



HEALTH PROFESSIONS LICENSING AUTHORITY			
TITLE:	Entitlement to Registration Policy		
EFFECTIVE DATE:	UPDATED:	27 October 2004	1 December 2004
14 May 2004	18 June 2007	8 August 2005	11 August 2008
BOARD:	MEDICAL BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY		

PURPOSE

This policy has been developed to provide clear direction to staff of the Health Professions Licensing Authority, members of the Medical Board of the Northern Territory and intending registrants regarding the entitlement to register as a medical practitioner in the Northern Territory.

SUPPORTING POLICIES

This policy should be considered in conjunction with the Health Professions Licensing Authority Registration Policy and the following Medical Board of the Northern Territory's policies: English Language Proficiency Requirements for International Medical Graduate Policy; Identification Validation Standards; Area of Need Policy (*international medical graduates (IMG) only*); *International Medical Graduate Pre-registration Assessment Information (IMG, Area of Need General Practice applicants only)*; *International Medical Graduate Competent Authority, Standard Pathway and Specialist Pathway*. (refer to the * Australian Medical Council (AMC) website).

ENTITLEMENT TO REGISTRATION

An applicant is entitled to registration if the Board is satisfied that the applicant adequately meets Section 22 of the *Health Practitioners Act (the Act)*.

Pursuant to Section 27(1) of the Act. The Board may determine to apply conditions on a registration. All Area of Need, Intern and IMGs' (without the AMC Certificate and supervised practice approved by an Australian medical board) are eligible for conditional registration only.

1. Evidence Of Entitlement To Register As A Medical Practitioner In The Northern Territory?

- 1.1 Section 22(a) an applicant is entitled to be registered if the relevant Board is satisfied that the applicant meets the minimum requirements.
- 1.2 **Requirements for all applicants** are also listed below in sections 2 to 7.
- 1.3 **Specific sub-categories requirements** for Australian and New Zealand trained medical practitioners and International Medical Graduates registration are set out in section 8 of this policy
- 1.4 Pathways available for IMGs to achieve a Board recognised Australian medical qualification are also identified in this policy.
- 1.5 IMGs without either of the following are only eligible for registration in an Area of Need position (refer *Area of Need policy and application forms*) or a verified College training position (refer *Attachment A*):
 - (a) AMC Certificate and Board approved medical practice experience in Australia;
 - (b) Fellowship of an Australian medical college; or
 - (c) An Australian medical college's recognition as an overseas trained specialist.

2. Certified Copies of Original Documents

A certified copy is a duplicate copy of an original document certified by one of the following: Justice of the Peace; Commissioner for Oaths; Police Officer; Postal Manager; Bank Manager; Australian Defence Force NCO or Warrant Officer; Pharmacist; Solicitor; or Public Notary as an exact replicate of the original. Alternatively a copy of the original can be made at the Health Professions Licensing Authority.

3. Section 22(b) "is competent to practise and Section 22(c) has sufficient physical and mental capacity to practise" - All applicants are required to:

- 3.1 Declare whether they have practised within the preceding 3 years;
- 3.2 Declare whether they consider themselves a competent practitioners;
- 3.3 Declare whether they are participating in continuing professional development activities;
- 3.4 Declare whether they suffer from any physical disability or condition, mental illness or substance dependence that would prevent them from practising efficiently; and
- 3.5 Provide a written reference from their current employer or most recent employer, dated within the previous 6 months

4. Section 22(d) has an adequate command of the English language

- 4.1 **Medical practitioners educated in Australia and New Zealand**
The Board has discretionary power to require an applicant to provide proof of English language competence at any time.
- 4.2 **International Medical Graduates**
All international medical graduates are required to provide documentary evidence of English language competence as per the Board's current 'English Language Proficiency Requirements for International Medical Graduate Policy'.

5. Section 22(e) has adequate professional indemnity arrangements in place

All applicants are to: Make a declaration on their application form that if they intend to practise in the Northern Territory they will ensure that they have adequate professional indemnity arrangements in place.

6. Section 22(f) is of good character

All applicants are to:

- 6.1 Declare whether they have had their name suspended or removed from a register or been refused registration for any reason relating to their professional conduct in any State/Territory/Country;
- 6.2 Declare whether they know of any outstanding matters, current conditions or undertakings relating to their registration in any other State/Territory/Country;
- 6.3 Declare whether they have ever been prohibited from or had any special condition imposed on their practice as a result of criminal, civil or disciplinary proceedings in any State/Territory/Country;
- 6.4 Declare whether they have ever been charged or convicted of any offence in any State/Territory/Country;
- 6.5 Declare whether they have any proceedings claiming damages or other compensation against them in any State/Territory/Country;
- 6.6 Declare whether they have had their student status or employment suspended or terminated for reasons of misconduct, impairment or incompetence in any State/Territory/Country;
- 6.7 Provide a written character reference dated within the last 6 months; and
- 6.8 Provide a Certificate of Registration Status (Certificate of Good Standing) from the Medical Registration Board(s) that they hold or have held registration in the preceding five years.

