

## REG-2037

# Specialist International Medical Graduates Assessed with a Limited Scope of Practice

### 1. Purpose and scope

- 1.1. To define the assessment of Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) who practice within a limited scope of practice.
- 1.2. This regulation should be read in conjunction with REG-SIMG-2038 Assessing a SIMGs comparability to an Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand trained surgical specialist.

### 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. **AAoNZ** shall mean Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

### 3. RACS Specialties

- 3.1. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) trains and recognises 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

### 4. Limited Scope of Practice

- 4.1. Some surgeons practice in a limited scope that traverses AAoNZ defined specialties, such as a Hand Surgeon, or in subspecialties of an AAoNZ defined specialty, such as Spinal Surgery, which is a subspecialty of both Orthopaedic Surgery and Neurosurgery.
- 4.2. A SIMG may be assessed as being not comparable to an AAoNZ trained surgeon in the full scope of a specialty. However, due to established practice in a limited scope, they may be assessed as being comparable to an AAoNZ trained surgeon within that limited scope of practice.

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

- 5.1. Limited scope should be identified during the document-based assessment stage of the Specialist Assessment process.
- 5.2. The SIMG may indicate their intended scope of practice in their application
- 5.3. The document-based assessors may identify that this is a limited scope of practice for assessment purposes.
- 5.4. Regarding the limited scope of practice, the assessors must be satisfied that:
  - a. The limited scope currently occurs or could occur within the speciality in AAoNZ;
  - b. It is possible for a specialist to practice within that limited scope; and
  - c. the SIMG has an established record of practice in the limited scope of practice.
- 5.5. RACS will consider the same factors outlined in regulation REG-SIMG-2038 in conjunction with consideration of the SIMGs established record of practice within the limited scope.
- 5.6. Where RACS determines the limited scope may be relevant to more than one specialty, the application may be referred to other STC/B's

## 6. SIMG interview

- 6.1. The composition, conduct and authority of the SIMG Interview panel (Interview panel) is outlined in RACS policy ETA-IMG-007 SIMG Interview Panel Terms of Reference
- 6.2. Where a SIMG is identified for consideration of limited scope, the Interview Panel must include at least one Fellow who is practicing within the limited scope.
- 6.3. Where a SIMG is not identified for limited scope during the document-based assessment, but limited scope is evident during an interview, the Interview Panel may request the application be reassessed. This occurs when the interview Panel cannot make a recommendation for limited scope, consistent with 6.2 above. There will be no additional fee for any subsequent assessment interview.

## 7. Associated documents

### 7.1. Regulations

- a. Aotearoa New Zealand Vocationally Registered Doctors Applying for Fellowship
- b. Assessing a Specialist International Medical Graduate's Comparability to an Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Trained Surgical Specialist

### 7.2. 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

7.3. **Medical Board of Australia** ([www.medicalboard.gov.au](http://www.medicalboard.gov.au)):

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

8. **Information**

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