

PRE-EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURED CLINICAL INTERVIEW (PESCI)

CLARIFICATION AROUND PESCI:

We know that coming to Australia as an Overseas Trained Doctor means extra training and work from your part. We want to make it easier for you and get you ready to practice medicine in Australia. To do this, you must sit a PESCI.

WHAT IS A PESCI?

PESCI stands for Pre-Employment Structured Clinical Interview. AHPRA defines a PESCI as an objective assessment of your knowledge, skills, clinical experience and attributes to determine whether you are suitable to practice in a specific position. The PESCI consists of a clinical interview using scenarios.

The PESCI panel will consist of three people: either three College Fellows or two College Fellows and one who may be a health professional, a lay person or a medical practitioner. Each interview will take approximately 90 minutes and will include four or five clinical scenarios which will be conducted as either a role play or case based discussion.

The interview will assess the applicant's competency in each of the following areas, as appropriate to the proposed position:

- Medical interviewing skills
- Physical examination skills
- Clinical judgment
- Treatment/advice
- Communication skills
- Professionalism
- Procedural skills

Other domains relevant to the position, e.g. familiarity with relevant social and cultural issues and Australian language idioms.

PESCI is a necessity to apply for registration with AHPRA depending on the nature of the position and the level of risk involved in the job in obedience to the Medical Board.

PESCI identifies if an overseas doctor has sufficient knowledge and experience to practice in a safe and effective manner on the particular position registration is sought for.

However, according to the Medical Board, IMGs in the specialist pathway are not required to undergo PESCI since they will be assessed by the relevant Specialist college.

DO I NEED TO SIT FOR A PESCI?

Doctors intending to apply for Limited Registration or Provisional Registration, with a General Practice job offer need to sit for a PESCI. This requirement can also apply to General Practitioners who are already registered with AHPRA with Limited Registration or Provisional Registration, who wish to work in another practice.

International Medical Graduates (IMG) seeking Limited or Provisional Registration in Australia are required to undergo a PESCI. The information obtained from the PESCI is

then considered by the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) as to whether to grant registration and is one component of the process

WHEN SHOULD I SIT FOR MY PESCI?

In our experience, it's best to sit for your PESCI before applying for AHPRA registration, unless you are applying for Limited Registration via the Area of Need pathway.

For doctors intending to apply for Limited Registration via the Area of Need pathway, it's recommended that you apply for AHPRA registration before sitting for your PESCI. This allows AHPRA the opportunity to assess your experience in general practice or primary care, and determining your eligibility for registration.

WHO ARE THE PESCI PROVIDERS?

- ACRRM – Available in all states and territories
- HWAV – Available in all states and territories
- RACGP – Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania

During busy periods PESCI dates can be sparse. Depending on the provider, bookings may be made in advance and earlier dates allocated as per waiting lists.

WILL AHPRA KNOW ABOUT MY PESCI RESULTS?

After sitting for your PESCI, results are made available to you via the PESCI Outcome Report to Applicant form. In addition, your results will be sent direct to AHPRA via the PESCI Report to the Medical Board of Australia.

Please keep in mind, if you have attempted a PESCI more than once, AHPRA will also be sent copies of your unsuccessful results.

SHOULD I ADDRESS THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PESCI PANNEL?

The short answer is yes. Any PESCI recommendations made by the PESCI Panel need to be addressed in your application. In most cases, this is done using the SPPA-30 Supervision Plan.

AHPRA will review your PESCI results and compare with any previous results received (including unsuccessful attempts or previous attempts for other practices). So, be sure that every recommendation has been addressed appropriately. Each recommendation will be reviewed to determine your ability to practice safely.

PESCI Results

The results report of the PESCI will be emailed to the candidate as well as the employer or work sponsor and relevant parties within 10 working days from the Interview date.

An unsuccessful PESCI result can suggest that you are not suitable for the specific position. Which means you may be suitable for a different position where the support and supervision is more appropriate to your level of training. You will be required to apply for registration to practice in another position.

If you are an international medical graduate seeking to apply for registration to practice in Australia, once you complete PESCI assessment, gain registration with AHPRA and complete 12 months practice in Australia, you will be eligible to train for a fellowship.

HOW LONG DOES MY PESCI RESULTS LAST?

Your PESCI results will last up to 12 months from the date of your results.

CAN I GET A PESCI EXEMPTION?