7. Additional Requirements

The Board may require:

- 7.1 A Certificate of Registration Status (Certificate of Good Standing) from all or some of the jurisdictions in which the applicant has held registration since first qualifying as a medical practitioner.
- 7.2 Pursuant to Section 22 (2) evidence of recent practice or continued competence and anything else the Board thinks fit.

8. Applicants Sub-Categories

8.1 MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS UNDERTAKING A POST-GRADUATE INTERNSHIP

- 8.1.1 (a) Medical degree issued by an Australian or New Zealand University accredited by the Australian Medical Council (AMC); **or**
- (b) A qualification issued from a medical school recognised by Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education (FAIMER) and listed in the International Medical Education Directory (IMED); and

- 8.1.2 (a) Certificate of Advanced Standing issued by the AMC (**IMGs eligible for Competent Authority Pathway – refer Attachment A*); **or**
- (b) Evidence of successful completion of the AMC - Multiple Choice Question Examination (MCQ) (**IMGs eligible for Standard Pathway – refer Attachment A*); **or**
- (c) Evidence of successful completion of the AMC Certificate; and
- 8.1.3 Completed application for Area of Need approval from the nominated employer in the Northern Territory (*IMGs only*);
- 8.1.4 Written reference from a lecturer at the University where the applicant gained their qualification, attesting to the applicant's competence and fitness to practice, dated within the last 6 months of completion of the qualification (*new graduates only*);
- 8.1.5 Written evidence from the applicant's intending employer confirming their employment;
- 8.1.6 100 points of identification as per the Board's Identification Validation Standard;
- 8.1.7 Proof of name change (*if applicable*);
- 8.1.8 Evidence of the number verifying lodging of primary source verification of documents with the AMC, or verification directly from the AMC (*IMGs only*);
- 8.1.9 Area of Need application including position description and supervision plan (*IMGs only*); *and*
- 8.1.10 If holding current or previous registration in any Australian jurisdiction to work in an area of need position, provide a Supervision Report written in the last 6 months or from the last place of employment in Australia (Area of Need Specialist only).

8.2 MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS EDUCATED IN AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND

- 8.2.1 Medical degree issued by an Australian or New Zealand University accredited by the AMC;
- 8.2.2 Written evidence confirming the satisfactory completion of a post-graduate intern year;
- 8.2.3 100 points of identification as per the Board's Identification Validation Standard; and
- 8.2.4 Proof of name change (*if applicable*).

8.3 MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS WITH AN AUSTRALIAN OR NEW ZEALAND SPECIALIST QUALIFICATION(S)

- 8.3.1 (a) Medical degree issued by an Australian or New Zealand University accredited by the AMC; **or**
- (b) Primary medical qualification - issued from a medical school recognised by FAIMER and listed in the IMED; and
- 8.3.2 Evidence of specialist qualification(s) accredited by the AMC;
- 8.3.3 Written evidence confirming the satisfactory completion of a post-graduate intern year;
- 8.3.4 100 points of identification as per the Board's Identification Validation Standard;
- 8.3.5 Proof of name change (*if applicable*); and
- 8.3.6 Evidence of the number verifying lodging of primary source verification of documents with the AMC, or verification directly from the AMC (*IMGs only*).

8.4 MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS EDUCATED OVERSEAS (AMC Certificate and an Australian Medical Board approved period of supervised practice providing entitlement to full registration in that jurisdiction)

- 8.4.1 Primary medical qualification - issued from a medical school recognised by FAIMER and listed in the IMED;
- 8.4.2 Specialist qualifications (*if applicable*);
- 8.4.3 Written evidence confirming the satisfactory completion of a post-graduate intern year;
- 8.4.4 AMC Certificate;
- 8.4.5 Evidence of completion of an Australian medical board approved 12 months period of clinical practice providing entitlement to full registration in that jurisdiction;
- 8.4.6 100 points of identification as per the Board's Identification Validation Standard;
- 8.4.7 Proof of name change (*if applicable*); and
- 8.4.8 Evidence of AMC number verifying lodging of primary source verification of documents with the AMC or verification directly from the AMC.

8.5 **MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS EDUCATED OVERSEAS WITH OVERSEAS SPECIALIST QUALIFICATIONS**

- 8.5.1 Primary medical qualification - issued from a medical school recognised by FAIMER and listed in the IMED;
- 8.5.2 Specialist qualification (Overseas Trained Specialist and Area of Need Specialist applicants);
- 8.5.3 Written evidence confirming the satisfactory completion of a post-graduate intern year;
- 8.5.4 Evidence of completion of one of the following;
 - (a) AMC 'Standard Specialist Assessment' process (Overseas Trained Specialist); **or**
 - (b) 'Area of Need Specialist Assessment' conducted by the relevant Australian medical college (required for all Area of Need Specialist applications); **or**
 - (c) 'Area of Need'- General Practice, pre-registration assessment declaring suitability to meet a nominated General Practice position (*exemptions apply -refer explanatory notes*);
 - (d) Evidence of Australian medical college as a "Specialist in Training' status (*refer explanatory notes*); and
- 8.5.5 100 points of identification as per the Board's Identification Validation Standard;
- 8.5.6 Proof of name change (if applicable);
- 8.5.7 Evidence of AMC number verifying lodging of primary source verification of documents with the AMC or verification directly from the AMC;
- 8.5.8 Completed application for Area of Need Specialist Approval form from the nominated employer in the Northern Territory (Area of Need Specialist only); and
- 8.5.9 If holding current or previous registration in any Australian jurisdiction to work in an area of need position, provide a Supervision Report written in the last 6 months or from the last place of employment in Australia (Area of Need Specialist only).

