

REG-2037

Specialist International Medical Graduates Assessed with a Defined Scope of Practice

1. Purpose and scope

- 1.1. To define the assessment of Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) who have been trained in and practice within a defined scope of practice.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. The following definitions and acronyms apply for the purposes of this regulation:
 - a. **SIMG** shall mean Specialist International Medical Graduate
 - b. **STC/B** shall mean the Specialty Training Committee or Board of the relevant specialty.
 - c. **ANZ** shall mean Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

3. Comparable training programs

- 3.1. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) trains surgeons in the following surgical specialties:
 - a. Cardiothoracic Surgery
 - b. General Surgery
 - c. Neurosurgery
 - d. Orthopaedic Surgery
 - e. Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery
 - f. Paediatric Surgery
 - g. Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
 - h. Urology
 - i. Vascular Surgery
- 3.2. SIMGs who have completed a specialist training program comparable in scope to RACS Surgical Education and Training (SET) program are assessed for Fellowship in accordance with RACS regulation: Assessing a Specialist International Medical Graduate's Comparability to an Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Trained Surgical Specialist.

4. Other surgical training programs

- 4.1. Surgical education providers outside Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand (ANZ) may conduct training in programs that traverse ANZ defined boundaries, or in subspecialties of ANZ defined specialties. Examples of such programs include Spine Surgery, which is a subspecialty of both Orthopaedic Surgery and Neurosurgery.
- 4.2. A SIMG graduating from such a program may be assessed as not comparable to an ANZ trained surgeon in the full scope of one of the nine surgical specialties. However, due to a sustained record of excellence as a specialist surgeon in an area of practice, they may be recognised as being comparable to an ANZ trained surgeon within a defined scope of practice.

5. Eligibility for classification as a SIMG with a defined scope of practice

- 5.1. Defined scope should be identified during the document-based assessment stage of the Specialist Assessment process.
- 5.2. The assessors undertaking the document-based assessment must be satisfied the SIMG has:
 - a. Practiced as a consultant exclusively, recently, and at a high level for a minimum of 5 years since completion of specialist surgical training in a defined scope of practice; and
 - b. Completed a specialist training program which is comparable to the components of RACS SET program specific to the defined scope of practice that includes comparable competencies, skills and attributes; and
 - c. Successfully completed an exit examination for the training program which is comparable to RACS Fellowship Examination (but for the defined scope of practice) and/or the depth and scope of surgical practice in the defined scope of practice is of a sufficiently high standard as to waive the need to sit an exit examination.
- 5.3. Where in the opinion of the Clinical Director, SIMG Assessment & Support, the defined scope of practice may be relevant to more than one of the nine surgical specialties the application may be referred to other Specialty Training Committee/Boards (STC/B) as appropriate.

6. SIMG interview panel composition and recommendation

- 6.1. Where a SIMG is identified for consideration for a pathway to Fellowship of RACS with a defined scope of practice, the interview panel must include at least one Fellow selected by the relevant STC/B who is practicing within the identified defined scope of practice.
- 6.2. The interview panel may recommend the SIMG is substantially comparable within a defined scope of practice.
- 6.3. A SIMG cannot be assessed as partially comparable within a defined scope of practice.
- 6.4. Where the assessors have not identified a defined scope during the document-based stage, but it is evident at interview this may be an option, the interview panel can recommend that the application is reassessed but cannot make a recommendation for a defined scope pathway to Fellowship of RACS. There will be no additional fee for any subsequent assessment interview.

7. Confirmation of Assessment

- 7.1. Where a SIMG is assessed as substantially comparable within a defined scope of practice they will be required to:
 - a. Undertake a period of clinical assessment of up to 12 months within the defined scope of practice; and
 - b. Successfully complete any additional skills courses and activities nominated by the interview panel.

8. Associated documents

8.1. Regulations

- a. Specialist Assessment of Specialist International Medical Graduates in Australia
- b. Aotearoa New Zealand Vocationally Registered Doctors Applying for Fellowship

- c. Assessing a Specialist International Medical Graduate’s Comparability to an Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Trained Surgical Specialist

8.2. Policies

- a. Specialist International Medical Graduate Assessment Interview Panels Terms of Reference
- b. Aotearoa New Zealand Vocationally Registered Doctors Fellowship Assessment Panel Terms of Reference

8.3. Medical Board of Australia (www.medicalboard.gov.au):

- a. Specialist medical college assessment of specialist international medical graduates
- b. Supervised practice for international medical graduates

9. Information

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