

<b>Division:</b>	<b>Education and Training Administration</b>	<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>ETA-IMG-011</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>International Medical Graduates Assessments</b>		
<b>Title:</b>	<b>IMGs Assessed with a Defined Scope of Practice</b>		

## 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to define the assessment of International Medical Graduates (IMGs) who have been trained in and practice within a defined scope of practice.

## 2. KEYWORDS

International Medical Graduate, Scope of Practice, Assessment, Fellowship

## 3. BODY OF POLICY

### 3.1. Comparable Training Programs

The College trains surgeons in the following surgical specialties:

- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- General Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery
- Paediatric Surgery
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
- Urology
- Vascular Surgery

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) who have completed a specialist training program comparable in scope to the training programs of the College are assessed for Fellowship in accordance with the specialist assessment policies of the College.

### 3.2. Other Surgical Training Programs

While surgical training takes place within nine defined specialties, surgical education providers outside Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) may conduct training in programs that traverse ANZ defined boundaries, or in subspecialties of ANZ defined specialties. Examples of such programs are Burns Surgery, which includes elements of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and General Surgery, or Trauma, which is a subspecialty of both Orthopaedic Surgery and General Surgery.

An IMG graduating from such a program is also assessed in accordance with the specialist assessment policies of the College but 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 that is deemed beneficial to the Australian and New Zealand health consumer, they may be recognised as being comparable to an ANZ trained surgeon within a defined scope of practice. While not immediately eligible for Fellowship of the College, an IMG will be classified as an IMG with a Defined Scope of Practice.

### 3.3. Eligibility for Classification as an IMG with a Defined Scope of Practice

- 3.3.1. To be eligible for a pathway to Fellowship as an IMG with a Defined Scope of Practice the Clinical Director, IMG Assessments or the Board Representative must identify the defined scope during the document assessment of the IMG's application.
- 3.3.2. The Clinical Director, IMG Assessments and/or the Board Representative must be satisfied that there is a public good derived from the defined scope of practice and that the IMG has:

Approved by:	Director, Education and Training Administration	Original Issue:	February 2012
Document Owner:	Manager, International Medical Graduates Assessments	Version:	3
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- a. Practiced as a consultant exclusively, and recently, 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 modules of a College training 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 that is comparable to the College 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.

3.3.3. Where, in the opinion of the Clinical Director, IMG Assessment, the defined scope of practice may be relevant to more than one of the nine specialties the application may be referred to other specialty boards for assessment.

### **3.4. IMG Assessment Panel Composition and Recommendation**

- 3.4.1. Where an IMG is identified for consideration for a pathway to Fellowship with a defined scope of practice the Interview Panel, constituted in accordance with the IMG Assessment Interview Panels Terms of Reference, must include at least one Fellow selected by the relevant Board who is practicing within the identified defined scope of practice.
- 3.4.2. The IMG Assessment Panel may, after interview, recommend that the IMG is substantially comparable within a defined scope of practice. This does not preclude the IMG as being assessed as partially or substantially comparable in the broad scope of practice of the specialty.
- 3.4.3. An IMG cannot be assessed as partially comparable within a defined scope of practice.
- 3.4.4. Where the Clinical Director, IMG Assessments and/or the Board Representative have not identified a defined scope during the document assessment but it is evident at interview that this may be an option, the Assessment Panel can recommend that the application is reassessed but cannot make a defined scope pathway to Fellowship recommendation. Any subsequent assessment will not incur a fee payable by the IMG.

### **3.5. Confirmation of Assessment**

Where an IMG is assessed as substantially comparable within a defined scope of practice they will be required to:

- 3.5.1. Undertake a designated prospective period of clinical assessment for a period of up to 12 months within the defined scope of practice. Clinical assessment will commence as MBA Level 3 supervision, progressing to MBA Level 4 supervision based on satisfactory performance; and
- 3.5.2. Successfully complete any additional skills courses and activities nominated by the Assessment Panel;

### **3.6. Fellowship of the College**

An IMG with a Defined Scope of Practice will, after confirmation of assessment (see 3.5), be eligible for Fellowship by Assessment as defined in the Admission to Fellowship policy.

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**4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

Specialist Assessment of International Medical Graduates in Australia Policy

Assessment of the Clinical Practice of IMGs in Australia Policy

New Zealand Vocationally Registered Doctors Applying for Fellowship

Admission to Fellowship Policy

IMG Assessment Interview Panels Terms of Reference

Guidelines - Supervised practice for international medical graduates (at [Medical Board of Australia](#))

**Approver:** Education Board

**Authoriser:** Council

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