ASSESSMENT OF OVERSEAS TRAINED SPECIALISTS

The ANZCA and FPM processes for the assessment of overseas trained specialists have been combined and are now both governed by Regulation 23: Recognition as a specialist in anaesthesia or pain medicine; and admission to fellowship by assessment for specialist international medical graduates (SIMGs). This revised process will come into effect from April 3, 2017 and will apply to the assessment of anaesthetists and pain medicine physicians in Australia and New Zealand.

This assessment process will be referred to as the specialist international medical graduate (SIMG) assessment process.

International medical graduate specialist (IMGS) anaesthetists who are now participating in the process will be notified individually of the changes that may impact them. All current IMGSs may apply for a new assessment under the revised regulation 23. Please note that by submitting a request for a new assessment the current assessment will be vacated and the outcome of the new assessment must be abided by. Please also be aware that a new assessment may result in being categorised as “not comparable” and being unable to continue in the SIMG assessment process. The information below outlines the major changes to the processes for anaesthesia and pain medicine IMGSs in Australia (specialist registration and fellowship pathways) and New Zealand (fellowship only pathway):

- If an applicant requires three or more months of trainee equivalent time during their clinical practice assessment (CPA) they will be ineligible for the SIMG process.
- The criteria for assessment have changed. Please refer to the regulation for details on the assessment criteria.
- All SIMGs must participate in the ANZCA continuing professional development (CPD) program.
- CPA reports are due every three months instead of every six months. This change will also be applied to all existing IMGSs and SIMGs.
- If an SIMG is assessed as substantially comparable and has previous appropriate experience in Australia or New Zealand the CPA time can be reduced by up to six months.

**New Zealand**

This information relates only to the ANZCA fellowship process in New Zealand. Any questions on vocational registration should be directed to the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ).

It should be noted that the MCNZ vocational registration and ANZCA fellowship processes are separate and different, however there are some points where the processes may overlap. An assessment may be undertaken for either or both processes at the same time.

Applicants must inform the College if they would like an ANZCA assessment conducted at the same time as their MCNZ assessment. If they do not, only the MCNZ assessment will be conducted. They may opt to have the ANZCA assessment undertaken a later stage which would require application directly to the College for assessment under regulation 23.

**EXAMPLES OF CHANGES IN DRAFT REGULATION 23 (FROM APRIL 3, 2017)**

**ANZCA**

The major changes that impact only the anaesthesia pathway include:

- All anaesthesia SIMGs who are required to complete an ANZCA exam will be exempted from the written sections of the exam. This does not apply to existing IMGS unless they are assessed under the revised regulation and their requirements are changed.
- SIMGs who are assessed as partially comparable and who have completed a comparable examination as part of their specialist anaesthesia training may be eligible to undertake a workplace-based assessment (WBA) in lieu of the ANZCA exam.

**FPM**

The major changes that impact only the pain medicine pathway include:

- The assessment criteria has changed. Please refer to regulation 23 for full details on the assessment criteria.
- Any SIMG who has previously been assessed under by-law 16 may request a new assessment under regulation 23 noting that application for a new assessment vacates the existing assessment and the SIMG must abide by the outcome of the new assessment.