

## Media Release

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### Board and AMC to review implementation of IMG pathways

The Medical Board of Australia will work with the Australian Medical Council to determine the terms of a review of the implementation of assessment pathways for International Medical Graduates (IMGs).

At its meeting on 28 October 2010, the Board decided the time was right to make sure the opportunities of the national registration and accreditation scheme were applied to the IMG assessment pathways.

“It has been more than two years since the pathways were introduced and it is now time to review the effectiveness of their implementation,” said the Chair of the Medical Board of Australia, Dr Joanna Flynn.

“This is not about changing the standards, but looking at what is working effectively and what can be improved. We are making sure these pathways have been implemented as consistently as possible and are as effective as they can be in ensuring IMGs have the skills, qualifications and experience to provide safe care to the Australian community,” Dr Flynn said.

On 1 July 2008, the Australian Medical Council (AMC) introduced a nationally consistent assessment process for international medical graduates (IMGs). There are four different pathways for IMGs seeking to become qualified for general or specialist registration:

1. competent authority pathway
2. standard pathway (AMC examination)
3. standard pathway (workplace-based assessment)
4. specialist assessment pathway

Details about the pathways can be found on the AMC’s website at [www.amc.org.au](http://www.amc.org.au).

As a general principle, the Board expects that IMGs with limited registration who intend to practise in Australia in the longer term will progress and achieve general or specialist registration. Under the national scheme, the Board requires IMGs to provide evidence at each renewal of registration that they have progressed towards achieving either specialist or general registration. The Board is seeking advice from the AMC about assessment processes the Board could use to confirm a registrant is safe to practise, in cases when the practitioner does not appear to be progressing satisfactorily towards general or specialist registration.

“The Board wants to strike a balance that ensures IMGs are properly supported in their roles and that they are appropriately assessed – in a fair and robust way – so the community and the Board can be confident the IMG has the skills, qualifications and experience to provide safe care in the particular role they are registered to perform, with the level of supervision provided,” Dr Flynn said.

The Board will provide further updates on the review of IMG related issues after preliminary work with the AMC.

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