

## 1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. 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.

## 2. Application and Scope

- 2.1. This procedure applies to all registrars enrolled in the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program.
- 2.2. This procedure is effective from 1 July 2020.

## 3. Principles

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2. 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 generalist training (CGT) as set out in the curriculum and related policies available on their website.
- 3.3. EV GP Training (EV) 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.
- 3.4. The assessment of prior learning is not an application or approval for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Registrars who have not completed hospital/CGT training in the AGPT Program should refer to ED-Org-8.4 Recognition of Prior Learning

## 4. Procedure

### 4.1. Requirements to commence training

- 4.1.1. 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 Medical Education and Training (DMET).
- 4.1.2. Registrars must have adequate and appropriate medical indemnity cover which must be maintained at all times during the program.
- 4.1.3. Registrars must have completed two years of hospital rotations of which one year must be undertaken beyond PGY1/intern and following general registration.
- 4.1.4. Registrars must comply with the membership policy of the relevant College and enrol in their chosen fellowship program(s) prior to commencing their training on the AGPT Program. Once registrars have enrolled in their chosen fellowship Program(s) they cannot change to another during their training.
- 4.1.5. Training undertaken while not a financial member of the relevant College(s) will not automatically be counted towards training time. Registrars must advise EV if there is a change to their membership status.
- 4.1.6. Registrars must advise EV of their relevant College's membership number prior to commencement of the AGPT Program.
- 4.1.7. 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.

### 4.2. Completion of hospital/core generalist training

- 4.2.1. 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:
  - 4.2.1.1. Emergency medicine (8-week rotation is accepted);
  - 4.2.1.2. General Medicine (or a rotation that offered broad medical experience);
  - 4.2.1.3. General Surgery (or surgical sub-specialty covering the principles of basic surgical care).

- 4.2.2. Registrars may have had their hospital year (PGY1/intern) disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. EV will discuss with registrars ways to provide evidence to achieve the outcomes of the mandatory terms in alternative ways and assist registrars to develop a comprehensive training plan how to meet any gaps in their hospital training.
- 4.2.3. Registrars must complete at least one further year in an Australian or New Zealand accredited hospital following general registration.
- 4.2.4. There is no requirement for registrars to complete hospital/CGT prior to entry into the AGPT Program. Registrars who have completed additional hospital experience after PGY1/intern, may be eligible for RPL.
- 4.2.5. For RACGP, registrars are expected to complete clinical hospital rotations (minimum 10 weeks) in:
- Paediatrics (refer to the *RACGP Paediatric Term Requirement policy*); and
  - A range of clinical rotations relevant to the discipline of general practice to demonstrate a breadth of experience e.g. O&G, psychiatry, aged care and rehabilitation can provide useful experiences.
- 4.2.6. 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 DMET.
- 4.2.7. For ACRRM, registrars are expected to complete the requirements for core generalist training. Alternatives to these requirements are outlined in ACRRM's *Fellowship Training Handbook*.
- A minimum of three years training time;
  - 10 weeks in paediatrics, anaesthetics and obstetrics (O&G) at PGY1 or above
  - 26 weeks in primary care at PGY2 or above;
  - 13 weeks in inpatient secondary care at PGY2 or above;
  - 13 weeks in emergency care at PGY2 or above;
  - 52 weeks in rural and remote practice at PGY2 or above.
- 4.2.8. Rotations undertaken in hospital must be completed in an accredited Postgraduate Medical Council (PMC) or College accredited metropolitan, regional or rural hospital. Hospital rotations must be clinical in nature.
- 4.2.9. Hospital rotations which were undertaken as an observer will not be accepted.
- 4.2.10. Registrars must demonstrate recency of practice for hospital rotations as per College requirements outlined below. Registrars must provide evidence of learning activities and professional development demonstrating how these skills have been maintained.
- 4.2.10.1. FACRRM:
- Paediatrics, anaesthetics and O&G is five years
  - Emergency care, secondary care and rural remote is two years
  - Advanced Specialised disciplines is two years
- 4.2.9.2. FRACGP:
- Rotations undertaken more than five years ago
- 4.2.11. Hospital rotations undertaken more than ten years ago will not be accepted by RACGP.
- 4.2.12. Locum work is not accepted where there is no evidence of education and formal feedback processes.
- 4.2.13. Comparable experience in another country will not be accepted by RACGP but may be considered by ACRRM subject to Censorial approval.
- 4.2.14. Registrars are not subject to the training location obligations for their specific pathway for hospital/CGT (except for primary care).
- 4.2.15. Australian Defense Force (ADF) registrars are encouraged to complete rotations in paediatric and geriatric disciplines during post-intern hospital training.
- 4.2.16. Registrars must provide performance feedback (supervisor or HMO) assessment reports at the end of each rotation undertaken during the hospital/CGT year. The reports must confirm satisfactory performance in clinical work.

