



HEALTH PROFESSIONS LICENSING AUTHORITY

TITLE: Internship Guidelines and Policy

EFFECTIVE DATE:

30 April 2007

REVIEW DATE:

30 April 2009

BOARD: Medical Board of the Northern Territory

PURPOSE

These guidelines have been developed to provide clear guidance to staff of the Health Professions Licensing Authority, members of the Medical Board of the Northern Territory (the Board), interns and employers.

SUPPORTING POLICIES

This policy should be considered in conjunction with the Medical Board of the Northern Territory's Entitlement to Registration Policy.

1. Internship

- 1.1 Interns are granted conditional registration for 13 months. These conditional registrants are limited to the practice of medicine within the intern program only.
- 1.2 Medical graduates of universities in Australia and New Zealand, which are accredited by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) are eligible to undertake an internship in Northern Territory postgraduate training accredited hospitals.
- 1.3 International medical graduates (IMG) who have completed a degree course recognised by the WHO Directory, are eligible to undertake an internship in Northern Territory postgraduate training accredited hospitals.

2. Rotation Plan

- 2.1 At least one complete term should be in medicine and one complete term in surgery.
- 2.2 Most interns will choose to rotate through a number of sub-specialities in medicine and surgery.
- 2.3 Interns should have a term in emergency medicine unless the Board provides an exemption.
- 2.4 Interns may elect to do a term in a general practice accredited by General Practice Education NT. This term should be undertaken on a voluntary basis and may not replace a term in medicine or surgery.
- 2.5 Terms should usually be of ten weeks duration, and must be supervised to a degree commensurate with the intern's level of training and experience and should have a general educational content suitable to the level of training and practice experience of the intern.

3. Internship – Part Time / Deferment / Extension

The Board has developed the following guide for those interns who need to defer their internship or to undertake it on a part-time basis or extend the period in which to complete their internship. Approval of deferment, or extension of the period in which to complete internship, or to undertake internship on a part time basis, is at the discretion of the Board. The Board may consult with the Postgraduate Medical Council, the relevant teaching hospital, or any other person it

necessary when considering a submission for deferment or extension of internship or to undertake internship on a part time basis.

3.1 Part Time Internship

The Board has may approve interns undertaking their internship on a part-time basis, subject to the following:

- a. The aggregate number of hours worked is the same as that required of 'full time' interns;
- b. The range of work and shifts undertaken provides an equivalent exposure to varying clinical circumstances and patterns;
- c. The total time taken does not exceed two years; and
- d. There normally be a full-time component of at least one term of 10-weeks duration at the commencement of the internship.

3.2 Deferment of Internship

Deferment of internship may be granted by the Board on medical, compassionate or personal grounds. Deferment for up to two years may be granted in exceptional circumstances.

- a. Graduates may be required to attend an interview at the Board to determine eligibility for registration to undertake an internship.
- b. In determination of eligibility for registration the Board should consider:
 1. The period of time elapsed since completion of degree;
 2. Subsequent study and / or employment undertaken since completion of degree; and
 3. Reasons for not undertaking internship upon completion of degree.

3.3 Extension of Period of Internship

The Board may extend the period of conditional registration in which to complete internship the following is provide:

- a. A submission to the Board outlining the reason for requiring an extension of conditional registration past 13 months;
- b. Evidence of satisfactory progress throughout the internship;
- c. Evidence of continued employment as an intern.

4. Unsatisfactory Progress or Completion of Internship

Details of any aspects of the intern's service deemed to be unsatisfactory should be supplied by the hospital. The Board requires notification of concerns related to performance in a timely manner.

Pursuant to S117 If a person who employs a health practitioner terminates or suspends the health practitioner's employment because of alleged or actual misconduct or incompetent to practise, the person must provide a written report of the circumstance of the termination or suspension to the Board.

5. Completion of Internship

The Board requires the primary allocation centre to provide a certificate of hospital service for each intern at the end of the pre-registration period. Time spent at both the primary allocation centre and the secondment location should be documented, including the discipline in which the rotations have been served. The primary allocation centre must insure that it has gathered sufficient information from secondment locations towards the end of each intern's pre-registration period to enable proper completion of the certificate of hospital service.

6. Entitlement to Full Registration

6.1 At the completion of the 48-week (or full time equivalent) period of internship the Board must be satisfied that the internship has been completed satisfactorily. Therefore, the Board requires a Certificate of Hospital Service from the relevant hospital evidencing successful completion of the period, in order for the Board to review the practitioner's entitlement to full registration.

6.2 The Board will also consider granting 'full registration' to graduates of AMC accredited universities who provide evidence of satisfactorily completing a recognised internship in another State or Territory in Australia or New Zealand. Such evidence must be provided directly from that jurisdiction's Medical Board. If such a graduate has completed an internship elsewhere the Board may require the applicant to undertake a satisfactory period of supervised training, prior to full registration being considered.

6.3 IMGs completing internship in an area of need position in the Northern Territory, who have not completed the AMC examinations part 1 and 2, are eligible to seek a variation of conditions.

6.4 IMGs who have successfully completed internship in Australia and have successfully completed the AMC examinations part 1 and 2 are entitled to apply for full registration.