

Vocational scope of practice – Pathway summary (for doctors who have completed vocational (specialist) training overseas)

The Medical Council of New Zealand will assess the eligibility of doctors who have overseas qualifications, training and experience as specialists for registration within a vocational scope of practice.

To qualify for registration in the provisional vocational scope of practice (leading to vocational registration) the doctor must:

- have completed postgraduate medical training and gained a postgraduate medical qualification at the end of specialist training; **and**
- hold a primary medical degree from a university medical school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools; **and**
- meet the Medical Council's "fitness for registration" requirements (including Council's English language requirements); **and**
- be able to assure Council that he or she has qualifications, training and experiences equivalent to, or as satisfactory as, that of a New Zealand trained doctor registered within the same vocational scope; and be capable of independent, unsupervised practice; **and**
- be competent to practise medicine within the vocational scope applied for

Process

Applications must be made in a recognised vocational scope

Referral to vocational education and advisory body (VEAB)

Registration staff will obtain references to complete the application and then the relevant specialist medical college (VEAB) will assess the application, comparing the applicant's qualifications, training, and experience to a doctor registered in New Zealand who holds the prescribed qualification and works in the same vocational scope. Preliminary advice based on an assessment of the paper documentation will be provided if the doctor is applying from overseas.

If the IMG is considered to be suitable to proceed, he or she will most likely be required to attend an interview with the VEAB. The IMG may be allowed to start work pending the interview; but always under assessment in the first instance.

Advice to Council

The VEAB will provide written advice to Council whether the IMG is suitable for registration within a vocational scope via either one of two pathways:

- (1) the supervision pathway; or
- (2) the assessment pathway

Eligible via the supervision pathway

- Doctor will be registered in a provisional vocational scope and be required to complete 6 to 12 months of satisfactory supervised practice, and enrol in the relevant VEAB's recertification programme.

Eligible via the assessment pathway

The doctor will be registered in a provisional vocational scope and must:

- work in an approved position under supervision for 12 to 18 months,
- enrol in the relevant College's recertification programme
- complete the assessment requirements determined by Council which may include a vocational practice assessment or VEAB examination, multi-source feedback process or undergo a formal audit

Council decision

Council will consider this advice and make a decision on the application. Successful registration will be one of the pathways.

Vocational practice assessment

One additional requirement that an IMG may be required to complete within a provisional vocational scope of practice (assessment pathway), is a vocational practice assessment (VPA). A VPA assesses the competence of the IMG, to determine whether they are practising at the level of a NZ trained doctor holding the prescribed Fellowship qualification, and registered in a vocational scope of practice, and whether the doctor is capable of independent and unsupervised practice.

The VPA is a one day assessment, where two assessors are onsite observing and interacting with the doctor and colleagues. The assessment comprises of seven tools:

- opening and closing interview
- observations of interactions with patients in an outpatient setting
- observations of interaction with patients during a ward round
- review of 40 consecutive patient records from their caseload
- case-based oral interview, based on the records selected for records review
- interview with colleagues
- multi-source feedback from medical and non-medical colleagues (obtained in advance of the assessment day).

Secure Employment

Once employment has been arranged, he or she will be registered within a provisional vocational scope of practice via one of the two pathways.

Things to consider

Allow time

You need to allow at least 6 months for a decision to be made on these applications, therefore arrangements need to be made well in advance.

No need to wait

Job offers are not required to be submitted with these applications. However, a practising certificate will not be issued until employment and supervision has been confirmed, and approved.

**Source is the Medical Council of New Zealand*

