

## The National Internship Framework - Newsletter 3

Following the introduction of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, the Medical Board of Australia (Medical Board) is responsible for granting general registration to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates who have completed an intern year.

The relevant registration standard for granting general registration to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of internship ([www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx](http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx)) will be implemented from the beginning of 2014.

This Newsletter provides an update on work by the Australian Medical Council (AMC), on behalf of the Medical Board, to implement the National Internship Framework. Previous newsletters are published on the AMC website at [www.amc.org.au](http://www.amc.org.au) and on the Medical Board's website at [www.medicalboard.gov.au](http://www.medicalboard.gov.au).

There are four main groups progressing the implementation of the framework:

1. An Implementation Reference Group was established in April 2013 to provide advice on the next steps. It has broad stakeholder representation. The Implementation Reference Group agreed on five priority areas for implementation. (Please note these are not numbered according to importance.):
  - Priority 1 – National Assessment Process
  - Priority 2 – Postgraduate Medical Council Review
  - Priority 3 – Communication Plan
  - Priority 4 – Finalising National Framework Documents
  - Priority 5 – Identifying Stakeholder Roles
2. A smaller Implementation Sub-group with members from the AMC, the Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Council, postgraduate medical councils, junior doctors and state health departments, is meeting fortnightly to progress work in the five priority areas.
3. Global Outcome Statement and Assessment Sub-Group has worked on the development of global statements of safe practice for interns at the end of training and the assessment and sign-off process for the end of internship.
4. An Editorial Sub-Group is reviewing the national internship framework documents.

## **Progress against the five priorities for implementation**

### **Priority 1 – National Assessment Process**

The processes take account of the Medical Board of Australia's requirements for interns commencing from 2014, as detailed in the *Registration standard for granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of intern training*.

The national assessment process has two components. First is the term assessment process conducted by supervisors and second is the final sign off at the completion of the internship conducted by the Director of Training, Director of Medical Services or equivalent authorised by the hospital or service and acceptable to the Medical Board as appropriate. The term assessment process and a nationally available assessment form have undergone significant review in response to stakeholder feedback through a number of consultation processes. The most recent consultation 11 July has led to further developments to the guidelines and proposed assessment form.

Detailed guidance on assessment and certification of completion for interns participating in accredited intern training programs is provided in the draft document *Assessment, progression and certification of completion of internship*. The most recent draft is available on the website.

The nationally available assessment form for term assessments will be provided during December 2013 but local/state-based/regional forms will be acceptable provided they comply with the relevant criteria in the intern training framework.

The draft suite of assessment documents will be available at the AMC workshop on the National Intern Training Accreditation Framework on 2 November prior to the 18th Australasian Prevocational Forum in Adelaide, South Australia from 3 - 6 November 2013. During the Forum, the assessment forms will also be open for feedback at a workshop to be held on Tuesday 5 November. The forms will be subsequently refined and made available through postgraduate medical councils for use.

The AMC expects these forms will evolve with further stakeholder consultation and feedback on their use during 2014. The AMC is now contacting the postgraduate medical councils to provide further information about the forms and the assessment process.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is developing a national sign-off form for health services to certify to the Medical Board that an intern has completed the experience required by the registration standard. This form will be available for use from 2014.

### **Priority 2 – Postgraduate Medical Council Review**

#### Quality Framework for the Review of Intern Training Accreditation Bodies

In the new framework, the AMC reviews the bodies that accredit intern training programs on behalf of the Medical Board of Australia. These reviews will focus on intern training accreditation and will not address other functions performed by these bodies. They will assess the performance of intern training accreditation bodies against the five domains of the *Quality Framework for Review of Intern Training Accreditation Bodies*: governance, independence, operational management, intern training program accreditation and stakeholder collaboration.

With support of the Medical Board of Australia, the AMC is conducting a pilot program to test the proposed process and the quality framework. Two volunteer postgraduate medical councils, South

Australian Medical Education and Training and the Postgraduate Medical Education Council of Tasmania, are completing this review.

AMC teams have assessed the intern training accreditation work of both the South Australian Medical Education and Training and the Postgraduate Medical Education Council of Tasmania against the draft quality framework for review of intern training accreditation bodies, and the teams are finalising their reports.

In October/November 2013 the AMC and the Medical Board of Australia will consider the reports as part of their committee processes. As is standard AMC practice, the final reports will be public documents.

