



Podiatry
Accreditation
Committee

Guidance for podiatry education providers on endorsement for scheduled medicines in an accreditation context

April 2022

The relationship between the Podiatry Board of Australia's requirements for endorsement for scheduled medicines and accreditation decisions made by the Podiatry Accreditation Committee

Endorsement of registration identifies practitioners who have completed additional education to gain specific expertise in an area approved by Health Ministers. A podiatrist or podiatric surgeon whose registration is endorsed for scheduled medicines under section 94 of the National Law is permitted to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, sell, supply or use Schedule 2, 3, 4 or 8 medicines for the treatment of podiatric conditions, as listed in the *National podiatry scheduled medicines list*¹ and in accordance with the relevant legislation and regulations in each state or territory in which they are practising.

In 2018, following approval from the former COAG Health Council (now known as the Health Ministers Meeting), the Podiatry Board of Australia (the Board) introduced a revised registration standard and guidelines for the endorsement for scheduled medicines (ESM registration standard). The ESM registration standard describes the Board's minimum requirements for a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon to have their registration endorsed for scheduled medicines.²

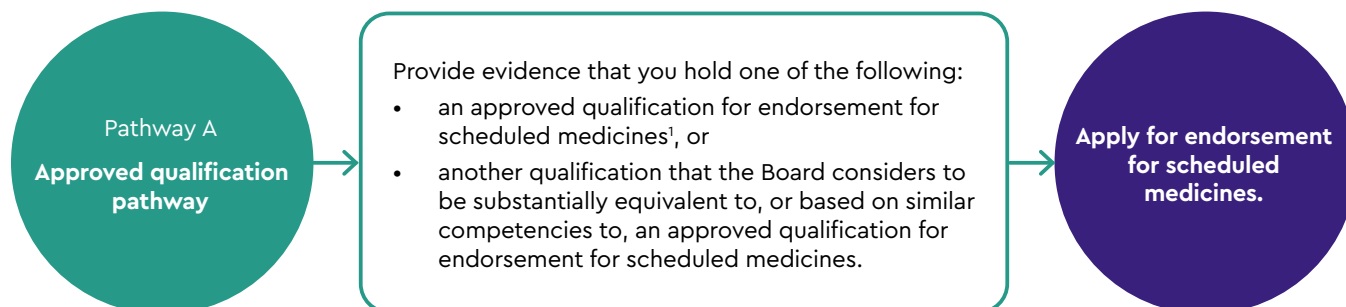
The ESM registration standard outlines two pathways to meet the Board's requirements for endorsement:

- ESM Pathway A: Approved Qualification Pathway or
- ESM Pathway B: Supervised Practice Pathway under the Board's *Registration Standards: Endorsement for scheduled medicines*³.

ESM Pathway A: Approved qualification pathway

Under ESM Pathway A (see Figure 1), a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon is eligible for endorsement of their registration after completing a qualification that is approved by the Board for the endorsement for scheduled medicines (or another qualification that the Board deems to be substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to, an approved qualification for the endorsement for scheduled medicines).

Figure 1: Pathway A to endorsement for scheduled medicines (ESM Pathway A)



¹ The National podiatry scheduled medicines list is attached to the *Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines* available from <https://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>.

² Podiatry Board of Australia, *Registration Standard: Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines*, 2018 available from <https://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/Registration-Endorsement/Endorsement-Scheduled-Medicines.aspx>. Podiatry Board of Australia, *Guidelines: Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines*, 2018 available from <http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/documents/default.aspx?record=WD18%2f25232&dbid=AP&checksum=XlIMaKMTApOi%2bqrAIRPUiw%3d%3d>

³ Podiatry Board of Australia *Registration Standard: Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines*, 2018 available from <https://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/Registration-Endorsement/Endorsement-Scheduled-Medicines.aspx>.

