

Fact sheet

10 November 2021

International medical graduates requesting a change to their supervision level

Summary

This information has been published to assist international medical graduates (IMGs) who are requesting a change to their supervision level. It provides information about the factors the Medical Board of Australia (the Board) considers when deciding whether to approve the IMG's request. Each application is considered on an individual merits and decisions are based on the evidence submitted.

Background

The Board's *Guidelines – Supervised practice for international medical graduates* apply to IMGs who are granted limited or provisional registration.

All IMGs with limited registration or provisional registration must be supervised. Supervision remains a requirement of registration for the duration of the IMG's limited or provisional registration.

The IMG can request a change of supervision level at any time during the period of supervised practice. There is a form on the [Board's website](#) for IMGs to make their request, *Request for change in circumstances ACCL-30*. The IMG must provide reasons why the proposed change is appropriate and the request must be supported by the IMG's principal supervisor.

Factors considered by the Board when determining the level of supervision

Section 6.1 of the Board's Guidelines lists the following factors that the Board considers when determining the level of supervision:

- the IMG's qualifications
- the IMG's previous experience, especially in the type of position for which the IMG has applied
- whether the IMG has practised recently and the scope of their recent practice
- the requirements of the position including the type of skills required for the position
- the position itself, including the level of risk, the location of practice and the availability of supports (other practitioners, local hospital)
- the seniority of the position for hospital positions
- recommendations from a pre-employment structured clinical interview (PESCI) (noting that the Board may require a different level of supervision than that recommended in the PESCI), and
- recommendations from a specialist medical college which has assessed the IMG (noting that the Board may require a different level of supervision than that recommended by the college).

Guiding principles for Boards when considering a request for a change to supervision level (in the same position)

The following principles guide the Board's consideration of requests:

- it is usual for an IMG to progress through only one level of supervision at a time. For example, an IMG on level one would not normally change to level three
- a minimum time period on each level is not specified. However, the period must provide enough time for the IMG to demonstrate that they can practise safely with that level of supervision
- level 4 supervision is generally only approved where the IMG is assessed as being substantially comparable by a specialist college and only after a period of closer supervision to confirm that they are performing at the necessary level for level 4 supervision
- college support for a change to a supervision level may be required if the college made specific recommendations about supervision in the specialist pathway assessment. The Board will take into account the original supervision recommendations made by the college.

Factors considered by the Board when an IMG requests a change of supervision level (for the same position)

The following is a list of factors that the Board considers when an IMG and their supervisor request a change to the level of supervision **for the same position** (i.e. less supervision):

- any minimum time required on a specified supervision level should have been completed
- whether there are supervisor reports confirming that the IMG is performing satisfactorily
- if there was a condition requiring completion of specific education, whether the education has been completed satisfactorily in the time specified
- whether there have been any other changes that would affect the position. For example, changes to the level of support available (other practitioners, local hospital)
- the reasons why the original level of supervision was required, For example, a high-risk position
- which pathway the IMG is on
- how close the IMG is to the end of the pathway. For example, a provisional registrant on competent authority pathway requesting a change at nine-month mark of the required 12 months supervised practice who is performing well is more likely to be approved compared with someone just beginning on the pathway
- whether there is there any new, objective evidence of performance/progress. For example, successful completion of AMC or specialist college exams
- for general practice positions, what level of supervision was assessed by the PESCI.