



Registration Standard

Endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered medical practitioners

Authority

This standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 9 November 2012 pursuant to the Health Practitioner Registration National Law Act (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory, with approval taking effect from 11 December 2012.

Summary

Medical practitioners who wish to use the title “acupuncturist” must either have their registration endorsed for acupuncture by the Medical Board of Australia or be registered by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

Medical practitioners with general and/or specialist registration can apply for endorsement of registration for acupuncture if:

1. they hold an approved qualification in acupuncture
2. they do not have an approved qualification but have general and/or specialist registration and:
 - a. have been accredited by the Joint Consultative Committee on Medical Acupuncture for acupuncture prior to 30 June 2012 and have complied with the continuing professional development requirements for medical acupuncture for the previous triennium and/or
 - b. have been practising acupuncture in the 24 months from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2012, as evidenced by a minimum of 25 relevant Medicare claims in that period of time.

Medical practitioners whose registration is endorsed for acupuncture must comply with the Board’s registration standard for recency of practice and must undertake relevant continuing professional development.

Scope of application

This standard applies to medical practitioners who have general and/or specialist registration who apply for endorsement of registration for acupuncture.

Medical practitioners who are undertaking a course of study leading to an approved qualification for the endorsement of registration for acupuncture cannot have their registration endorsed as they do not have an approved qualification.

Medical practitioners with limited registration, non-practising registration or provisional registration are not eligible to apply for endorsement of registration for acupuncture.

Medical students are not eligible to apply to the Board for endorsement of registration for acupuncture.

Requirements

All applicants

Endorsement of registration for acupuncture can only be granted to a registered medical practitioner with general and/or specialist registration.

It is usual for medical practitioners to apply for endorsement of registration for acupuncture after being granted general and/or specialist registration. However, applicants can apply for endorsement of registration for acupuncture at the same time that they apply for general and/or specialist registration. Endorsement of registration can only be granted if general and/or specialist registration is granted.

Medical practitioners with approved qualifications for acupuncture

Medical practitioners with approved qualifications for acupuncture are required to submit:

1. Evidence of having been awarded the approved qualifications for acupuncture
2. Evidence of work practice history that meets the Medical Board of Australia's recency of practice registration standard, specifically in relation to the practice of acupuncture.

Note: A person who has been awarded the approved qualifications for acupuncture in the past 12 months prior to applying for endorsement of registration is taken to have complied with the Board's recency of practice registration standard.

Medical practitioners who were practising acupuncture before 1 July 2012 and who do not have approved qualifications for acupuncture

Arrangements have been made for the endorsement of registration for acupuncture for medical practitioners who do not have an approved qualification for acupuncture, but who were practising acupuncture before 1 July 2012, in the circumstances defined in this standard.

The practitioners described below can apply for endorsement for acupuncture up to 30 June 2015. Medical practitioners who apply for endorsement for registration after 1 July 2015 must have an approved qualification.

The Medical Board of Australia considers that medical practitioners who have been practising acupuncture up to 30 June 2012 and who are qualified for general and/or specialist registration to have a qualification that is substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies, to the approved qualification.

Medical practitioners in the following circumstances are eligible to apply for endorsement of registration for acupuncture:

1. Medical practitioners with general and/or specialist registration who provide the following written confirmation from the Joint Consultative Committee on Medical Acupuncture:
 - a. If application is made before 30 June 2012 - that they are currently accredited by the Joint Consultative Committee on Medical Acupuncture and they have fulfilled the continuing professional development requirements for medical acupuncture for the previous triennium
 - b. If application is made after 1 July 2012 - that they were accredited by the Joint Consultative Committee on Medical Acupuncture as at 30 June 2012 and they have fulfilled the continuing professional development requirements for medical acupuncture for the previous triennium
2. Medical practitioners with general and/or specialist registration who have claimed 25 or more acupuncture-related Medicare item numbers in the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2012 must provide written confirmation of these claims and provide permission for the Board to communicate with Medicare to confirm this information.

Continuing professional development

Medical practitioners must comply with the approved registration standard for continuing professional development (CPD). Medical practitioners whose registration is endorsed for acupuncture are required to undertake CPD specifically in acupuncture.

Medical practitioners who are on the Specialists Register and who are endorsed for acupuncture are required to comply with the CPD requirements of their specialist college. If possible, practitioners should include CPD activities related to acupuncture within their college program. If this is not available, they should undertake a minimum of 10 hours per year additional self-directed CPD that is relevant to acupuncture. Alternatively, they can complete another AMC accredited specialist college's CPD requirements for acupuncture.

Medical Practitioners who are not on the specialist register must either:

- undertake at least 20% of their CPD in acupuncture. For practitioners undertaking self-directed CPD, this equates to 10 hours per year or
- complete a specialist college CPD requirements for acupuncture.

Renewal of endorsement for acupuncture

An application for renewal of registration will be taken to also be an application for a renewal of the endorsement.

Review

This standard will commence on 11 December 2012. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.

Definition

Acupuncture related Medicare item numbers refer to item numbers 173, 193, 195, 197 or 199.