

National Policy Number <b>NatPol-006-2007</b>	National Policy Register
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## Verification of qualifications

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### 1.0 Introduction

Medical Boards are required under legislation to ensure that only suitably qualified persons are registered to practise medicine in Australia. The need for verification of qualifications is an essential element of this requirement and has been brought about by the global nature of medical recruiting and the ease of access to high quality forged documentation.

This protocol is established, as part of an integrated fraud management framework to help ensure the following in relation to International Medical Graduates ('IMG'):

- a. The applicant's medical qualifications are accepted only if conferred by a medical school recognised by the Board.
- b. The medical qualification has been conferred upon the person who is applying for registration.

The following State and Territory Medical Boards and the Australian Medical Council have agreed to this protocol:

- ACT Medical Board
- New South Wales Medical Board
- Medical Board of the Northern Territory
- Medical Board of Queensland
- Medical Board of South Australia
- Medical Council of Tasmania
- Medical Practitioners Board of Victoria
- Medical Board of Western Australia
- Australian Medical Council

### 2.0 The Protocol

All agreed/relevant qualifications presented by an IMG for the purpose of registration are to be verified through the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) International Credentials Services (EICS). This may be done directly to the EICS or by making application to the AMC.

Evidence that the EICS process has been commenced by the IMG must

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	<p>be presented with their application for registration. Evidence acceptable to the medical board is a copy of the email sent by ECFMG to the applicant to confirm the EICS application has been received or an EICS number issued through the AMC.</p> <p>ECFMG will advise the medical board at any time that an applicant has withdrawn from the verification process.</p> <p>Registrants, who apply directly to the ECFMG, will be advised by the applicable medical board of the verification of their qualifications on receipt of the EICS report. Registrants who lodge applications for verification through the AMC will be notified by the AMC, who will also notify the relevant medical board.</p> <p>The Board will notify all necessary parties (such as the employer, the sponsor, other State and Territory medical boards and the State or Territory Police Service) should a qualification presented by a registrant be verified by the ECFMG as fraudulent or where the registrant has withdrawn their EICS application. The registration in such cases may be suspended by the medical board and the matter investigated.</p> <p><b>3.0 Exemptions</b></p> <p>Applicants for registration who have previously undertaken the EICS verification process as a requirement of another competent registration authority, the AMC or a Medical Registration Board may be exempted from this policy on the provision of an EICS report which was issued within two years of the date of application, or the issue of a duplicate report by the ECFMG.</p> <p><b>4.0 Implementation Date</b></p> <p>This policy takes effect from 1 December 2007.</p>