



Review of the Pre-employment Structured Clinical Interview (PESCI) Guidelines

Stakeholder Consultation

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) is reviewing the guidelines for Pre-employment Structured Clinical Interviews (PESCI) and is seeking stakeholder feedback on the proposed revisions. This consultation will run until 28 April 2014.

Please provide your comments on the PESCI Guidelines as enclosed, either by email to accreditation@amc.org.au or by mail to:

AMC Accreditation Section (PESCI Guidelines)
PO Box 4810
Kingston ACT 2604

Background

The AMC developed the Pre-employment Structured Clinical Interview (PESCI) in 2007 as part of a 2006 Council of Australian Governments' directive to ensure nationally consistent assessment of international medical graduates.

The PESCI is an objective assessment of the clinical experience, knowledge, skills and attributes of an international medical graduate to determine whether the person is suitable to practise in a specific position. It consists of a structured interview using scenarios. The interview scope is determined by the level of risk of the position that the international medical graduate is applying for. As a part of the PESCI process, there is also a reference check.

The PESCI is conducted by providers approved by the AMC. The AMC approves providers that meet the PESCI Guidelines.

Currently there are five approved providers as detailed below:

- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) offices in New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia
- Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) nationally
- Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria
- Queensland Health
- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) in the Northern Territory, South Australia and Tasmania

Scope of the changes

The PESCI Guidelines were written in 2007 and the AMC reviewed them in 2008.

In 2014, the AMC is proposing minor changes to the Guidelines to bring the wording into line with other AMC guidelines and standards for accreditation, and to enhance the requirements for annual reporting. The changes take account of the outcomes of a February 2012 meeting between the Medical Board of Australia (the Medical Board), the AMC and approved PESCI providers that explored a more uniform approach to reporting results of PESCI to the Medical Board. The changes also reflect the introduction of national registration standards.

The PESCI Guidelines have been split into two sections. The first section provides general information on the aim of the PESCI, when it is required and the responsibilities of various organisations in developing, approving and running PESCI. The second section is the criteria for approval of PESCI providers.

Role of AMC

The AMC's Prevocational Standards Accreditation Committee (PreVAC) is responsible for these Guidelines and for advising the AMC governing body, the Directors, on the approval of PESCI providers. The Committee will consider the stakeholder feedback from this consultation, review the proposals for changes to the PESCI Guidelines taking into account stakeholder feedback, and make a recommendation to the AMC governing body, the Directors, on the final Guidelines.

As the AMC considers these to be minor changes, it has set a timeline that should lead to completion of the review of the PESCI Guidelines and implementation of new Guidelines by July 2014. If the feedback on the proposed changes raises significant questions about the changes proposed, the AMC will delay the implementation process to allow for additional consultation.

The AMC looks forward to receiving comments on the PESCI Guidelines by **28 April 2014**.

More information

AMC via email accreditation@amc.org.au or

Phone Stephanie Tozer on 02 6270 7819 or Robin Dearlove on 02 6270 9752.