8.6 **INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES WITHOUT SPECIALIST QUALIFICATIONS**

- 8.6.1 Primary medical qualification - issued from a medical school recognised by FAIMER and listed in the IMED;
- 8.6.2 Postgraduate medical qualifications (if applicable);
- 8.6.3 Written evidence confirming the satisfactory completion of a post-graduate intern year;
- 8.6.4 (a) Certificate of Advanced Standing issued by the AMC (**IMGs eligible for Competent Authority Pathway only - refer Attachment A*); **or**
 - (b) Evidence of successful completion of the AMC, MCQ examination (**Standard Pathway only – refer Attachment A*); **or**
 - (c) Evidence of successful completion of the AMC Certificate; and.
- 8.6.5 Evidence of assessment of qualifications and experience by the relevant Australian medical college (*Area of Need Specialist applications only*);
- 8.6.6 100 points of identification as per the Board's Identification Validation Standard;
- 8.6.7 Proof of name change (*if applicable*);
- 8.6.8 If holding current or previous registration in any Australian jurisdiction, provide a Supervision Report written in the last 6 months or from the last place of employment in Australia;
- 8.6.9 Evidence of AMC number verifying lodging of primary source verification of documents with the AMC, or verification directly from the AMC;
- 8.6.10 Completed application for Area of Need – Employer form from the nominated employer in the Northern Territory (*Area of Need Specialist and General Practice positions only*);
- 8.6.11 Evidence of suitability to meet the requirements of a nominated Area of Need General Practice position applicants only (*refer attachment A*); and
- 8.6.12 If holding current or previous registration in any Australian jurisdiction to work in an area of need position, provide a Supervision Report written in the last 6 months or from the last place of employment in Australia (*Area of Need Specialist only*).

ATTACHMENT A

COMPETENT AUTHORITY PATHWAY

International medical graduates (IMGs) from countries whose medical training, licensing examination and experience has been assessed by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) as being consistent with that accredited by the AMC, may be eligible for the Certificate of Advanced Standing issued by the AMC. The Certificate of Advanced Standing provides entitlement to follow the Competent Authority Pathway and eligibility to apply for Area of Need conditional registration only. Refer to the * AMC website for details in relation to eligibility for Advanced Standing.

www.amc.org.au

STANDARD PATHWAY

IMGs from all countries not currently recognised as 'Competent Authorities' by the AMC must successfully complete the AMC – Multiple Choice Questionnaire off or on shore examination prior to being eligible to apply for Area of Need conditional registration. Refer to the * AMC website

www.amc.org.au

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL CERTIFICATE

IMGs who hold an AMC Certificate must have completed supervised practice in Australia that has been approved by an Australian medical board prior to being eligible for full registration in the Northern Territory.

STANDARD SPECIALIST

An IMG who is an overseas trained specialist is required to undertake a 'Standard Specialist Assessment' (have their qualifications and experience assessed) by the relevant Australian medical college and be recognised equivalent to their Australian trained counterparts, before being entitled to apply for conditional registration to practice in the nominated specialty in the Northern Territory. Refer to the *AMC website for information on assessment of specialist qualifications and experience. Refer AMC website:

www.amc.org.au

AREA OF NEED SPECIALIST

An IMG whose qualifications and or experience is not considered to be equivalent to a Fellow of the relevant Australian medical college, but has significant experience and qualifications in a specialty area of practice, is required to undertake an 'Area of Need Specialist Assessment' (assessment of qualifications and experience) to identify suitability to meet the requirements of a specified Area of Need Specialist position, prior to being eligible for Area of Need Specialist conditional registration in the Northern Territory. The employer and the IMG must forward the application for assessment of qualifications and experience to the relevant Australian medical college through the AMC. The college assessment must accompany the Area of Need Specialist application for conditional registration form. Refer AMC website:

www.amc.org.au

SPECIALIST IN TRAINING

An IMG who has significant progression towards an overseas specialist qualification may apply for conditional registration as 'Specialist In Training'. This is an overseas trained specialist, who is not eligible for either of the above two specialist categories of conditional registration, but is required to undertake specified training. The application for registration in the Northern Territory must be accompanied by evidence from an Australian medical college of the applicant's suitability for a specific training position. Refer AMC website:

www.amc.org.au

AREA OF NEED - GENERAL PRACTICE APPLICANTS

Refer to the Board's Area of Need policy in relation to exemptions and requirement to undertake an assessment by the International Medical Graduate Pre-registration Assessment Committee (IMG PAC). In addition refer to the General Practice Network Northern Territory (GPNNT) website for further information in regards to the IMG PAC assessment process and application:

www.gpnnt.org.au