

Review of English language skills registration standard:

The proposed Option 2 is more flexible and provide more opportunities for health professionals.

1. From your perspective, how is the current registration standard working?

From my perspective the current registration standard have some obstacles, for example it is very time and money consuming to obtain required English language skills test.

2. Do you have comments about how the National Boards should approach test results that are very close to, but slightly below, the current standard?

I think, if the National Boards would accept the test results that are very close that can improve outcome to health professionals due to ability to faster find a work place and have opportunity to practice language skills in real life.

3. Should National Boards accept results from more than one sitting or is there a better way to address this issue, such as the approaches described above?

In my opinion, the accept results from more than one sitting is the better way to improve this situation. From my own experience, I had tried to pass IELTS exam six times during one year here in Australia with average overall score from each sittings 7.5 (I need overall 7.0), but every time from one module (writing or speaking) I had 6.5. Despite the fact that between the exams were two or four weeks gap. Once I have got 6.0 for speaking while two weeks earlier I had 7.5 and I would like to mention, I am living in Australia, it could be stagnation in language proficiency but not degradation in two weeks time. In this case, I think it is more appropriate to accept results from multiple sittings.

In addition, the IELTS provides not relevant information about that it was not designed to be a modular test, because the speaking module is always run in separate time. For example, the same day of the test, but in the evening or few days before or after the other modules. Also, the Task 1 of academic writing module is completely not relevant to the health professions, for instance, the few times I have to describe layout of office plan in Japan and USA and work of diesel generator which is not even relevant or helpful in uni. I think, in this regard, the more appropriate the general IELTS writing which include the letter, because the medical professionals always use the letter format for communication among each other.

In this regards, the OET the more flexible, especially if you have opportunity to resit only one module.