PESCI's are designed to assess and determine whether you are suitable to practice in a specific position, therefore exemptions are rarely granted. For a PESCI exemption to be considered, applications must be made directly to the relevant PESCI provider (ACRRM, RACGP HWAV) and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

PESCI RESOURCES:

Our team facilitate a Pre-Employment Structured Clinical Interview (PESCI) Study Buddy group, via Facebook. This group is aimed to connect doctors who are studying for their PESCI. Please see the following

link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1469286566700283/>

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO PREPARE FOR MY PESCI?

This is a whole new topic on its own. There are many PESCI tutors, preparation courses and groups on Facebook. We had been advised by Kay Duperouzel that recalls are not the answer. A recall is just that- a doctor recalling their experience which may or may not be accurate. Another Industry Insider advises that nothing can replace time within the practice working alongside your Supervisor. In this person's words "The simplest answer is to work with your supervisor and spend as much time in the practice as possible prior to the PESCI. If the practice does not offer this, it is the wrong practice for you. The Support received prior to the PESCI is a good guide to the support you will receive afterwards."

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU:

Our team do not offer PESCI Preparation yet, but we are working on this. However; if you are looking for guidance, contact us directly on admin@peoplemedical.com.au.

Information for this blog has been taken directly from:

· <http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/International-Medical-Graduates/pesci.aspx>

· <http://www.acrrm.org.au/>
- <https://www.hwav.com.au/>
<https://www.racgp.org.au/home>

WHP PROVIDES PESCI?

The PESCI is provided by institutes accredited by the Australian Medical Council (the AMC). AMC accredited PESCI providers are:

[Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine](#) (ACRRM) (ACRRM delivers PESCI in all states and territories)

[Royal Australian College of General Practitioners](#) (RACGP) (RACGP delivers PESCI in Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, South Australia, and Tasmania)

APPLYING FOR PESCI

A PESCI should be arranged prior to applying for limited or provisional registration, if you meet the requirements in the Medical Board's [registration standards](#). This involves English language skills, continuing professional development standards, criminal history standards and professional indemnity insurance standards. See the Registration standards of AHPRA via <https://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>.

To apply for PESCI IMGs must submit an online application through the RACGP or ACRRM Website.

PESCI applications of the ACRRM could be submitted online via <https://mycollege.acrrm.org.au/my-college/my-applications/pesci-application>

When [applying for a PESCI through the ACRRM](#), an IMG is required to have:

- A medical qualification listed on [International Medical Education Directory \(IMED\)](#)
- Completed Australian Medical Council (AMC) Multiple Choice Questionnaire (MCQ) or be eligible to apply for provisional registration through the [Competent Authority Pathway](#)
- A current job offer in an Area of Need and District of Workforce Shortage (DWS) or after hours practice or facility for the following positions:
 - General practice
 - All non-specialist positions in private hospital facilities
 - Senior medical officers
 - Medical officers (with or without right of private practice)
 - Medical superintendents (with or without right of private practice)
 - All non-specialist positions of high risk.

When [applying for PESCI through RACGP](#), candidates must provide proof of the following documents:

- Medical qualification as listed on IMED (EICS verification)
- Completed the Multi Choice Questionnaire (MCQ) component of the Australian Medical Council (AMC)
- English test passed within the last two years, must be valid at the time of the interview or current AHPRA registration

- If applying for Provisional registration, you should provide proof of completed AMC Clinical component
More information on PESCI Application Process and requirements are available in the [AHPRA](#) website.

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Useful resources:

<https://www.amc.org.au/>

<https://www.racgp.org.au/education/imgs/international-graduates/pesci>

<https://www.acrrm.org.au/support/pre-fellowship/international-graduates/pesci>

<https://www.racgp.org.au/FSDEDEV/media/documents/Education/IMGs/pesci-application-form.pdf>

[https://www.racgp.org.au/FSDEDEV/media/documents/Education/IMGs/PESCI-Position-Description-\(1\).docx](https://www.racgp.org.au/FSDEDEV/media/documents/Education/IMGs/PESCI-Position-Description-(1).docx)

[https://www.amc.org.au/html-files-to-](https://www.amc.org.au/html-files-to-import/files/adb0e0c95a9ba0586900e2b72069f7831b442372_original.pdf)

[import/files/adb0e0c95a9ba0586900e2b72069f7831b442372_original.pdf](https://www.amc.org.au/html-files-to-import/files/adb0e0c95a9ba0586900e2b72069f7831b442372_original.pdf)