

# Intern training – Domains for assessing accreditation authorities

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This document provides a national set of criteria for reviewing the performance of authorities that assess and accredit intern training programs.

The intern training accreditation authorities apply the Australian Curriculum Framework for Junior Doctors to structure education and performance assessment for interns and other prevocational doctors. They also assess intern training programs against national standards, and work with health services to improve the quality of intern training.

Unlike medical schools and specialist medical colleges, intern training accreditation authorities are not education providers. The Australian Medical Council (AMC) has set national standards for intern training that reflect this difference: rather than accredit these accreditation authorities as education providers, the AMC applies criteria similar to those used to assess the AMC's own work as an accreditation authority under the National Law.

Developing this document took the following into account:

Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function<sup>1</sup>







In the national framework for intern training's early implementation stages, the AMC will closely monitor how intern training accreditation authorities review the way accredited facilities/programs assess intern performance, and how they determine that the national standards are met.

The Intern training – National standards for programs have been designed to support intern training accreditation at the **program** level. Intern training accreditation authorities will need processes to review a sufficiently wide sample of terms in depth. These processes need to identify significant deficiencies or developments in the way the accredited program selects and monitors intern terms. It will be possible for an intern training accreditation authority to accredit a program but disallow particular terms.

Over the accreditation cycle, the intern training accreditation authority should use an appropriate mix of methods to assess whether an intern training program is meeting the national standards. The methods normally include surveys/questions, the intern training program's self-assessment, paper-based reviews, video/teleconference discussions, and site inspections. Site inspections and discussions should be used to validate and assess information in areas representing the greatest risk to intern safety and intern training quality. While much can be learnt from site visits (and particularly, discussions with interns), intern training accreditation authorities are encouraged to use cost- and resource-effective ways of holding these interactions. The benefits of site visits (for example, for validating information; discussing issues with supervisors, interns and clinicians; and in retaining institutional commitment) need to be weighed against the time and cost burdens.

The AMC supports a nationally consistent re-accreditation cycle for intern training. If a program continues to satisfy national standards, then the full period of re-

- 5.2 The intern training accreditation authority has a communications strategy, including a website providing information about the intern training accreditation authority's roles, functions and procedures.
- 5.3 The intern training accreditation authority collaborates with other relevant accreditation organisations.
- 5.4 The intern training accreditation authority works within overarching national and international structures of quality assurance and accreditation.

#### Notes

The prevocational phase requires a partnership between the authorities that accredit programs, and the health services, which employ the junior doctors in supervised clinical positions, and provide work-based education and training, clinicians as intern supervisors, and educational resources and facilities for interns. This partnership is essential for ensuring the quality of the intern year.

In order to coordinate the internship in the best interests of the intern, intern accreditation authorities should actively engage with other authorities or providers, ensuring clear communication and access to accurate information about accreditation plans and status. In periods of change to the accreditation authority this communication is particularly important, as is cooperation and transparency between intern accreditation authorities where it impacts on the quality, safety and approval of intern training programs. [Amended: 24 June 2015]

The community and health consumers have a strong interest in the way healthcare is provided, and the standards of education and training for health professions. There is scope for community input in setting standards, training delivery, and ongoing evaluation and periodic review.

The following references are mentioned specifically within this document.

- Intern training – National standards for programs
- Australian Curriculum Framework for Junior Doctors
- National Law

Full information for all documents relevant to the intern training suite is available below.

## Intern training reference documents

Document	Full reference
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Full review with stakeholder consultation by December 2018.

AMC will also review the document's clarity after each accreditation assessment.

Australian Medical Council – 21 November 2016

Medical Board of Australia – 14 December 2016



## **Assessment**

**Term** A component of the intern training program, usually a nominated number of weeks in a particular area of practice. Also called clinical rotation, post, or placement.

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**Term Supervisor** The person responsible for intern orientation and assessment during a particular term. They may also provide clinical supervision of the intern along with other medical colleagues.