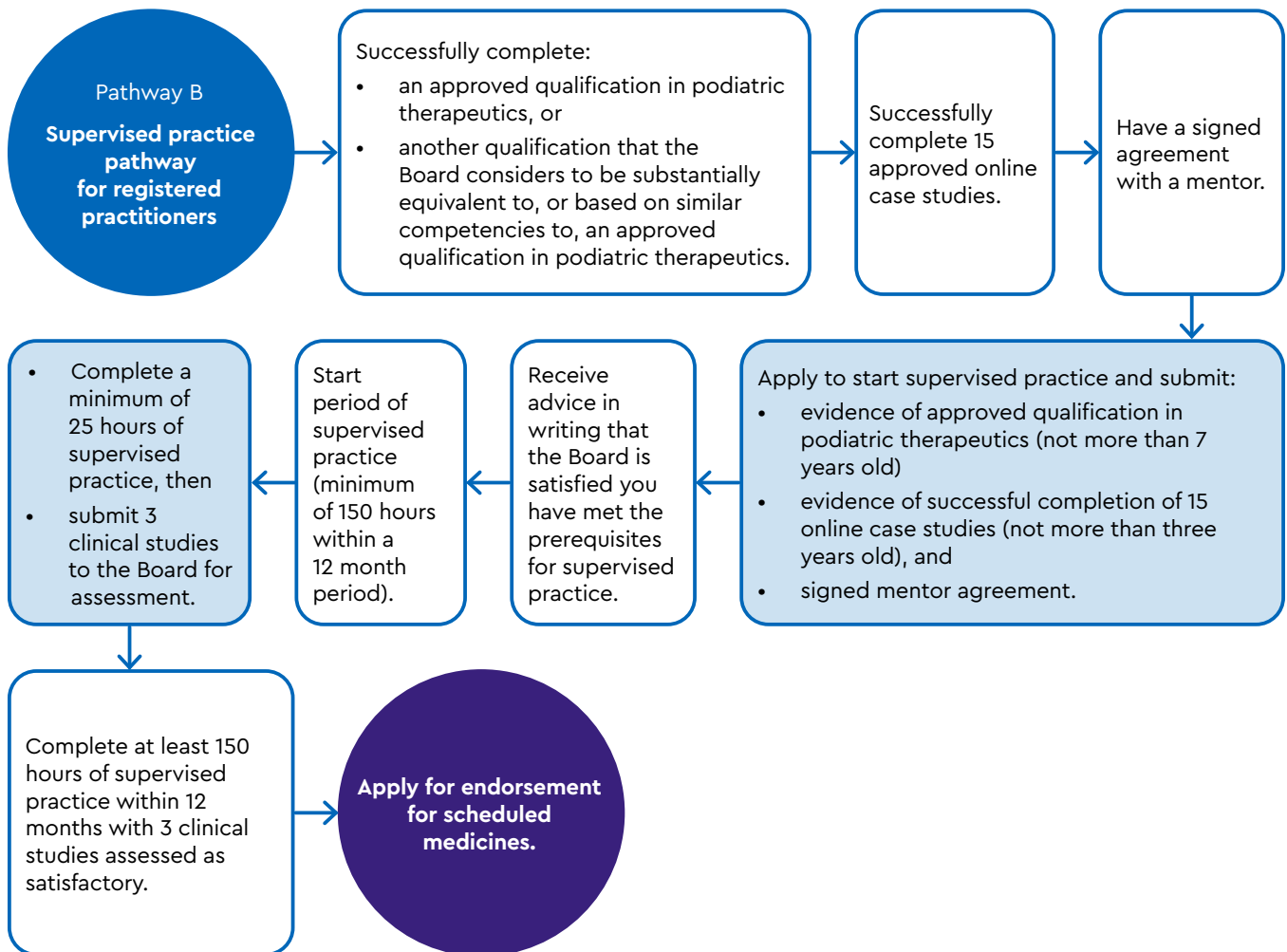
ESM Pathway B: Supervised practice pathway

Under ESM Pathway B (see Figure 2), a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon is eligible for endorsement for scheduled medicines after completing an approved qualification in podiatric therapeutics (or another qualification that the Board deems to be substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to, an approved qualification in podiatric therapeutics) and undertaking additional requirements as outlined in the Board's *Guidelines: Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines and Registration Standard: Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines*⁴.

The additional requirements in the Board's *Guidelines: Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines* are:

- successful completion of approved online case studies
- a period of supervised practice, and
- development of a portfolio of evidence for assessment by the Board.

Figure 2: Pathway B to endorsement for scheduled medicines⁵



⁴ Podiatry Board of Australia, 2018. *Guidelines: Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines and Registration Standard: Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines* available from <https://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/Registration-Endorsement/Endorsement-Scheduled-Medicines.aspx>.

⁵ More information, including two videos about Pathway B to endorsement for scheduled medicines, is available from the Podiatry Board of Australia's website at <https://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/Registration-Endorsement/Endorsement-Scheduled-Medicines.aspx>.

