

Chapter 4 Examination for Specialist Pathway Program candidates

IMPORTANT POLICY NOTE FOR ALL INTENDING SPECIALIST PATHWAY PROGRAM EXAMINATION CANDIDATES

All assessments and other determinations made by The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) in respect of candidates engaged in the Specialist Pathway Program are made by authority of the Board of Censors in conformity with all protocols and policies of RACGP as from time to time published on the RACGP website: www.racgp.org.au

RACGP Policies

Intending candidates are directed in particular to:

- **Eligibility for assessment** policy (Specialist Pathway Program candidates must satisfy all relevant criteria in the *Eligibility for assessment* policy, as well as criteria specific to Specialist Pathway candidates, before they apply to enrol in the College Examination):

www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/educationandtraining/Assessment/Assessmentpolicies/EligibilityForAssessment.pdf

- **Enrolment options and procedures** policy (Specialist Pathway Program candidates must apply to enrol in the College Examination – *Refer to Section 4.3.4*):

www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/educationandtraining/Assessment/Assessmentpolicies/EnrolmentPolicy.pdf

- **Assessment Methods** policy (describing the nature of the College Examination):

www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/educationandtraining/Assessment/Assessmentpolicies/AssessmentMethods.pdf

- **Assessment Performance Reporting** policy (governing release of results and feedback to candidates):

www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/educationandtraining/Assessment/Assessmentpolicies/AssessmentPerformanceReporting.pdf

- **Special Consideration Policy** (governing special circumstances):

www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/educationandtraining/Assessment/Assessmentpolicies/200905SpecialConsiderationPolicy.pdf

- **Academic Misconduct Policy** (governing required standards of integrity):

www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/educationandtraining/Assessment/Assessmentpolicies/200903AcademicMisconductPolicy.pdf

- **Board of Censors' Decisions Reviews** policy (governing reviews and appeals of assessment decisions and other determinations adverse to the IMG):

www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/educationandtraining/Assessment/Assessmentpolicies/200905CensorsDecisionsReviews.pdf

- **Requirements for Fellowship** (governing applications for Admission to Fellowship):

<http://www.racgp.org.au/assessment/pathways/fellowship>

and

<http://www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/educationandtraining/Assessment/PathwaysToFellowship/Fellowship/2005fellowship.pdf>

and other policies and information at:

www.racgp.org.au/assessment/policy

www.racgp.org.au/assessment/pathways

Please direct all enquiries to the RACGP National Assessment Department:

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4.1 Policy objectives

- 4.1.1 To define the policies and procedures for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) registered in the RACGP Specialist Pathway to present for the Fellowship examination.
- 4.1.2 To define the remediation program should an IMG fail an examination and decide to present again.

4.2 Policy scope

- 4.2.1 Only IMGs registered via the RACGP Specialist Pathway Program will be assessed according to this policy.
- 4.2.2 The IMG may only participate in the examination under the RACGP Specialist Pathway once they have satisfied the eligibility criteria as set out in Chapter 1 of the Specialist Pathway policies, *Categorisation and Entry into the Specialist Pathway*, *Standards for Admission to Fellowship*, and *Vocational Registration*, and in the *Eligibility for assessment* policy, see:
www.racgp.org.au/assessment/policy
- 4.2.3 This policy defines those aspects of the examination that differ between Specialist Pathway candidates and other candidates. This policy refers to existing policies for all those aspects of the examination that align between the requirements for Specialist Pathway candidates and other candidates.

4.3 Policy

4.3.1 Eligibility for the examination

Eligibility prerequisites for RACGP Category 2 IMGs presenting for the AKT, KFP and OSCE, and for RACGP Category 3 IMGs presenting for College KFP and OSCE, include:

- (i) Current medical registration in the Specialist Pathway Program
- (ii) Statement of completion of RACGP learning modules 1, 2, & 3
- (iii) Statement of participation in supervision as specified in the learning plan(s), including formative assessments if required
- (iv) Current financial IMG Associate Membership of RACGP
- (v) Fees for sitting the examination have been paid.

If the IMG does not meet all prerequisites, the College will inform the IMG and the supervisor about which prerequisites were not met, and will provide advice on action which can be taken to satisfy the prerequisites.

4.3.2 Enrolling in the examination

The supervisor and IMG will be sent an email to inform them of the dates and process for exam enrolments, within the initial two year time period for completion of the Specialist Pathway Program (or the third year if extended). An enrolment form will be sent with the email, which will include instructions about information required of the IMG.

Category 3 IMGs will be required to pass the AKT before they present for the FICPI. This distinction will be made at the point of determining whether IMGs have satisfied the prerequisites for their category, and enrolment in the examination will be made accordingly.

4.3.3 Participating in the examination – College-wide policies

The assessment and examination policies, standards, business processes and procedures in place for Practice Eligible candidates and Registrar candidates, listed at the beginning of this Chapter 4, will apply also to Specialist Pathway candidates. For examination, see:

www.racgp.org.au/assessment/examination

For *Eligibility for assessment, Enrolment options and procedures*, and other policies, visit:

www.racgp.org.au/assessment/policy

4.3.4 Participating in the examination – policies specific to the Specialist Pathway

- (i) Category 1 IMGs are not required to pass any RACGP examination.
- (ii) Category 2 IMGs must, after completing the Specialist Pathway learning and supervision requirements, pass the Applied Knowledge Test, Key Features Problems, and Observed Structured Clinical Examination. Examination must be passed according to timelines set out in Chapter 1, *Categorisation and Entry into the Specialist Pathway, Standards for Admission to Fellowship, and Vocational Registration*, and in the *Eligibility for assessment* policy, including that the applicant must enrol in the AKT within 12 months of medical registration, and pass all examination within 2 years of medical registration.
- (iii) Category 3 IMGs must, before categorisation by the RACGP, pass the Applied Knowledge Test. Category 3 IMGs must, after completing the Specialist Pathway learning and supervision requirements, pass the Key Features Problems, and Observed Structured Clinical Examination. Examination must be passed according to timelines set out in Chapter 1, *Categorisation and Entry into the Specialist Pathway, Standards for Admission to Fellowship, and Vocational Registration*, including that the applicant must have passed the AKT, and must pass all other examination within 2 years of medical registration.

4.4 Remediation Program

If the IMG sits and does not pass the College Examination, the College will offer to assist in the development of a remediation program to the IMG in consultation with the IMG's supervisor(s). This will involve a joint review and update of the IMG's Learning Plan, and identification of supervision tasks, learning activities, and resources which are intended to support the IMG to prepare for sitting the examination a further time. The College may more actively monitor the IMG's progress through the remediation program.

For information about Learning Plans, see Chapter 3, *Learning Program*:

www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/educationandtraining/Assessment/AssessmentPolicies/SPBusinessProcess_Chapter3.pdf

Liaison between the College and the IMG may be managed via an RACGP IMG Liaison Officer.

4.4.1 Termination

The IMG can present for segments of the College Examination at any time during their two year participation in the Specialist Pathway program.

The College will monitor the enrolment in and outcome of the IMG presenting for the examination, and will intervene with the Supervisor and IMG if it seems there are issues which may impact on the IMG successfully meeting the examination requirements within the timeframe.

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However, if the IMG fails to enrol or pass the College Examination within the required time frame, the RACGP will inform the AMC of this outcome. The IMG will then cease to be enrolled in the Specialist Pathway Program.

The AMC will facilitate the outcome with the Medical Board, the IMG and Immigration authorities.