

MEDICAL SERVICES TEAM - FACT SHEET

Pathways to Registration with the NSW Medical Board International Medical Graduates (IMGs)

Background

By national agreement all jurisdictions within Australia are introducing uniform assessments and registration pathways for IMGs to ensure consistency and appropriate pre-registration assessment. The assessment pathways include;

PATHWAY	PRE-REGISTRATION ASSESSMENT
Competent Authority	AMC (Advanced Standing)
Standard	AMC MCQ Exam
Specialist	College Assessment

1. Competent Authority Pathway

The Competent Authority pathway has taken effect from 31 March 2008 and allows IMGs who have completed training and assessment through an Australian Medical Council (AMC) designated and approved Competent Authority to apply for AMC Advanced Standing toward the AMC Certificate. **If the AMC grants the Advanced Standing, the practitioner is not required to sit the AMC MCQ Exam.** There are currently five AMC designated and approved Competent Authority countries including; USA, Canada, Ireland, UK and New Zealand. IMGs eligible to undertake the Competent Authority pathway can apply for General Registration with the NSW Medical Board (NSWMB) following a period of 12 months workplace supervision undertaken in an IMET accredited hospital or accredited hospitals in other Australian jurisdictions.

- Information on determining current staff or a new applicants eligibility under the Competent Authority Pathway is available at <http://www.amc.org.au/index.php/international-medical-graduates-mainmenu-207/competent-authority-mainmenu-204.html> (see over page)
- The following CHW Factsheets are also available to assist Current Registrants and New Registrants with the process and requirements under the Competent Authority Pathway.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Current Registrants** http://www.chw.edu.au/about/jobs/competent_authority_pathway_current.pdf
 - It is **highly recommended that IMGs currently registered in NSW/Australia** eligible for registration under the Competent Authority Pathway and planning to continue/commence working in NSW obtain AMC Advanced Standing and/or the AMC Certificate (if eligible) **immediately** to ensure they remain registered with the NSW Medical Board.
- New Registrants** http://www.chw.edu.au/about/jobs/competent_authority_pathway_new.pdf
 - It is **highly recommended that IMGs planning to work in NSW** obtain AMC Advanced Standing prior to applying for a position. This will ensure eligibility for registration with the NSW Medical Board and a more efficient processing time ie. 8 – 10 weeks between appointment and commencement of employment. Applicants offered positions without AMC Advanced Standing may take 14 – 16 weeks to process from appointment to commencement.

2. Standard Pathway

IMGs not eligible under the Competent Authority or Specialist Pathways may be assessed under the Standard Pathway. Satisfactory completion of the AMC MCQ examination is a pre-requisite for new applications for registration via the Standard Pathway from 1 July 2008.

- Information on the AMC MCQ Exam is available at <http://www.amc.org.au/>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Current Registrants**
 - IMGs already registered and working in NSW on 1 July 2008 are not required to sit the AMC MCQ exam for the purpose of continuing their registration in the same position/location (eg. CHW). This includes the addition of new locations within the same Network.
 - IMGs already registered and working in NSW on 1 July 2008 who subsequently apply to transfer to a **new position/location** may be required to provide evidence that they have satisfactorily completed the AMC MCQ exam as part of their application for registration in the new position/location **if the new position is substantially (*) different to their current position.**
 - A substantially different position is one that:
 - Is in a different speciality area (eg Psychiatry to Surgery) and/or
 - Is at a much higher level (eg RMO to Senior Registrar)
 - In circumstances where the IMG is moving to the same position in a different location an assessment will need to be undertaken by the NSWMB to confirm that the AMC MCQ exam is not required.
- New Registrants**
 - IMGs commencing employment after 1 July 2008 are required to provide evidence that they have satisfactorily completed the AMC MCQ Exam.

3. Specialist Pathway

The criteria for the Specialist pathway are outlined below;

- IMG is a recognised specialist or specialist in training in their country of training. IMG has passed specialist examinations and/or are no more than 2 years from completing specialist training in their country of training.
- IMG will be undertaking training or obtaining experience in Australia not available in their country of training for up to 12 months or 2 years in exceptional circumstances. Includes exchange fellowships.
- IMG has stated their intention to return to their country of training and the end of their training in Australia.
- There is a comprehensive training program and nominated supervisor and evidence that the training program is appropriate for the applicant taking into consideration the prior training and experience.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION
 The NSWMB understands that the RACP, the ANZCA and the ACEM will continue to apply their existing guidelines.

Category A	UNITED KINGDOM General Medical Council (GMC)
	<p>I have successfully completed the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) test since 1975</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I have successfully completed 12 months supervised training in the UK or in a Competent Authority country approved by the GMC or Foundation Year 1.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I have full registration issued by the GMC (as evidenced by a Certificate of Good Standing)</p>
Category B	UNITED KINGDOM General Medical Council (GMC)
	<p>I am a graduate of a medical course conducted by a medical school in the United Kingdom accredited by the General Medical Council</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I have successfully completed 12 months supervised training in the UK or in a Competent Authority country approved by the GMC or Foundation Year 1.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I have full registration issued by the GMC (as evidenced by a Certificate of Good Standing)</p>
Category C	CANADA Medical Council of Canada
	I have successfully completed the licentiate examinations of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC).
Category D	UNITED STATES Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates
	<p>I have successfully completed the United States Medical Licensing Examination Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3 since 1992</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I have successfully completed a minimum of two years of graduate medical education within a residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education.</p>
Category E	NEW ZEALAND Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ)
	<p>I have successfully completed the New Zealand Registration Examination</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I have successfully completed the required rotating internship (four runs accredited by the MCNZ).</p>
Category F	IRELAND Medical Council of Ireland
	<p>I am a Graduate of a Medical School in Ireland accredited by the Medical Council of Ireland</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I have successfully completed an internship in Ireland (certificate of experience) or in another Competent Authority country approved by the Medical Council of Ireland</p>