



**Medical Board of Australia**

# REGISTRATION STANDARD: LIMITED REGISTRATION FOR AREA OF NEED

1 July 2016

# REGISTRATION STANDARD: LIMITED REGISTRATION FOR AREA OF NEED



## Summary

This registration standard sets out the Medical Board of Australia's (the Board) requirements for an application for, and renewal of, limited registration for area of need.

## Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to individuals who apply for:

- limited registration for area of need, or
- renewal of limited registration for area of need.

Individuals who are qualified for general registration and/or specialist registration are not eligible for limited registration.

## What must I do?

### When you apply for registration

To meet this registration standard, 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 arrangements, and
  - d. continuing professional development
2. comply with the Board's proof of identity policy as published on either the Board or the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) websites
3. 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 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 (AMC) and/or the 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
4. provide evidence that you have applied for, or have the results of, primary source verification of medical qualifications from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) International Credentials Service (EICS)
5. provide evidence of successful completion of a medical internship or comparable. The Board may issue guidance on what defines a comparable medical internship
6. provide a curriculum vitae that meets the standard format that has been approved by the Board
7. provide details of past registration history:
  - a. You are also required to arrange 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
8. satisfactorily complete a criminal history check in accordance with guidance issued from time to time by the Board or AHPRA
9. provide the following information from your proposed employer:
  - a. written confirmation of offer of employment
  - b. employer contact details
  - c. position description including key selection criteria addressing clinical responsibilities and qualifications and experience required to meet the requirements of the position
  - d. name, qualifications and contact details of the proposed principal supervisor and any co-supervisors
  - e. a supervision plan, prepared in accordance with the Board's guidelines for supervision of international medical graduates. The supervision

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plan includes details about the supervisor/s and will describe how supervision will be provided to ensure safe practice. It will also include written confirmation from the proposed principal supervisor that they agree to provide supervision and to comply with supervision obligations as required by the Board, and

- f. a plan for continuing professional development activities in accordance with the Board's registration standard for continuing professional development
10. provide evidence of area of need declaration for the geographical area and/or type of health service, for which there is a need, from the responsible Minister for Health or delegate in the jurisdiction in which the designated area of need position is located
11. provide evidence that confirms you meet the eligibility criteria for one of the following pathways to registration:
  - a. standard pathway, or
  - b. specialist pathway – area of need
12. if applicable, provide the results of a pre-employment structured clinical interview (PESCI) with a provider approved by the Board that confirms that you are suitable for the specific position. The Board will decide on a case-by-case basis whether a PESCI is necessary and this will depend on the nature of the position and the level of risk inherent to the position.

All documents submitted to support an application for limited registration must comply with the requirements for certifying and translating documents as published on either 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, some of the documentation requirements in this standard may be waived.

## How to demonstrate eligibility for one of the pathways to registration

### Standard pathway

To be eligible for the **standard pathway**, you must provide evidence of successful completion of the AMC Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) MCQ Examination.

### Specialist pathway – area of need

To be eligible for the **specialist pathway – area of need**, you must provide evidence from the relevant specialist medical college that has been accredited by the AMC:

1. that your specialist qualifications have been assessed against the position description for the designated area of need position, and
2. confirming that you are suitable for the specific position, including any recommended limitations on the nature and extent of practice.

### During the registration period

You are required to comply with a range of requirements while you have limited registration for area of need. These include:

1. compliance with the supervision plan approved by the Board
2. compliance with the Board's registration standard for continuing professional development
3. ensuring that your supervisor/s provide regular reports to the Board regarding your work performance as described in the Board's guidelines for supervision of international medical graduates
4. performing satisfactorily in the position for which you were registered to practise
5. restricting your practice to the Board approved position/s, and
6. working towards meeting the requirements for general or specialist registration if you intend to apply for more than three renewals of registration.

If you do not maintain your employment in the Board approved position for which limited registration for area

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of need was granted, you are unable to comply with the requirements on your practice and therefore cannot practise medicine until registration is granted for a new position.

## When you apply for renewal

When you apply to renew your limited 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 your registration or requirements on your registration set by the Board
3. submit work performance reports in accordance with the Board's guidelines for supervision of international medical graduates
4. demonstrate that you have performed satisfactorily in the preceding registration period. This is usually demonstrated through the submission of work performance reports. The Board may also require you to complete an examination and/or assessment to demonstrate satisfactory performance
5. provide evidence that you are satisfactorily progressing towards meeting the requirements for general or specialist registration. You are exempt from this requirement if you will not apply for more than three renewals of registration, and
6. provide evidence of an area of need declaration for the geographical area and/or type of health service, for which there is a need, from the responsible Minister for Health or delegate in the jurisdiction in which the designated area of need position is located, if the area of need declaration provided at initial registration has expired or will expire during the next period of registration.

## Refusal to renew limited registration

The Board may refuse to renew your registration if:

1. you are no longer in the position for which registration was granted by the Board
2. you do not comply with the Board approved supervised practice plan and the Board's requirements for supervision
3. you do not comply with the Board's registration standard for continuing professional development
4. significant or multiple deficiencies are identified in your practice, by the Board, or
5. the area in which you are applying to practise is no longer deemed an area of need by the responsible Minister for Health or delegate.

