

## AHPRA DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Overseas trained specialist** refers to a medical practitioner with specialist training and experience gained overseas and whose primary medical qualifications are not recognised in Australia and who is seeking recognition as a specialist practitioner in Australia.

**Supervised clinical practice** refers to the additional observed work and experience which, on the basis of the College's initial assessment, is required by an applicant who is considered as 'near-equivalent' to an Australian trained specialist currently entering the Australian workforce. The additional observed work, which is to be provided in an approved setting (see later), is designed to enable the applicant - within a reasonably short period of time - to demonstrate a standard of competence that will enable him or her to be further assessed on the basis of his or her equivalence to an Australian trained specialist currently entering the Australian workforce. The supervised clinical practice *setting* relates to a specific, College approved position in which the applicant is supervised by a Fellow appointed for that purpose by the relevant College. The supervisor provides reports to the College on the applicant's performance in the position. The reports are part of the College's overall assessment processes.

It is important to note that supervised clinical practice is NOT intended to address deficiencies in training and experience in an applicant who is assessed as not being near the equivalent of an Australian trained specialist currently entering the Australian workforce - that is, an applicant who would require substantial additional training and experience in order to reach a standard of competence that would enable the College to recommend him or her for recognition as a specialist practitioner in Australia.

**Substantially comparable** applicants should be permitted conditional registration to undertake the intended scope of practice independently and unsupervised. In order to be considered substantially comparable an applicant must have satisfied the college requirements for this category in relation to previous training, assessment and recent practice. The applicant is eligible for conditional specialist registration and fellowship without further examination but may be required to undertake a period of up to 12 months oversight or practice under peer review by a reviewer appointed through the college assessment unit, to ensure that the level of performance is similar to that of an Australian trained specialist, and to assist with their transition to the Australian health system, provide professional support and help them to access continuing professional development. The length of peer review is up to the individual college to determine on a case-by-case basis.

**Partially comparable (for 'decision not yet possible')** applicants should be permitted conditional registration to undertake a defined scope of practice in a supervised capacity. In order to be considered partially comparable an applicant must have satisfied the college requirements for this category in relation to previous training, assessment and recent practice. In order for a partially comparable applicant to be considered substantially comparable the applicant will be required to undertake a period of up to 24 months top up training under a supervisor appointed through the college assessment unit, to ensure that the level of performance reaches that of an Australian trained specialist, and to assist with their transition to the Australian health system, provide professional support and help them to access continuing professional development. Other prescribed requirements including formal assessment may be imposed.

**Non-comparable** applicants should not be permitted to register to practise as a specialist, but may be eligible to seek registration to practise in another capacity (e.g. as hospital medical officers) to enable them to gain the AMC certificate, and subsequently undertake formal college training and assessment, if able to gain a training post subject to other college requirements.

AHPRA has a dedicated website where further information can be obtained on the registration pathways and application requirements (<http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/International-Medical-Graduates/Specialist-Pathway.aspx>). Applicants may refer to the RACMA website for the application process and requirements for completion prior to applying to the College for Assessment of Comparability.