

# *RACGP Standards for general practices (5th edition) factsheet*

## Who can gain accreditation against the RACGP Standards for general practices (5th edition) (the Standards)?

In order to be accredited against the Standards, a general practice or health service must meet all the following three core criteria:

1. The practice or health services operates within the model of general practice described in the RACGP definition of general practice ([www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/what-is-a-gp/what-is-general-practice/](http://www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/what-is-a-gp/what-is-general-practice/))
2. General practitioner services are predominantly of a general practice nature.
3. The practice or health service is capable of meeting all mandatory indicators in the Standards.

### Rationale

The current RACGP definition of a general practice for the purposes of accreditation has been in place since 2013 and is provided in the [Introduction to the Standards](#). The definition provides clarity as to which general practices and health services are eligible to be accredited against the Standards.

There are three key issues to consider to determine whether a health service meets the definition of a general practice for the purpose of accreditation:


- 1. Can the service demonstrate each of the 10 characteristics of general practice, as defined on the [RACGP's website](#)?**

For example, is the healthcare provided by the health service comprehensive? Does the health service provide whole-person care? Does the health service participate in continuing quality improvement?

- 2. Are the general practice services provided by the health service predominantly delivered by general practitioners or is it predominately provided by clinical staff other than general practitioners?**

A measurable requirement for determining eligibility for general practice accreditation enables a fair distinction between a health service that is eligible and a health service that is not. Therefore, a simple proportion of services provided by general practitioners at a health service is used as the measure to determine the general practice status.

'Predominantly' is defined by the *Health Insurance Regulations 2018* (made under the *Health Insurance Act 1973*) as 'more than 50% of the practitioner's clinical time, and more than 50% of the services for which Medicare benefits are claimed, are in general practice.'



### 3. Does the health service operate within a safety and quality model that meets peer expectations (as required by core criteria 3)?

A health service needs to be able to meet all of the mandatory Indicators that are set in the Standards.

For example:

- Does the health service have appropriate systems for clinical handover, the follow up of test results and patient identification?
- Do the general practitioners in the health service have appropriate qualifications and training?
- Can the health service demonstrate improvements made in response to analysis of patient feedback?

If a general practice or health service can demonstrate that it meets all these core criteria, it can seek accreditation against the Standards.

While the RACGP sets the Standards as a framework for practices, it does not assess practices against the three core criteria above.

The RACGP cannot determine whether a health service meets the definition of a general practice for the purpose of accreditation. [Accreditation agency surveyors](#) are positioned to make this determination based on their observations and can support practices to meet all indicators as best they can.

#### Further information

Email [standards@racgp.org.au](mailto:standards@racgp.org.au) for further information.