



## MEDICAL BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### NATIONALLY CONSISTENT ASSESSMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES

#### COMPETENT AUTHORITY PATHWAY INFORMATION SHEET

### Background

In July 2006, the Council of Australian Governments announced major health registration and accreditation reform initiatives which included a national assessment process for International Medical Graduates (IMGs).

The new assessment model consists of three main pathways to registration depending on the IMGs previous training and assessment, knowledge base, clinical skills, and suitability of their skills and experience for the position for which they are applying. The pathways are:

1. Competent Authority pathway
2. Standard pathway (workplace -based assessment) - being developed.
3. Specialist pathway

These pathways are being developed in consultation with representatives of state and territory medical boards, health departments, specialist medical colleges, the Australian Medical Council (AMC), the Australian Medical Association (AMA), postgraduate medical councils and consumer representatives.

This information sheet provides an outline of the Competent Authority Pathway and details of the processes that Competent Authority eligible IMGs would need to follow for registration under this pathway.

### Competent Authority Model

The Competent Authority Model operates on the premise that there are a number of international assessment processes (and accredited courses) that are sufficiently consistent with the format, context and standard of the AMC examinations, so that additional examination through the AMC of IMGs who have completed these international examinations (or accredited courses) would not be warranted.

However from a standards and safety perspective, a further evaluation of the performance of IMGs in an Australian clinical context is required before general registration is granted.

The AMC have conducted a survey of international authorities which have been identified as potential Competent Authorities. The survey sought information that would establish that their assessment processes complied with assessment best practice principles and were consistent with the scope and content of assessment process implemented in Australia.

Details of the international authorities who have been endorsed by the AMC as Competent Authorities for purpose of awarding advanced standing towards the AMC Certificate are listed on Table 1.

This list of authorities is not exhaustive and in due course other authorities may apply to be considered under this model.

### **Assessment Process for Competent Authority Pathway**

There are two key elements to the Competent Authorities Model for the assessment of IMGs:

1. The granting by the AMC of “Advanced Standing” for the AMC Certificate based on evidence of having completed the examination of a designated Competent Authority plus the prescribed clinical experience /supervised training required for general registration.
2. Completion of a workplace-based performance assessment to the satisfaction of the Board.

At present, a resource and time efficient workplace-based performance assessment tool which would form part of Competent Authority model is being developed.

However, in order to allow those IMGs who wish to commence the Competent Authority assessment process, an interim arrangement, has been put in place until the new workplace-based assessment tools have been finalised. This transitional arrangement involves using the existing supervision reporting system for registration structured to assess the workplace based performance of the IMG.

### **Transitional Arrangements**

There are a number of IMGs who are currently registered in the conditional registration, category who are likely to be eligible to apply for general registration under the Competent Authority model. The Board has endorsed the transitional pathway and has implemented the necessary administrative arrangements for dealing with these IMGs:

<b>Case 1:</b>	<b>More than 12 months employment history in the Western Australian healthcare system</b>
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1. **Application:** the IMG applies to the AMC with details of examination results (formal qualification) from designated competent authority together with details of any prescribed supervised training or clinical experience required under the Competent Authority model (eg Foundation Year 1 for the UK).

The application to the AMC should include a letter/statement from the Board confirming that the applicant:

- has completed an approved assessment of 12 months or more of clinical work under supervision in Western Australia; and

- there are no adverse independent or supervision reports relating to performance; and
  - the applicant would qualify for renewal of registration based on the supervisor reports.
2. **Award of AMC Certificate:** AMC initiates primary source verification, confirms documentation and awards the AMC Certificate.
  3. **General Registration:** the Board will grant general registration.

**Note: Legislative amendments to the Medical Act 1894 (WA) are required before the Board can grant general registration under the Transitional arrangements. These are proceeding through the parliament at this time.**

<b>Case 2:</b>	<b>Less than 12 months employment history in the Western Australian healthcare system</b>
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1. **Application:** the IMG applies to the AMC with details of examination result (formal qualification) from designated competent authority together with details of any prescribed supervised training or clinical experience required under the Competent Authority model (eg. Foundation Year 1 for the UK).
2. **AMC Advanced Standing :** AMC initiates primary source verification, confirms documentation and awards advanced standing towards AMC Certificate. The AMC will advise the Board that the IMG has been granted advanced standing towards the AMC Certificate
3. **Confirmation of supervision reporting assessment:** Upon receipt of the advice from the AMC, the Board endorses the application and confirms that the applicant:
  - has completed less than 12 months of clinical work under supervision in Western Australia.
  - there are no adverse independent or supervision reports relating to performance.
  - the applicant is eligible to continue in a supervised practice position for a further period to be determined by the Board in order to make up a total period of 12 months under supervision.
4. **Completion of supervision assessment requirements:** On completion of a 12 month period of supervision, or a period determined by the Board, a final supervision assessment report is provided to the Board. If the Board determines that the report is satisfactory for the purposes of renewal of registration, the AMC is notified of the Board's decision.
5. **Award of AMC certificate:** Upon notification of the Board's decision to renew registration, the IMG is then awarded the AMC Certificate.
6. **General Registration:** the Board will grant general registration.

**Note: Legislative amendments to the Medical Act 1894 (WA) are required before the Board can grant general registration under the Transitional arrangements. These are proceeding through the parliament at this time.**

### **Applications for Assessment**

Attached to this information sheet is the AMC Competent Authority Self Assessment form to assist you in determining whether you would qualify to proceed under the Competent Authority pathway.

