



Health Minister's Meeting

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Dr Susan O'Dwyer
Chair
Medical Board of Australia
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Via email: Ahpra.Secretariat@ahpra.gov.au

Dear Dr O'Dwyer

Approval of the revised list of medical specialists to include genetic pathology

Thank you for your letter of 10 December 2024 on behalf of the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) recommending approval of the revised list of medical specialists to include genetic pathology as a new field of specialty practice for the medical profession and genetic pathologist as the corresponding protected specialist title.

I am pleased to advise that the Ministerial Council has agreed to approve the proposal in accordance with section 13 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*, as in force in each state and territory.

In making this approval, we note the MBA's advice that no significant changes to existing arrangements is expected and no adverse impacts expected for patients, governments, the health system or other health practitioners and that the clear benefit is in recognising on the list of specialties that this is a distinct field of specialty practice from other pathology disciplines. As a result, it is expected that referring doctors who rely on the expertise and advice of genetic pathologists to determine the most appropriate, equitable, and cost-effective genetic testing, and to help interpret the results of testing, will be more readily identifiable on the specialist register.

Ministers also agree with your proposal that the approved revised list take effect approximately one month after receipt of our approval and that the MBA will work with the AMC and the RCPA on transitional arrangements for medical practitioners who were awarded the Genetic pathology qualification prior to Ministerial Council approval and prior to formal accreditation and approval of the qualification.

Thank you for bringing the Board's proposal to Health Ministers.

Yours sincerely

Chris Picton MP
Chair
Health Ministers' Meeting

26/6 / 2025