

## Policy Statement

To outline the requirements and processes for the assessment of prior learning to determine eligibility to start in general practice training in accordance with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and Royal Australian College of General Practice (RACGP) standards and policies.

## Application and Scope

1. This procedure applies to all registers enrolled in the AGPT Program.
2. This procedure is effective from 1 January 2016.

## Principles

1. Registrars who are undertaking vocational training towards Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practice (FRACGP) must successfully complete the requirements for hospital training as set out in the Standards for General Practice Training and related policies available on their website at [www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/](http://www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/)
2. Registrars who are undertaking vocational training towards Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM) must successfully complete the requirements for core clinical training (CCT) as set out in the curriculum and related policies available on their website at [www.acrrm.org.au/training-towards-fellowship/](http://www.acrrm.org.au/training-towards-fellowship/)
3. EV GP Training assesses all registrars' prior learning to determine their potential readiness to commence training and to enter the general practice component of their FRACGP and/or FACRRM training program.
4. The assessment of prior learning is not an application or approval for recognition of prior learning (RPL). Registrars who have not completed hospital/CCT training in the AGPT Program should refer to *ED-Org-8.4 Recognition of Prior Learning*.

## Procedure

### Requirements to commence training

1. Registrars must hold unconditional general registration to commence training in the AGPT Program which must be maintained at all times during the program. Any restrictions or changes to their medical registration must be disclosed to the Director of Training (DoT).
2. Registrars must have adequate and appropriate medical indemnity cover which must be maintained at all times during the program.
3. Registrars must have completed two years of hospital rotations of which one year must be undertaken beyond PGY1/intern and following general registration.
4. For training time to be recognised in the AGPT Programme, registrars must become a financial member of ACRRM and/or a financial member of RACGP prior to the commencement of the AGPT Program and throughout their candidature. Training undertaken while not a financial member of the relevant College(s) will not automatically be counted towards training time. Registrars must advise EV GP Training if there is a change to their membership status.
5. Registrars must advise EV GP Training of their relevant College's membership number prior to commencement of the AGPT Programme.
6. Registrars must commit to commencing training from the start of the program. Registrars cannot defer from training at the start of the program unless in line with legislated requirements or as outlined in the *AGPT Program Leave Policy 2016 – Program Deferrals*.

### Completion of hospital/core clinical training

1. Registrars must have completed one year (PGY1/intern) in an Australian or New Zealand accredited hospital post. During this year, registrars must have completed core hospital rotations (minimum of 10 weeks) in:
  - a. Emergency medicine (8-week rotation is accepted).
  - b. General Medicine (or a rotation that offered broad medical experience).
  - c. General Surgery (or surgical sub-specialty covering the principles of basic surgical care).
2. Registrars must complete at least one further year in an Australian or New Zealand accredited hospital post following general registration.

3. There is no requirement for registrars to complete hospital/CCT prior to entry into the AGPT Program. Registrars who have completed additional hospital experience after PGY1/intern, may be eligible for RPL.
4. During hospital training, registrars are expected to complete hospital rotations (minimum of 10 weeks) as per the College requirements:
  - a. FACRRM
    - i) Paediatrics
    - ii) Anaesthetics
    - iii) Obstetrics and gynecology (O&G)
    - iv) Alternatives to these rotations are outlined in ACRRM's Fellowship Training Handbook.
  - b. FRACGP
    - i) Paediatrics
    - ii) Other rotations relevant to general practice to demonstrate a breadth of experience e.g. O&G, psychiatry, aged care and rehabilitation can provide useful experiences.
5. The above rotations must be satisfactorily completed before the commencement of the second year of training. Any exceptions to this requirement must be prospectively approved by the DoT.
6. Hospital rotations must be completed in an accredited Postgraduate Medical Council (PMC) or College accredited metropolitan, regional or rural hospital and include some clinical experience. Rotations with minimal clinical exposure may not be accepted and will need relevant College censor approval.
7. Hospital rotations which were undertaken as an observer will not be accepted.
8. Hospital rotations undertaken more than five ago will only be accepted if the registrar can provide evidence of learning activities and professional development demonstrating how skills have been maintained.
9. Hospital rotations undertaken more than 10 years ago will not be accepted.
10. Locum work is not accepted where there is no evidence of education and formal feedback processes.
11. Comparable experience in another country will not be accepted by RACGP but may be considered by ACRRM subject to Censorial approval.
12. Registrars are not subject to the training location obligations for their specific pathway for hospital/CCT.
13. Australian Defence Force (ADF) registrars are encouraged to complete rotations in paediatrics and geriatric disciplines during post-intern hospital training.
14. ADF registrars are to be released from hospital training for a minimum of three months to facilitate training in a full-time accredited civilian GPT1 general practice during the PGY2 RMO hospital year.
15. Registrars must provide performance feedback (supervisor or HMO) assessment reports at the end of each rotation undertaken during the hospital/CCT year. The reports must confirm satisfactory performance in clinical work.

### Paediatric experience

1. Registrars must undertake a rotation that provides care for a sufficient number of acutely unwell children. Such posts must:
  - a. Include a high proportion of paediatrics emergency attendances with appropriate supervision from paediatricians and/or appropriately experienced general practitioners or emergency physicians in accredited hospitals; and
  - b. Have a significant focus on the recognition, diagnosis and management of seriously ill children.
2. Paediatrics experience is required to commence general practice training terms to allow the development of competence in the detection and management of serious or potentially serious illness through the full spectrum of the neonatal period, infancy, early and middle childhood and also where relevant adolescence and young adulthood.
3. Securing a paediatrics rotation can be difficult and not always possible within the timeframe required to apply to the AGPT Program.
4. There are alternative paediatrics rotations that will be considered by the relevant College. Registrars are advised to refer to the relevant College policies in conjunction with this procedure.
  - a. FACRRM - [Fellowship Training Handbook](#)
  - b. FRACGP – [Paediatric term requirements](#)
5. FACRRM registrars must complete one of the following alternatives (of at least 10 weeks) and submit the relevant support documents:
  - a. An integrated rural hospital term of at least 25 weeks, which includes paediatrics, under supervision of a specialist paediatrician or a GP with advanced skills in paediatrics.