The review process and standards will be evaluated at the completion of the pilots. The AMC workshop on the National Intern Training Accreditation Framework to be held in Adelaide on the afternoon of 2 November 2013 will provide an opportunity to learn about the pilot outcomes.

### **Priority 3 – Communication Plan**

#### Workshop - National Intern Training Accreditation Framework 2 November 2013

The AMC, with support of the Medical Board of Australia, is running a workshop in Adelaide from **12.30pm, 2 November 2013** so stakeholder groups can learn about the intern training developments and contribute to plans for evaluation and quality improvement of the processes which are to be implemented from 2014. The Workshop will focus particularly on two developments: the 2013 pilot of a process for AMC review of the bodies that accredit intern training (the postgraduate medical councils), and the processes for assessment of intern training performance.

Stakeholder organisations have been sent invitations to nominate representatives to attend the workshop free of charge. If you feel your organisation should have received an invitation please contact the AMC (see below).

#### Assessment session during the National Prevocational Education Forum

Ms Debbie Paltridge will chair a workshop on Tuesday, 5 November. This session will focus on the assessment process and form.

#### Other communications

- Joint AMC / Medical Board of Australia newsletters are emailed to stakeholders and are available on the AMC and Medical Boards' websites.
- The AMC provides its Implementation Sub-Group meeting reports to the Implementation Reference Group members. Implementation Reference Group members are invited to contact the AMC for further information or to comment on any of the developments.
- The National Framework documents are available on the AMC website, and further information will be made available as they are finalised.
- The AMC is contacting prevocational medical councils to discuss the assessment processes.
- The AMC liaises regularly with the Medical Board of Australia to ensure developments fit within the requirements of the National Law.

## Priority 4 – Finalising National Framework Documents

The AMC consulted on the documents which support the implementation of the national framework in late 2012 and again in April 2013 via the Implementation Reference Group. The documents have been revised taking account of the feedback received. The versions on the AMC website are being reviewed by an editorial sub-group.

The documents consist of:

1. Global Outcome Statements for Intern Training: Work-based, patient-centred outcome statements for the intern year, vertically integrated with the medical school graduate outcomes, delivered by way of the Australian Curriculum Framework for Junior Doctors and used as criteria for the assessment of interns. Some minor changes have been made as a result of recent consultation.
2. National Standards for Intern Training: standards applicable to diverse prevocational settings. Some minor changes have been made as a result of recent consultation.
3. Guidelines for Intern Rotations: with specific guidelines on the experience in the required 10 weeks experience in medicine, 10 weeks in surgery and 8 weeks in emergency medical care. Guidelines to be enhanced to include common requirements for all intern terms.
4. Quality framework for the Review of Intern Training Accreditation Bodies: to provide a national framework for review of the performance of the bodies that assess and accredit intern training programs. Some changes are anticipated to the attributes under the five domains of the quality framework as a result of the pilots.
5. Assessment, progression and certification of completion of internship: details assessment, progression and certification of completion arrangements for interns participating in accredited intern training programs. Guidance enhanced and revised as a result of recent consultation.
6. National PGY1 – Term Assessment Review Form: for performance appraisals of interns in the primary context of the AMC's Global Outcome Statements for Intern Training. This form is being revised as a result of recent consultation.

The revised documents will be placed on the AMC website, and considered through AMC committee processes later this year, for implementation in 2014.

## Priority 5 – Identifying Stakeholder Roles

The AMC's role in the national internship framework has been defined with the establishment of its Prevocational Standards Accreditation Committee. The Committee's membership is shown in the attachment. The terms of reference, available on the AMC website, include:

- (i) Advising the AMC on guidelines, policy and procedures, including:
  - periodically reviewing the procedures used by the AMC to conduct accreditation assessments and reviews;
  - reviewing the standards and guidelines that form the national framework for intern training accreditation and the terms of reference and scope of such reviews.
- (ii) Overseeing AMC assessment and review of intern training accreditation bodies:
  - making recommendations on the appointment of AMC teams;

- making recommendations on the performance of intern training accreditation bodies against the Quality Framework for Review of Intern Training Accreditation Bodies; and
- monitoring the continuing compliance of approved intern training accreditation bodies with approved standards and national framework requirements.

Other AMC groups which have developed elements of the National Internship Framework will report to this Committee. The Working Party on Internship has ceased now the Committee is established.

The roles and responsibilities of organisations in the national intern training framework will be discussed during the 2 November workshop on the National Framework.

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