

Registration standard

Granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of intern training

Authority

This standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 9 November 2012 pursuant to the Health Practitioner Registration National Law Act (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory, with approval taking effect for interns commencing their intern year in 2014.

Summary

The Medical Board of Australia (the Board) has established this standard under section 52 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory ('the National Law'), and in accordance with section 38(2) of the National Law. It defines the supervised intern (provisional registration year) training requirements that must be completed in order for graduates of Australian and New Zealand medical programs accredited by the Australian Medical Council and approved by the Medical Board of Australia to be eligible for general registration.

Graduates of these programs of study are required to hold provisional registration and to satisfactorily complete 12 months of supervised practice as an intern before being eligible for general registration.

Internship is a period of mandatory supervised general clinical experience. It allows medical graduates to consolidate and apply clinical knowledge and skills while taking increasing responsibility for the provision of safe, high quality patient care. Diagnostic skills, communication skills, management skills, including therapeutic and procedural skills, and professionalism are developed under appropriate supervision. Internship also informs career choices for many graduates by providing experience in different medical specialties including general practice, and providing a grounding for subsequent vocational (specialist) training.

Completion of the internship leads to general registration. General registration indicates that the practitioner has the skills, knowledge and experience to work as a safe entry level medical practitioner able to practise within the limits of their training.

Interns are required to perform satisfactorily under supervision in the following terms:

- A term of at least 8 weeks that provides experience in emergency medical care
- A term of at least 10 weeks that provides experience in medicine
- A term of at least 10 weeks that provides experience in surgery
- A range of other approved terms to make up 12 months (minimum of 47 weeks full time equivalent service).

Terms must be accredited against approved accreditation standards for intern training.

Scope of application

This standard applies to graduates of Australian and New Zealand medical schools accredited by the Australian Medical Council and approved by the Medical Board of Australia who are applying for general registration as a medical practitioner having completed an internship.

Requirements

General requirements

If the applicant for registration has previously been or is currently registered in a health profession in Australia under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme and has therefore provided information to a Board previously, some of these requirements may be waived.

Applicants are required to:

1. Provide evidence of having been awarded a primary degree in medicine and surgery, after completing an approved program of study from an Australian or New Zealand medical school accredited by the Australian Medical Council.
2. Submit documentation to confirm their proof of identity as per the proof of identity framework approved by the Board. The proof of identity framework can be found at the Board's website at www.medicalboard.gov.au.
3. Satisfactorily complete a criminal history check undertaken by the Board that meets the Board's criminal history registration standard.
4. Provide details of registration history including certificates of good standing/registration status from each registration authority with which the applicant has been registered in the previous ten years (supplied where possible directly to the Board from the relevant registration authority).
5. Confirm that they will comply with the Board's professional indemnity insurance registration standard.
6. Provide evidence of English language skills that meet the Board's English language skills registration standard.
7. Provide any other information the Board requires under section 80 of the National Law in order to determine whether the applicant is a suitable person to hold general registration

Specific requirements

1. Evidence of satisfactory completion of at least 47 weeks equivalent full time experience as an intern in supervised clinical practice completed in approved hospital, general practice or ambulatory locations. The 47 weeks of experience must be completed within a period of no more than three years. It excludes annual leave but may include up to two weeks of professional development leave.
2. Evidence of satisfactory performance under supervision in the following terms:
 - A term of at least eight weeks that provides experience in emergency medical care. This term must provide experience under close supervision in the assessment and management of patients with acute undifferentiated illnesses, including assessment and management of acutely ill patients. This is a term in emergency medicine or in general practices accredited for intern training by an authority approved by the Board and assessed as providing sufficient exposure to emergency medicine.

The suitability of posts to satisfy these requirements is to be assessed against guidelines issued from time to time by the Board.
 - A term of at least 10 weeks that provides experience in medicine. This term must provide experience under supervision in caring for patients who have a broad range of medical conditions and opportunities for the intern to participate in the assessment and admission of patients with acute medical problems; the management of in-patients with a range of general medical conditions; discharge planning, including preparation of a discharge summary and

other components of handover to a general practitioner or a subacute or long term care facility, or ambulatory care.

- A term of at least 10 weeks that provides experience in surgery. This term must provide experience under supervision in caring for patients who have a broad range of acute and elective surgical conditions and/or who exhibit the common features of surgical illness including the metabolic response to trauma, infection, shock, and neoplasia.
- A range of other approved positions to make up 12 months (minimum of 47 weeks full time equivalent service). These terms provide experience in additional areas such as but not limited to aged care, anaesthesia, general practice, medicine, palliative medicine, psychiatry, rehabilitation medicine and surgery.

All terms must be accredited against approved accreditation standards for intern training positions by an authority approved by the Board.

3. Written confirmation that the applicant has met the above requirements including:
 - a) Satisfactory term supervisor reports.
 - b) An overall satisfactory rating awarded by the Director of Training, Director of Medical Services or other person authorised by the hospital and acceptable to the Board as appropriate to sign off on the satisfactory completion of the internship.

Specific circumstances

Part time internship

Internship undertaken part-time must be completed within three years of commencement.

Location

For the purpose of granting general registration, the Board will accept satisfactory training undertaken outside of Australia or New Zealand, for a term not exceeding 12 weeks, where that term has been prospectively accredited to Australian standards.

Australian and New Zealand graduates who have undertaken an internship outside of Australia or New Zealand will be eligible to apply for provisional registration and will be required to undertake 12 months approved supervised practice to familiarise themselves with the Australian health care system before being eligible for general registration.

Required experience not completed

Applicants may apply to the Board for renewal of provisional registration if they have not completed all of the specific requirements within the anticipated period of time (12 months for full time internship, three years for part time internship).

Review

The Board will review this standard at least every three years.