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- b. Work in an Emergency Department for a minimum of six months (where at least 25% of presentations are children).
  - c. A 25-week term assisting a paediatrician (or paediatrics team) providing outreach paediatric services.
  - d. Community Primary Care post of no less than six months
  - e. Postgraduate Diploma in Child Health
  - f. Undertake AST in paediatrics
  - g. Combination of the above as approved by ACRRM
6. FRACGP registrars must complete one of the following alternatives (of at least 10-weeks) and submit the relevant performance feedback report requirements:
- a. A half paediatric rotation (minimum 6 weeks) with an approved full (10-12-week emergency rotation.
  - b. Two approved emergency rotations as defined in 6.e. One rotation may be undertaken in PGY1 if the other is undertaken in PGY2. In both cases, the registrar needs to be able to demonstrate sufficient experience in assessing and managing paediatric cases and must provide evidence to EV GP Training.
  - c. An approved emergency rotation as defined in 6.e. and a Post Graduate Prevocational Placements Program (PGPPP) rotation with appropriate supervision and education components. One rotation may be undertaken in PGY1 (provided a sufficient number and spread of paediatric cases were seen) if the other is undertaken in PGY2. A PGPPP rotation does not count as a standalone paediatric requirement.
  - d. Completion of the coursework and exam for the Children's Hospital at Westmead Diploma in Child Health or any other RACGP Board of Censors approved course as long as the registrar has also had some clinical exposure to children (e.g. emergency or PGPPP rotation).
  - e. Approved emergency rotations must have a significant paediatric component with a minimum of 20% paediatric presentations. Evidence for this percentage can be support through hospital administration reports or a personal patient log for a minimum of two weeks.

### Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

1. FRACGP registrars must complete a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course within 12 months before commencing general practice training.
2. All registrars are recommended to complete an annual CPR course during their candidature.
3. The CPR course must meet the requirements detailed in RACGP's [cardiopulmonary resuscitation and advanced life support courses guidelines](#)
4. Registrars will also be required to complete further emergency skills training prior to fellowship. Registrars should refer to the information outlined in *ED-Org-8.11 Educational Requirements*.

### Competencies to commence in general practice training

1. Registrars must have met all of the above competences to commence general practice training.
2. Registrars may be able to commence general practice with no more than one non-core discipline outstanding if they:
  - a. Commit to completing this during an extended skills/PRRT, mandatory elective (where relevant) or an ARST/AST post.
  - b. Have had a discussion with a medical educator to determine acceptance of their training plan.
3. Registrars must have provided copies of their performance feedback reports for hospital/CCT and that they have been satisfactorily completed.
4. Registrars must have had their overall prior learning assessment reviewed by a medical educator to confirm eligibility and make a recommendation to their suitability to commence general practice.
5. If registrars have not clearly demonstrated that they have met the competencies to commence general practice training, then they will not be eligible to be included in the practice match process.

### Application process

1. On enrolment with EV GP Training, all registrars are required to provide the following:
  - a. Satisfactory evidence of attaining the competencies for commencement of training.
  - b. PGY1/intern registrars must provide a copy of their general registration at least two weeks before the commencement of the AGPT Program.
  - c. Satisfactory evidence of their previous hospital experience in an accredited Australian and/or New Zealand hospital, including PGY1/intern, PGY2 and above e.g. statement of service/certificate listing the rotations, dates and any leave taken in the period.
  - d. Confirmation of meeting the paediatrics experience.
  - e. Attendance at an EV GP Training information event before commencing the AGPT Program.

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2. In order for registrars to demonstrate they have met the paediatric experience, they must:
  - a. Complete the *Paediatric Requirement* form and provide a copy of the performance feedback report(s) and a statement of service.
  - b. If the paediatrics rotation (or eligible alternative) is yet to be completed, the registrar must:
    - i. Provide a letter from the hospital confirming when such experience will be undertaken.
    - ii. If undertaking a second eligible emergency rotation, a letter from the hospital advising that it meets the College(s) paediatric presentation percentage and content.
    - iii. On completion of the eligible paediatrics rotation, the registrar must submit the *Paediatric Requirement* form as defined in 2(a) above.
  - c. The *Paediatric Requirement* form must be completed and signed-off by a medical educator at least three weeks before commencing general practice training.
3. EV GP Training medical educators will use this information to make a recommendation on the registrars' prior learning assessment to meet the College/s discipline requirements and to determine if they are eligible to commence general practice training or will require further hospital training.
4. If further hospital/CCT is required, it is the registrar's responsibility to apply directly to hospitals.
5. Registrars training towards RACGP Fellowship are responsible for completing the CPR prior to commencing their first general practice placement and must provide a copy of their certificate to EV GP Training.

### Additional Information

- ED-SD-8.6 Education and training definitions

<b>Responsibility</b>	Director of Training
<b>Date created</b>	February 2016
<b>Version</b>	01
<b>Review history</b>	-
<b>Status (draft/pending/approved)</b>	Approved
<b>Approved by</b>	Director of Training
<b>Date approved</b>	March 2016
<b>Next review</b>	December 2016