## 4.3. Paediatric experience

- 4.3.1. Registrars must undertake a rotation that provides care for a sufficient number of acutely unwell children. Such posts must:
  - 4.3.1.1. 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
  - 4.3.1.2. Have a significant focus on the recognition, diagnosis and management of seriously ill children.
- 4.3.2. 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.
- 4.3.3. Securing a paediatrics rotation can be difficult and not always possible within the timeframe required to apply to the AGPT Program.
- 4.3.4. 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.
  - 4.3.4.1. FACRRM - Fellowship Training Handbook
  - 4.3.4.2. FRACGP – Paediatric term requirements

## 4.4. Basic Life Support

- 4.4.1. FRACGP registrars must complete a Basic Life Support (BLS) course within 12 months before commencing the first general practice training term.
- 4.4.2. All registrars are recommended to complete an annual BLS course during their candidature.
- 4.4.3. The BLS course must meet the requirements detailed in RACGP's Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support Guidance Document
- 4.4.4. 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 Program Requirements - Group Learning and Activities

## 4.5. Competencies to commence in general practice training

- 4.5.1. Registrars must have met the majority of the above competences relevant to their College to commence general practice training.
- 4.5.2. Registrars may be able to commence general practice with no more than one non-core discipline outstanding if they:
  - 4.5.2.1. Commit to completing this during an extended skills/CGT or an ARST/AST post.
  - 4.5.2.2. Have had a discussion with a medical educator to determine acceptance of their training plan.
- 4.5.3. Registrars must have provided copies of their performance feedback reports for hospital/CGT and that they have been satisfactorily completed.
- 4.5.4. Registrars must have had their overall prior learning assessment reviewed by EV to confirm eligibility and make a recommendation to their suitability to commence general practice.
- 4.5.5. 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.

## 4.6. Application process

- 4.6.1. On enrolment with EV, all registrars are required to provide the following:
  - 4.6.1.1. Satisfactory evidence of attaining the competencies for commencement of training.
  - 4.6.1.2. PGY1/intern registrars must provide a copy of their general registration at least two weeks before the commencement of the AGPT Program.
  - 4.6.1.3. 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.
  - 4.6.1.4. Confirmation or discussion of meeting the paediatric experience.
  - 4.6.1.5. Attendance at an EV information event before commencing the AGPT Program.

## ED-Org-8.3 Prior Learning Assessment



- 4.6.2. In order for registrars to demonstrate they have met the paediatric experience, they must:
- 4.6.2.1. Complete the *Paediatric Requirement* form and provide a copy of the performance feedback report(s) and a statement of service.
  - 4.6.2.2. If the paediatric rotation (or eligible alternative) is yet to be completed, the registrar must:
    - Provide a letter from the hospital confirming when such experience will be undertaken.
    - If undertaking a second eligible emergency rotation, a letter from the hospital advising that it meets the College(s) paediatric presentation percentage and content.
    - On completion of the eligible paediatrics rotation, the registrar must submit the *Paediatric Requirement* form as defined in clause 4.6.21 above.
  - 4.6.2.3. The *Paediatric Requirement* form must be completed and signed-off by a medical educator at least **four weeks** before commencing general practice training.
- 4.6.3. EV's 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.
- 4.6.4. If further hospital/CGT is required, it is the registrar's responsibility to apply directly to hospitals.
- 4.6.5. Registrars training towards RACGP Fellowship are responsible for completing the BLS prior to commencing their first general practice placement and must provide a copy of their certificate to EV.

### 5. Additional Information

- 5.1. ED-Org-8.4 Recognition of Prior Learning
- 5.2. ED-Org-8.11 Program Requirements - Group Learning and Activities
- 5.3. AGPT Program Leave Policy
- 5.4. ACRRM's Fellowship Training Handbook
- 5.5. ACRRM's Training Program Requirements Policy
- 5.6. RACGP's Paediatric term requirements
- 5.7. RACGP's Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support Guidance Document

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