Accreditation decisions

When the Podiatry Accreditation Committee (the Committee) reports on its accreditation decision to the Board under section 48 of the National Law, it will identify if, in addition to addressing professional capabilities for general registration as a podiatrist or specialist registration as a podiatric surgeon, the accredited program:

- ✓ included education and training in podiatric therapeutics and clinically-supervised practice to ensure that graduates have the professional capabilities required to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, sell, supply or use Schedule 2, 3, 4 or 8 medicines for the treatment of podiatric conditions, as listed in the *National podiatry scheduled medicines list* (ESM Pathway A), or
- ✓ included education in podiatric therapeutics that covers the theoretical foundation for endorsement to ensure graduates can safely and competently commence their supervised practice for Pathway B of the ESM registration standard.

The accreditation standards and professional capabilities for entry-level podiatry programs; and accreditation standards and professional capabilities for podiatric surgeons have the capabilities relevant to endorsement embedded within them.

Options for education providers

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons who meet the Board's requirements for endorsement of their registration in relation to scheduled medicines currently do so via ESM Pathway B because there are not yet any approved qualifications for ESM Pathway A.

The 2021 accreditation standards are designed to provide an option for education providers to seek accreditation of programs they want the Board to approve as providing qualifications for ESM Pathway A. The Board may approve a program as providing a qualification suitable for ESM Pathway A if the Accreditation Committee advises the Board that the curriculum includes education and training in podiatric therapeutics and clinically-supervised practice to ensure that graduates have the professional capabilities required to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, sell, supply or use Schedule 2, 3, 4 or 8 medicines for the treatment of podiatric conditions, as listed in the *National podiatry scheduled medicines list*.

Education providers also have the option to seek accreditation of programs they want the Board to approve as providing qualifications for ESM Pathway B. The Board may approve a program as providing a qualification in podiatric therapeutics suitable for ESM Pathway B if the Accreditation Committee advises the Board that the curriculum includes learning and assessment of the theoretical foundation for endorsement to ensure graduates can safely and competently commence their supervised practice as part of the Board's ESM Pathway B.

Education providers may also seek accreditation of programs they want the Board to approve as providing qualifications for general registration as a podiatrist or specialist registration as a podiatric surgeon. The Board may approve a program as providing a qualification suitable for general registration as a podiatrist or for specialist registration as a podiatric surgeon if the Accreditation Committee advises the Board that the curriculum includes learning and assessment of the relevant professional capabilities.

The [accreditation standards summary](#) provides a helpful differentiation of the criteria within the accreditation standards that need to be addressed for programs leading to a qualification for the endorsement for scheduled medicine (ESM Pathway A) and programs leading to a qualification in podiatric therapeutics (as part of ESM pathway B). These may be postgraduate programs, or they may also lead to a qualification approved by the Board for general registration as a podiatrist or specialist registration as a podiatric surgeon.

Accreditation standards to use when applying for accreditation

The accreditation standards that need to be used depends on whether the education provider is seeking accreditation of program as that qualifies graduates for ESM Pathway A or B, as well as for general/specialist registration, or accreditation of a postgraduate program that qualifies registered podiatrists in podiatric therapeutics or for ESM Pathway A.

The table below outlines the accreditation standards to be used for each type of program:

Education programs designed to qualify graduates for:	Accreditation Standards Documents			
	Entry-Level standards	Pod Surgery standards	ESM (incl supervised practice component)	Pod Therapeutics (theory only)
Entry level podiatry only	✓			
Entry level podiatry AND theory and practice related to scheduled medicine (for ESM Pathway A)	✓			
Entry level podiatry and podiatric therapeutics (for ESM Pathway B)	✓			
Podiatric surgery only		✓		
Podiatric surgery, AND theory and practice related to scheduled medicines (for ESM Pathway A)		✓		
Entry level podiatric surgery and podiatric therapeutics (for ESM Pathway B)		✓		
Theory and practice related to scheduled medicines (for ESM Pathway A)			✓	
Podiatric therapeutics only (for ESM Pathway B)				✓

For example: For education providers wanting to provide programs that qualify graduates for entry-level podiatry with ESM, they would use the entry-level standards but would include theory and practice related to scheduled medicines in the curriculum to address all the professional capabilities for podiatrists.

An education provider seeking accreditation:

- of a program designed to qualify graduates for both general registration and for endorsement for scheduled medicines through ESM Pathway A need to submit one accreditation application for the program
- of a program designed to qualify graduates for general registration and in podiatric therapeutics as part of ESM Pathway B need to submit one accreditation application for the program
- of a postgraduate program designed to qualify registered podiatrists in podiatric therapeutics as part of ESM Pathway B is required to submit a separate application for this program, and
- of a postgraduate program designed to qualify registered podiatrists for ESM Pathway A is required to submit a separate application for this program.