



IN CONFIDENCE

**MEDICAL BOARD OF AUSTRALIA**

Meeting Number 9  
23 June 2010  
10 am to 4 pm

Hilton Melbourne Airport

1. Welcome and general overview matters

- 1.1 [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

2. Transition matters

- 2.1 [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

3. Registration matters

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

**3.11 Delegations for the ACT**

4. Accreditation matters

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]

7. Next meeting

**RELEASED UNDER THE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 (Cth)**



**MEDICAL BOARD OF AUSTRALIA**

**23 June 2010**

**Meeting Number: 9**

**Agenda Item: 3.2**

**SPECIALIST REGISTRATION**

---

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That members:**

1. consider and agree on changes to the draft registration standard for specialist registration
2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]
4. agree to consult on the draft registration standard.

**BACKGROUND**

Section 13 of the National Law states that specialist recognition operates for the medical profession.

The Ministerial Council has approved a list of specialties for the profession and specialist titles for each specialty on that list and the Board has approved qualifications for each specialty. The qualifications are all fellowships of specialist colleges that have been accredited by the Australian Medical Council.

The Board will be invited to agree that examination and assessment of individuals with specialist qualifications that are not approved by the Board will be conducted by the relevant specialist colleges that have been accredited by the AMC.

**Legislation**

Section 57 of the National Law states:

***Eligibility for specialist registration***

*(1) An individual is eligible for specialist registration in a recognised specialty in a health profession if—*

*(a) the individual is qualified for registration in the specialty; and*

*(b) the individual has successfully completed—*

*(i) any period of supervised practice in the specialty required by an approved registration standard for the health profession; or*

- (ii) any examination or assessment required by an approved registration standard for the health profession to assess the individual's ability to competently and safely practise the specialty; and*
- (c) the individual is a suitable person to hold registration in the health profession; and*
- (d) the individual is not disqualified under this Law or a law of a co-regulatory jurisdiction from applying for registration, or being registered, in the specialty; and*
- (e) the individual meets any other requirements for registration stated in an approved registration standard for the specialty.*

Section 58 of the National Law states:

***Qualifications for specialist registration***

An individual is qualified for specialist registration in a recognised specialty in a health profession if the individual—

- (a) holds an approved qualification for the specialty; or
- (b) holds another qualification the National Board established for the health profession considers to be substantially equivalent, or based on similar competencies, to an approved qualification for the specialty; or
- (c) holds a qualification, not referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), relevant to the specialty and has successfully completed an examination or other assessment required by the National Board for the purpose of registration in the specialty; or
- (d) the individual—
  - (i) holds a qualification, not referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), that under this Law or a corresponding prior Act qualified the individual for specialist registration (however described) in the specialty; and
  - (ii) was previously registered under this Law or the corresponding prior Act on the basis of holding that qualification for the specialty.

Section 59 of the National Law states:

***Examination or assessment for specialist registration***

For the purposes of section 57(1)(b)(ii), if the National Board requires an individual to undertake an examination or assessment, the examination or assessment must be conducted by an accreditation authority for the health profession, unless the Board decides otherwise.

**ISSUES**

Members are asked to consider whether they agree with the attached registration standard. In particular to focus on:

- [REDACTED]
  - initial and renewal
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

•  
i



**ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment A:

Draft registration standard for specialist registration

[REDACTED]

**Summary**

In order to be qualified for specialist registration, applicants must have a qualification:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Comment [JK1]:** Question – do they also need to comply with recency for every specialty or do we rely on the recency standard which puts the responsibility on the registrant?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Requirements**

**For initial registration- Applicant is on the Register of Medical Practitioners**

If the medical practitioner is currently registered, they are not required to produce documentation previously presented to the Board such as proof of identity, medical degrees and evidence that they have met the Board's English language registration standard.



[REDACTED]

*For initial registration- Applicant is not on the Register of Medical Practitioners*

[REDACTED]

*If the applicant is not eligible for general registration*

Requirements are:

1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. Evidence of English language skills that meets the Board's English language registration standard.

6. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## **Review**

This standard will commence as soon as it has been approved by the Ministerial Council. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.

**RELEASED UNDER THE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 (Cth)**

**National Policy  
Number**  
**NatPol-001-2005**

**National Policy  
Register**



**NATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT  
FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES**

---

**1.0 Introduction**

A national English Language Proficiency requirement for all International Medical Graduates (IMGs) who require registration in Australia has been accepted by:

- Medical Board of the Australian Capital Territory
- 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

Each state and territory registration board is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that medicine is practised in accordance with their Act. This includes ensuring that only individuals who are competent, have a sound knowledge of the English Language, and are of good character, are registered as medical practitioners.

Many international medical graduates come from a non-English speaking background and the level of English competency varies greatly. Through national agreement, the state and territory registration boards have implemented an English Language Proficiency Policy that is consistent.

**2.0 English Language Model**

A high level of English language proficiency is essential to enable practitioners to communicate with patients, other doctors and health professionals, and for maintenance of professional standards.

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is an appropriate language testing model for international medical graduates seeking registration.

The IELTS test was developed by the University of Cambridge, the Local Examinations Syndicate, The British Council and IDP Education Australia. The test is administered at least once a month by IELTS Australia and The British Council at over 230 centres worldwide.

National Policy Number <b>NatPol-001-2005</b>	National Policy Register
--------------------------------------------------	--------------------------

Applicants should contact IELTS Australia on all matters relating to the administration of the IELTS English test, examination dates and its associated procedures. The IELTS English Test is held throughout Australia as well as overseas. The contact for IELTS Australia is:

Tel: + 612 6285 8222  
 Website: [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)  
 E-mail: [ielts@idp.edu.au](mailto:ielts@idp.edu.au)

**3.0 Requirements**

Applicants need to submit evidence to the relevant registration authority of competency in speaking and communicating in English, as demonstrated by having completed the IELTS examination (Academic module) to the following standard:

1. The boards require the applicant to have achieved a minimum score of 7 in each of the four components.
2. Alternative English proficiency tests that will be accepted are:
  - a) Completed and obtained an overall pass in the Occupational English Test (OET) administered by the Centre for Adult Education with grades A or B only in each of the four components; or
  - b) A pass in the Professional Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) in the United Kingdom; or
  - c) A pass in the New Zealand Registration Examination (NZREX) in New Zealand.
3. Results must have been obtained within 2 years prior to applying for registration.
4. An IELTS (or approved equivalent) Test Report Form more than two years old will be accepted as evidence of present level of ability if accompanied by proof that a candidate has actively maintained employment as a medical practitioner in a country where English is the native or first language. Test results must comply with the current requirements of this policy.
5. Results from any of the abovementioned English language examinations must be obtained in one sitting.

**NOTE: The applicant is responsible for the cost of English tests.**

National Policy Number <b>NatPol-001-2005</b>	National Policy Register
	<p><b>4.0 Exemptions</b></p> <p>The boards may grant exemption where the applicant provides evidence of secondary education in English in one of the countries, listed below, where English is the native or first Language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canada</li> <li>• Republic of Ireland</li> <li>• New Zealand</li> <li>• United Kingdom and Northern Ireland</li> <li>• United States of America</li> <li>• South Africa</li> </ul> <p>At the board's discretion, an exemption may be approved in special circumstances to applicants applying for registration. Examples would be, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• perform a demonstration in medical techniques; or</li> <li>• undertake research which involves limited or no patient contact; or</li> <li>• undertake postgraduate study or training while working in an appropriately supported environment which will ensure patient safety is not compromised.</li> </ul> <p><b>5.0 Implementation Date</b></p> <p>This policy takes effect from 1 July 2005.</p> <p>This policy was amended on 4 April 2007 and is effective from 1 July 2007.</p>