



THE MEDICAL BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY International Medical Graduate Pre Assessment Committee (IMG PAC)

The Medical Board of the Northern Territory (the Board) is committed to ensuring International Medical Graduates (IMGs) have the skills and knowledge required to perform the requirements of a specific Area of Need (AoN) position in the Northern Territory (NT). In order to do this, the MBNT has developed a pre registration assessment process for IMGs seeking employment in AoN general practice positions in the NT.

The International Medical Graduate Pre registration Assessment Committee (IMG PAC) has been established under section 15 of the *Health Practitioners Act*. Its purpose is to conduct comprehensive clinical assessment of all IMGs seeking to work in general practice in the NT. IMG PAC members are appointed by the Board and Assessment Panel members are selected from within the membership of IMG PAC.

General Practice and Primary Health Care NT (GPPHCNT) provide the secretariat for IMG PAC. The secretariat is responsible for: processing applications; coordinating interview panels from the membership of IMG PAC; convening/chairing the assessment panel; and forwarding assessment reports to the Board.

The clinical assessments undertaken by the IMG PAC assessment panels will provide additional information to the Board that will assist with determining the IMG eligibility for conditional registration.

IMG PAC Principles

- To ensure consistency in pre registration assessment of IMGs;
- To ensure objectivity in the assessment of IMGs;
- To ensure the assessment reflects the practice environment of the nominated AoN position;
- To ensure assessment reflects the RACGP Standards of Practice;
- To utilise the Board's policies to guide the assessment process;
- To maintain confidentiality;
- To ensure the IMGs skills and knowledge are suited to the nominated AoN position;
- To provide recommendations on the level of supervision required;
- To conduct periodic review of the Terms of Reference of IMG PAC, and
- To identify opportunities to improve clinical assessments of IMGs.

Who Is Required To Undertake An IMG PAC Assessment

Applicant's must provide:

- evidence of meeting the Board's English Language Proficiency requirements (refer to the Board's policy); and
- Evidence of an AoN employment offer in the NT.

IMGs who have successfully completed Australian Medical Council (AMC) Part 1 only, are required to do the IMG PAC assessment.

The Board has agreed that IMGs assessed against the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) (Attachment A), National Reference Panel Categories, as either category 3 and 4 will be assessed if they have more than five years general practice experience as assessed by the RACGP.

Category 5 applicants will only be assessed if they can provide significant levels of relevant experience and training in the areas of medical practice relevant to general practice.

IMGs with AMC Advanced Standing who do not qualify for an exemption (listed below) are required to do the IMG PAC assessment.

All IMGs seeking or securing an employment contract as a District Medical Officer (DMO) who are required to provide some level of general practice medical care as identified in the job description eg: doing community clinics, are required to undertake an IMG PAC assessment, unless they qualify for an exemption (listed below).

Exemptions

The Board has agreed that IMGs assessed against the RACGP, National Reference Panel Categories, as either category 1 or 2 will not need to be assessed by IMG PAC. This group of IMGs may make an AoN application for registration directly to the Board.

IMGs who have successfully completed AMC Part 1 & 2 but not internship equivalency are exempt from IMG PAC.

What will the assessment consist of?

When the IMG has met the pre assessment requirements, they will be sent a self-assessment form, which is followed by a detailed clinical scenario interview. A panel of three experienced General Practitioners, who are already working in the NT will conduct the interview.

The GPPHCNT Medical Advisor will convene the panel. The IMG will be provided with a series of clinical scenarios to work through covering all aspects of General Practice in the NT.

The interview can be conducted face to face if the IMG is located in the NT. If the IMG is overseas the interview will be conducted either by video or telephone conference.

The interview will take approximately one and a half hours. Following the interview the panel will make a recommendation to the Medical Board of the Northern Territory as to the suitability of the IMG to meet the requirements of the AoN position.

Assessment Fees?

The cost of conducting the clinical assessment will be \$1500. This covers the actual costs and takes into consideration the IMG PAC panel time, teleconferencing and administration costs.

All financial transactions must be made with General Practice and Primary Health Care NT.

The IMG PAC Secretariat will notify the employer or recruitment agency about the pre registration assessment. It will provide options available for payment for the assessment.

IMG PAC Assessment Outcome

The IMG PAC secretariat will notify the IMG or his or her authorised agent of the outcomes of the IMG PAC assessment.

Successful assessments are valid for 12 months. If the IMG does not commence employment in an Area of Need position within this time, he or she will be required to successfully complete another IMG PAC assessment prior to being entitled to apply for AoN registration.

IMG PAC will forward results of assessments directly to the Board.

IMGs who are unsuccessful in an IMG PAC assessment may: appeal the outcome of the assessment by making a submission to the Board, which must provide details of why they should be considered for re-assessment.

IMG's who have been unsuccessful in an IMG PAC assessment may undertake successive assessment at any time.

Want to know more?

For further information regarding IMG PAC and the clinical assessment process, please contact:

IMG PAC Secretariat
c/- General Practice and Primary Health Care NT
PO Box 4829 Alice Springs Northern Territory Australia 0871
www.gpphcnt.org.au

Attachment A

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTICE
International Medical Graduate (IMG), (Previously Titled Overseas Trained Doctors (OTD)
Categories for Assessing Suitability for Conditional Registration**

1) The candidate has had formal GP training and holds postgraduate qualifications and experience deemed to be equivalent to Australians holding the FRACGP: holders of both MRCGP and the Certificate of the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice UK; holders of the Certificate in Family Practice from the College of Family Physicians who have successfully completed both parts of the Medical Council of Canada qualifying examination.

2) GP Training, post graduate qualifications and experience which is recognised but not considered equivalent to the FRACGP: Holders of the MRCGP/JCPTGP; membership of the Irish College of General Practitioners; Certificate of the American Board of Family Practice; Master of Family Medicine, South Africa; Master of Prax Medicine, South Africa; and Membership of the College of Family Practitioners, South Africa; holders of registration as a Family Physician with the Health Professions Council of South Africa; Master of Medicine (Family Medicine) from the National University of Singapore.

All these OTDs are eligible for the FRACGP immediately on completion of the RACGP examination, without further requirements.

3) GP Training and postgraduate qualifications not recognised but have more than 5 years in full time GP experience in another country.

4) No GP training or postgraduate qualifications but have more than five years of equivalent full time GP experience in another country

5) No GP training or postgraduate qualifications and less than five years equivalent full time GP experience in another country.

The Board notes the following advice in regards to the Health Insurance recognition of consultant physician or specialist. Applicants will be granted specialist recognition if they meet the criteria which includes:

They are registered with the relevant State or Territory Medical Board to practise in a medical specialty listed in the Health Insurance Regulations 1975: Declared Professional Organisation, specialty and qualifications; and they are or will be employed to practise as a specialist or consultant physician.