

AMC evaluation of the national intern assessment process

Background

In January 2014, a national framework for intern training took effect. The framework documents include the registration standard on granting general registration to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of internship as well as a range of national standards, statements and guidelines.

Under the national framework, there are national requirements for intern assessment, which have been adopted by many health services in 2014, and which take effect from 2015. The registration standard requires that interns achieve satisfactory term supervisor reports and an overall satisfactory assessment of their performance at the end of the provisional registration period. In addition, interns must achieve the outcomes stated in *Intern training – Intern outcome statements* and are assessed against these statements.

The AMC has evaluated the national assessment process for intern training with the assistance of the health services, supervisors and interns that adopted these national requirements in 2014. As a result of this review, it has made changes to three key documents from the national framework in time for the changes to be implemented from 2015, when the requirements take full effect.

Evaluation process

An AMC Intern Assessment Evaluation Group, with membership drawn from directors of clinical training, medical education officers, interns, postgraduate medical councils and assessment experts completed the evaluation. The group was chaired by Ms Debbie Paltridge, the CPMEC Australian Curriculum Framework for Junior Doctors National Project Coordinator.

The AMC surveyed directors of clinical training, directors of medical services, interns, medical education officers, and term supervisors. It also invited stakeholder organisations to comment on the experience of implementation, the technical elements and clarity of the assessment guidelines and form, and whether the processes were achieving their purpose.

The AMC received 339 survey responses and 13 written submissions. The evaluation process identified some immediate changes required to make the national intern assessment process and forms clear, confirmed a broad level of support for and understanding of the national process, and highlighted some areas that might be considered in two to three years.

Ms Paltridge will run a workshop on the evaluation of the national intern assessment process and the revised intern assessment documents at the Australian and New Zealand Medical Education and Training Forum (ANZMET) at 11.45am on Tuesday, 11 November 2014.

Changes to assessment statements and guidelines

AMC Directors and the Medical Board of Australia have jointly approved minor changes to:

Document	Revisions
Intern training – Assessing and certifying completion This document states the national standards relating to assessment, and	The revision clarifies that at the end of the internship health services may indicate to the Medical Board of Australia that an intern has met the standards expected for general registration if a particular term

outlines good assessment practice and remediation processes that would satisfy the national requirements.

has not been completed satisfactorily AND the intern has successfully completed remediation. (See page 5)

Intern training - Term assessment form

This nationally available form is a resource for health services. It provides a term assessment tool for assessing interns against the intern outcome statements.

The AMC has made significant changes to: reduce the length and complexity of the form, to clarify and ensure relevance to internship of the descriptions associated with the assessment rating points. The template for an improving performance action plan (the remediation form) has been removed from this form and is now available separately.

Intern training - Intern outcomes statements

State the broad and significant outcomes that interns should achieve by the end of their programs.

A minor change was made to one of the outcome statements. The addition is shown in red below:

2.1 Patient safety: Place the needs and safety of patients at the centre of the care process. Demonstrate safety skills including effective clinical handover, graded assertiveness, **delegation and escalation**, infection control, and adverse event reporting.

The revised documents are on the AMC website: <http://www.amc.org.au/accreditation/prevoc-standards>.

The AMC thanks the state-based postgraduate medical councils for their significant contribution to the implementation of the national framework, through communication to facilities, supervisors, interns and their own survey panels, and to the evaluation and improvement of the national assessment processes.

It thanks the Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Education Councils for Ms Paltridge's important contribution to this work.

As the national process takes full effect in 2015, health services are reminded that they may choose to use the AMC-developed term assessment form or a local form that meets the requirements of the registration standard and assesses intern performance against the intern outcome statements. In some states and territories this will be a form and guidelines developed by the intern training accreditation authority/postgraduate medical council.

Certificate of completion of an accredited internship

The Medical Board of Australia's registration standard outlines the experience interns must complete and the evidence of completion the Board will require in order to make a decision to grant general registration.

From 2014, health services must certify interns' completion of the requirements of the internship via the Medical Board of Australia's form, *Certificate of completion of an accredited internship for health services*, available at: <http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/Interns/Guidelines-resources-tools.aspx>

Queries

Please contact the AMC at interntraining@amc.org.au