Renewal registration may be granted for a period of up to 12 months.
<b>Step 12</b> Pass the AMC Clinical examination.	To ensure IMGs clinical performance is at a level equivalent and assessed to that of an Australian trained doctor.	Current available process is AMC clinical exam. Refer to the <a href="#">AMC website</a> . NB: Workplace based performance assessment processes are currently under development.
<b>General Renewal – within a maximum of 4 years from initial registration</b>		
<b>Step 13</b> General Registration	General registration is granted when the practitioner has met all the necessary requirements as outlined above. The Board may impose conditions on this registration if the Board is not satisfied they have relevant practical experience in the profession for unrestricted General registration.	To apply for General registration the registrant must complete and comply with the instruction on the Application for General Registration (Form M1).

## **8 RELATED POLICIES AND FORMS**

All forms and policies can be found on the Board's website at;  
<http://www.medicalboard.qld.gov.au/resources/>

Below is a list of the main relevant forms and policies.

### **8.1 Policies:**

- Standard (Non Specialist) Pathway Policy
- Determination of Area of Need for Medical Services in Queensland
- Requirements to Progress Special Purpose Registrants Towards General or Specialist Registration
- Special Purpose Registration Progress Policy
- Special Purpose Registration Progress Policy 1 July 2008

### **8.2 Forms:**

- Special Purpose Renewals Forms
- Application for Special Purpose Registration (Form M1SP)
- Application Form M1
- Employer Application Form 100
- Referee Report Form 101
- Supervised Practice Plan Form 102
- Registrant Assessment Report Form 103
- Orientation Checklist (Form 107)

## **9 POLICY REVIEW**

9.1 This policy will be regularly reviewed, with amendments to occur as required.

Policy made by the Medical Board of Queensland at meeting held on 8 July 2008