The Transitional Application form for those IMGs wishing to be assessed under the Competent Authority pathway is available on the AMC website [www.amc.org.au](http://www.amc.org.au).

Further information on the Competent Authority process can also be obtained on the WA Department of Health website [www.overseasdoctors@health.wa.gov.au](http://www.overseasdoctors@health.wa.gov.au).

IMGs with more than 12 months registration under supervision in Western Australia seeking a letter from the Board to include with their submission to the AMC, can use **FORM AG** "Application for Medical Board of Western Australia letter for the Purposes of Awarding the AMC Certificate" which is available on the Board's website [www.wa.medicalboard.com.au](http://www.wa.medicalboard.com.au).

**TABLE 1**

**IDENTIFICATION OF COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS**

The following bodies have been identified and endorsed by the AMC as Competent Authorities for the purposes of awarding advanced standing towards the AMC Certificate.

Persons holding the qualifications listed are **not recommended by the AMC for general registration**, but are required to complete an accredited workplace-based performance assessment as pre-requisite for the award of the AMC Certificate and subsequent registration.


This list is not exhaustive and in due course other authorities may apply to be considered under the Competent Authority Model.

Country	Authority	Qualification / Award / Assessment	Effective from
United Kingdom	General Medical Council of the United Kingdom (GMC)	1. Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) test PLUS# 12 months supervised training approved by the GMC OR Foundations Year 1	Post - 1975
		2. Graduates of Medical Schools in the United Kingdom accredited by the General Medical Council PLUS# 12 months supervised training approved by the GMC OR Foundations Year 1	No date limit
Canada	Medical Council of Canada (MCC)	Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC)	No date limit
United States of America	Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)	United States Medical Licensing Examination Steps 1, Step 2 and Step 3 (USMLE 1, 2 & 3) PLUS# Minimum 2 years of Graduate Medical Education (GME) within a residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)	Post -1992
New Zealand*	Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ)	New Zealand Registration Examination (NZREX) PLUS# Evidence of satisfactory completion of rotating internship (4 runs accredited by the MCNZ)*	No date limit
Ireland	Medical Council of Ireland	Graduates of Medical Schools in Ireland accredited by the Medical Council of Ireland PLUS# 12 months supervised training approved by the Council OR Foundations Year 1	No date limit

Notes on Recommendations:

**#All of the requirements, including supervised training/internship/residency must be satisfied to qualify under the Competent Authority model**

**\*NB: The CA pathway is not applicable to graduates of AMC-accredited New Zealand Medical Schools. These graduates are eligible to apply for registration on the basis of their accredited NZ degree.**

 <p><b>AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL</b> ABN 19 814 243 263</p>	<p><b>Self Assessment for International Medical Graduates Eligible to Proceed to Registration through the Competent Authority Model</b></p>
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The Australian Medical Council (AMC) has endorsed the bodies listed below as Competent Authorities for the purposes of awarding advanced standing towards the AMC Certificate. International Medical Graduates (IMGs) who are eligible to proceed through the Competent Authority model will not be required to pass the AMC MCQ or clinical examination for the purposes of registration, but will be required to satisfactorily complete a period of workplace based performance assessment. Please complete the personal details section and undertake the self assessment below to see if you qualify to proceed under the Competent Authority model:

Qualification / Award / Assessment	
<b>Category A</b>	<b>UNITED KINGDOM – General Medical Council (GMC)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have successfully completed the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) test since 1975. AND
<input type="checkbox"/>	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. AND
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have full registration issued by the GMC (as evidenced by a Certificate of Good Standing)
<b>Category B</b>	<b>UNITED KINGDOM – General Medical Council (GMC)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a Graduate of a Medical course conducted by a Medical School in the United Kingdom accredited by the General Medical Council. AND
<input type="checkbox"/>	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. AND
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have full registration issued by the GMC (as evidenced by a Certificate of Good Standing)
<b>Category C</b>	<b>CANADA – Medical Council of Canada</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have successfully completed the Licentiate examinations of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC).
<b>Category D</b>	<b>UNITED STATES – Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have successfully completed the United States Medical Licensing Examination Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3 since 1992. AND
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have successfully completed a minimum of 2 years of Graduate Medical Education within a residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education.
<b>Category E</b>	<b>NEW ZEALAND – Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have successfully completed the New Zealand Registration Examination. AND
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have successfully completed the required rotating internship (4 runs accredited by the MCNZ).
<b>Category F</b>	<b>IRELAND – Medical Council of Ireland</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a Graduate of a Medical School in Ireland accredited by the Medical Council of Ireland AND
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have successfully completed an internship in Ireland (certificate of experience) or in another Competent Authority country approved by the Medical Council of Ireland.

If you have ticked every box in one of the categories A, B, C, D, E or F you may be eligible to proceed under the Competent Authority model. The assessment of documentation under the Competent Authority model can take up to a period of 4 weeks. If you are eligible to proceed for the Competent Authority pathway the application forms will be available on the AMC website.

**The 'self assessment' does not constitute the full Competent Authority model assessment process.**

Please do not telephone the AMC Secretariat as 'self assessment' cannot be provided over the telephone - all available information is provided above for candidate details to be completed if considered appropriate.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

6<sup>th</sup> March 2008