

**1. TITLE: PATHWAY FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES PROCEDURE**

- 1.1 Reference: CO-A-001-04A
- 1.2 Category: Academic – Admission
- 1.3 Approval date: September 2023
- 1.4 Approved by: Chief Executive
- 1.5 Effective date: January 2024
- 1.6 Review/revision date: December 2024
- 1.7 Unit responsible: Learning team

**2. Purpose**

**2.1 Background**

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (the College) is recognised by the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) as a Vocational Education and Advisory Body (VEAB) and recertification provider for general practice.

The purpose of the VEAB is to evaluate applications from international medical graduates (IMGs) who are seeking registration within a vocational scope of practice in New Zealand.

**2.2 Objective**

This procedure provides IMGs with a clear process for formally applying to gain registration within a vocational scope of practice in New Zealand.

It outlines the responsibilities, steps and timeframes involved in the process.

This procedure:

- a. gives effect to the MCNZ's *Practitioner Registration in a Vocational Scope of Practice Decision Making Procedure* (New Zealand Vocational Registration Procedure).
- b. Is made available to all IMGs and College staff.

**3. Scope**

**3.1 In scope**

This procedure applies to doctors living overseas or already in New Zealand who are seeking to gain vocational registration in New Zealand.





| Step | Action  | Team/person/organisation responsible | Recommended timeframes |
|------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 6    | <p>The vocational assessor evaluates the application against the MCNZ 'RGR6' form and one of the following four options is recommended and communicated to the College's international admissions advisor:</p> <p><b>Option A: Equivalent</b><br/>The IMG has qualifications,</p> |                                      |                        |
|      |   |                                      |                        |

| Step | Action   | Team/person/organisation responsible  | Recommended timeframes   |
|------|--|---|--|
| 8    | <p>The peer reviewer evaluates the file and returns it to the College, with their opinion being either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agrees with the recommendation</li> <li>2. Does not agree with the recommendation.</li> </ol>  | <p>Peer reviewer<br/>International admissions advisor</p>   | <p>Within five (5) working days of receiving the applicant's file.</p>     |
| 9    | <p>The College advises the vocational assessor of the peer reviewer opinion, which will result in one of the following steps being completed:</p> <p><b>1. Agrees with the recommendation</b></p> <p>The recommendation, including application and moderation form, is forwarded to the Censor in Chief for review and approval.</p> <p>NOTE: The Censor in Chief may determine additional requirements.</p> <p><b>OR:</b></p> <p><b>2. Does not agree with the recommendation</b></p> <p>The vocational assessor and the peer reviewer discuss the application (face-to-face or via Zoom) and come to an agreed recommendation. The final recommendation, including the application and moderation form, is forwarded to the Censor in Chief for review and approval.</p> <p>If a final recommendation cannot be reached, a meeting is required with the assessors and the Censor in Chief, who will make the final decision.</p> <p>NOTE: The Censor in Chief may determine additional requirements.</p> | <p>International admissions advisor<br/>Vocational assessor<br/>Peer reviewer<br/>Censor in Chief</p> | <p>Within two (2) working days of receiving the peer reviewer opinion.</p> |

| Step | Action  | Team/person/organisation responsible                | Recommended timeframes   |
|------|---|---|--|
| 10   | The Censor in Chief provides the College with their preliminary recommendation.   | Censor in Chief<br>International admissions advisor | Within two (2) working days of receiving the assessor's recommendation.                                |
| 11   | The College's preliminary recommendation is forwarded to the MCNZ to consider and approve.<br><br>NOTE: The MCNZ can disagree with the recommendation from the College and approve a different pathway for the IMG.   | International admissions advisor                    | Within one (1) working day of receiving the final preliminary recommendation from the Censor in Chief. |
| 12   | The College has the option to respond to any questions or comments presented by the MCNZ if the MCNZ intends to depart from the College's preliminary recommendation.   | MCNZ<br>International admissions advisor            | Within two (2) working days of receiving the preliminary recommendation from the College               |
| 13   | The MCNZ accepts/departs from the College's preliminary recommendation and advises the College and the IMG of its final decision and pathway requirements.<br><br>NOTE: The College may at times need to seek additional feedback on the final decision received from the MCNZ. | IMG   | As appropriate.  |

| Step | Action  | Team/person/organisation responsible         | Recommended timeframes |
|------|---|--|------------------------|
| 14   | <p>On receiving the final decision from the MCNZ, the IMG may choose to proceed or not to proceed with their application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› If the IMG accepts the MCNZ final decision, they are eligible to apply to the MCNZ for <i>initial</i> vocational registration.</li> <li>› If the IMG disagrees with the MCNZ's final decision, they can either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) choose not to continue with their application and their application will be withdrawn</li> <li>or:</li> <li>(b) request an interview (the cost of the interview will be at the IMG's expense).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | IMG  | As appropriate.        |
| 14a  | <p>If the IMG proceeds with their application, a practising certificate (in the <i>initial</i> vocational scope of practice) is issued to the IMG by the MCNZ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› The College then sends an application to the IMG to enrol as a member or an associate of the College (depending on the IMG's individual pathway) to enable them to undertake the additional requirements.</li> </ul>  | MCNZ<br><br>International admissions advisor | As appropriate.        |
| 14b  | Upon successful completion of the pathway requirements, the IMG applies to the MCNZ for vocational registration.  | IMG  | Dependent on pathway.  |

| Step | Action  | Team/person/organisation responsible    | Recommended timeframes |
|------|---|---|------------------------|
| 15   | <p>If the IMG requests an interview, this will be undertaken by two independent vocational assessors and will result in either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; The original MCNZ decision being upheld</li> </ul> <p>or:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Recommendation to the MCNZ of a variation to the original MCNZ decision for consideration.</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: The MCNZ makes the final decision and advises the College and the IMG.</p> | <p>Vocational assessors</p> <p>MCNZ</p> | As appropriate.        |
| 15a  | <p>If the variation from the College is accepted by the MCNZ, the IMG proceeds with the required pathway and Steps 14a–14b apply.</p>   | IMG                                     | As appropriate.        |

**NOTE:** All correspondence/decisions relating to IMG applications, including the application form and associated documentation, must be saved by the College into the registrar's file.

## 6. Related policies, documents and legislation

- > Academic Regulatory Framework for Quality Assurance (CO-A-001-00)
- > MCNZ: Policy on registration within a vocational scope of practice – Doctors who do not hold the approved New Zealand or Australasian postgraduate qualification.
- > MCNZ VOC3: Application for registration within a provisional vocational scope of practice form
- > MCNZ: VOC3B: Guide to providing a complete application for registration within a vocational scope of practice
- > MCNZ: RGR6 advice on assessment of advice of qualification, training and experience (paper- based assessment)
- > Fellowship Pathway Regulations

## 7. Administrative procedures

### 7.1 Promulgation of published procedure

This procedure will be available via the College website.