## Period of limited registration

Up to 12 months of registration can be granted by the Board. The National Law states that limited registration may not be renewed more than three times. After three renewals of limited registration a medical practitioner who wishes to continue to practise will have to make a new application for registration.

## What happens if I don't meet this standard?

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

- 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
- registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against you as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice or conduct for the health profession (section 41 of the National Law).

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If a practitioner with limited registration breaches 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.

## Applications for a change in circumstances

If you hold limited registration and you want to apply for another type of limited registration, you must make a new application.

If you hold limited registration for area of need and you want to change your position (such as changing location, adding work sites, changing your scope of practice (including moving to a role with increased clinical responsibilities e.g. PGY3 to registrar level), applying for a new position with a new employer, etc.) within the same type of registration (i.e. limited registration for area of need), you must apply for approval of a change in circumstances.

Applications for a change in circumstances must be made on an approved form and you will be charged a fee. You must provide:

1. the following information from the proposed employer:
  - a. written confirmation of offer of employment
  - b. employer contact details
  - c. new or revised position description, including key selection criteria addressing clinical responsibilities and qualifications and experience required to meet the requirements of the position/s
  - d. name, qualifications and contact details of the proposed principal supervisor and any co-supervisors
  - e. new or revised supervision plan, prepared in accordance with the Board's guidelines for supervision of international medical graduates. The supervision plan includes:
    - i. details about the principal supervisor and any co-supervisors
    - ii. description of how supervision will be provided to ensure safe practice, and
    - iii. written confirmation from the proposed principal supervisor that they agree to provide supervision and comply with supervision obligations as required by the Board
  - f. details of a professional development plan in accordance with the Board's registration standard for continuing professional development
2. a work report from your previous supervisor
3. for medical practitioners in the specialist pathway (area of need), the Board may require evidence from the relevant AMC-accredited specialist medical college confirming support for your change in circumstances and providing advice on whether any change to your position is appropriate. The Board will decide on a case-by-case basis whether evidence from the college is required
4. if applicable, satisfactory results of a PESCI with a provider approved by the Board that confirms that you are suitable for the specific position. The Board will decide on a case-by-case basis whether a PESCI is necessary and this will depend on the nature of the position and the level of risk inherent to the position
5. evidence of an area of need declaration for the geographical area and/or type of health service, for which there is a need, from the responsible Minister for Health or delegate in the jurisdiction in which the designated area of need position is located.

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## More information

Limited registration for area of need may be granted to enable you to practise a health profession in an area of need decided by the responsible Minister for Health. The Minister for Health in each participating jurisdiction is responsible under section 67(5) of the National Law for determining whether there is an area of need for health services in the jurisdiction or part of the jurisdiction.

Providing a declaration of an area of need does not, on its own, entitle you to registration. Each application will be decided on its individual merits and on whether you meet the requirements of this registration standard.

The Board establishes requirements under this standard to ensure safe and competent practice for the period of limited registration. The Board will record the requirements that apply to a medical practitioner granted limited registration on the Register of Medical Practitioners pursuant to section 225(p) of the National Law.

The AHPRA website ([www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au)) includes more detailed information about the requirements for:

- providing proof of identity
- certifying documents, and
- what to include in a curriculum vitae.

### Qualifying for specialist registration

Confirmation from the relevant AMC-accredited specialist medical college that you are suitable for a specific area of need position does not qualify you for specialist registration. If you are seeking to qualify for specialist registration, you must also have your qualifications assessed as 'substantially comparable' or 'partially comparable' by the relevant AMC-accredited specialist medical college under the specialist pathway – specialist recognition (comparability assessment) process and successfully complete any additional requirements specified by the specialist medical college to qualify for specialist registration.

For more information see the Board's approved registration standard for specialist registration available on the Board's website.

### General practice

Due to the comprehensive nature of general practice, if you are applying to work in a general practice position, you are expected to have at least three years equivalent experience working in general practice or primary care.

When making a decision on whether to grant limited registration for area of need, the Board will take into consideration the specialist medical college's area of need assessment (if applicable) and your level of experience in general practice or primary care.

## Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 August 2015.

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

## Definitions

**Limited registration** is a type of registration available to individuals who do not qualify for general or specialist registration. Each type of limited registration has a specific purpose which is defined in Part 7, Division 4 of the National Law. The four types of limited registration are:

- limited registration postgraduate training or supervised practice
- limited registration for area of need
- limited registration for teaching or research, and
- limited registration in public interest.

See the registration standard relevant to the type of limited registration for an explanation of each.

**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.

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**Pathways to registration** means the national process to assess the qualifications, training and experience of international medical graduates who are applying for registration. The assessment pathways that are relevant to this standard are the standard pathway and the specialist pathway – area of need.

**Supervision plan** means a plan that sets out the arrangements or proposed arrangements for supervision of the practice of the applicant for registration or registered practitioner.

## Review

This registration standard will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every five years.

**Last reviewed:** 1 July 2016

This standard replaces the previous registration standard dated 1 July 2010.