

CCCT OPERATING POLICY OP015

The Appointment and Supervision of CCCT GP Registrars as VMOs in AHS Rural/Regional Hospitals

Policy Aim

The aim of this policy is to facilitate the conferring of VMO status on CCCT Registrars seeking to participate in the ED roster of rural/rural hospitals and/or practice a GP sub specialty in the Greater Southern Area Health Service including the streamlining of the process of assessing that all conditions of appointment are met.

The policy is written cognisant that CCCT GP Registrars have been subject to a rigorous national selection process including an in-depth interview assessing clinical competence and suitability for rural practice, resulting in their inclusion on the Vocational Register for the purposes of Medicare billing.

This process ensures that GP Registrar applying for VMO rights cannot be subject to review by the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission and should this happen while in the program, the doctor would not be allowed to apply for VMO status. Similarly should a Registrar have any conditions placed on practice/registration such conditions are discussed during the selection process and if the doctor is accepted for training full disclosure of conditions (including health management plans etc) is a requirement.

Such a policy, resulting in the conferring of VMO status in a timely manner, is indispensable to ensuring that rural vocationally registered Registrars placed in the AHS region, receive appropriate and authentic clinical experience in their formation and post graduate (specialist) training as rural general practitioners,

Policy

1. CCCT Responsibilities – Determining suitability for VMO Appointment

- 1.1. Those GP Registrars placed in CCCT accredited training practices/Supervisors who apply for VMO status will be assessed (prior to application) to ensure they have appropriate prior experience. CCCT will ensure that the Registrar has had post PGY1 experience in paediatrics and accident and emergency medicine.
- 1.2. Where Registrars seek to practice a sub specialty (e.g. obstetrics) CCCT Medical Educators will liaise with the Registrar's Specialist Supervisors during their advanced training year to monitor the progress of the Registrar (as required by the NSW Health Procedural Training Program) in addition to sighting evidence of successful completion of such advanced training.
- 1.3. CCCT will advise Registrars of all requirements relating to attaining temporary VMO status prior to the beginning of their training term, including the need for Supervisor assessment and undertaking mandatory training (see 1.4) and ensure that all Registrars seeking VMO status undertake such training.
- 1.4. CCCT will contract AHS ED specialists annually to deliver small group skills training providing the basics of emergency care and a systematic approach to critically ill adults and children followed up by specialised scenario and skills-based based training. (see training outline at Attachment A)

- 1.5. Where non CCCT Registrars, undertaking rural rotations from Sydney RTPs seek VMO status in a time frame which precludes participation in the training outlined at 1.4 CCCT will seek from that RTP confirmation of appropriate ED and paediatrics experience and current emergency skills training.
- 1.6. It should be noted that cognisant of the Garling recommendations etc CCCT is already working with AHS to ensure that the training described at 2.4 becomes more interdisciplinary in character and delivery.
- 1.7. **It should be noted that cognisant of the Garling recommendations and consultation with AHS' CCCT and the AHS' will jointly advertise the VMO positions as part of the selection process, as required by the VMO appointment**

2. Supervisor Responsibilities - Determining suitability for VMO Appointment

- 2.1. The GP Supervisor will assess the prior clinical experience, confidence and learning aspirations of a Registrar prior to encouraging the Registrar to apply for VMO rights with AHS.
- 2.2. Once VMO rights are granted the Supervisor will determine a supervision model tailored to the Registrar that enables them to assess the Registrar's competence in an ED generally. This includes discussing with the Registrar (taking into account experience and confidence levels) when calling the Supervisor in would be mandatory,
- 2.3. The Supervisor must provide 100% direct supervision for the Registrar's first two rostered shifts i.e. the Supervisor and Registrar must both be present for the first two rostered shifts
- 2.4. When a Registrar is on call, the Supervisor must be available by phone at all times and will be able and willing to attend physically at short notice.
- 2.5. If having observed the Registrar's performance the GP Supervisor feels the Registrar would benefit from further advanced training (EMST, APLS etc) the CCCT Medical Educator should be advised so the course can be included in the Registrar's learning plan and funded by CCCT.

3. Registrar Responsibilities – Preparing for VMO Appointment

- 3.1. All CCCT Registrars proposing to participate in on-call at AHS rural hospitals would be required to attend small group skills training providing the basics of emergency care and a systematic approach to critically ill adults and children followed up by specialised scenario and skills-based based training – programs delivered under contract to CCCT by AHS.
- 3.2. This training must be undertaken prior to a Registrar attending without direct supervision. Those Registrars starting in the second half of the year would be required to complete an intensive airway management instruction and assessment prior to their being rostered on without direct supervision.
- 3.3. Registrars on rural rotation to CCCT, seeking VMO status must be assessed by their Supervisor (see 3.1) and provide CCCT with a Medical Educator's confirmation of appropriate ED and paediatrics experience and current emergency skills training.

4. The Appointments Process

- 4.1. CCCT Registrar Interviews take place from August to October each year in preparation for appointment in January of the following year. During this interview and appointment process CCCT collects a range of documentation (including all documents required for the VMO Application) and gains consent for and undertakes

the “Working With Children Background Check” using NSW Health ES & RU as the screening agency.

4.2. Following receipt of all documentation and feedback from the NSW Health screening agency, confirmation that a Registrar is being placed in the a rural or regional AHS hospital and advice of a practice’s intention to seek a VMO appointment CCCT will:

4.2.1. Provide the nominated practice and AHS with the results of the NSW Health Screening check (removing duplication)

4.2.2. Provide the practice with “soft copies” of all documentation relevant to the VMO application (see attachment B listing documentation CCCT can provide)

4.2.3. Provide AHS MDAAC secretariat with a statement confirming that the Registrar is a participant in the Australian General Training Program and that the actions described in 2.1 to 2.6 below aimed at preparing Registrars for a VMO appointment have been undertaken.

4.2.4. The statements at 4.2.3 are aimed at meeting the requirement of the “Policy Directive 496: Visiting Practitioners Appointment” for a re-certification statement with CCCT acting as the relevant college or association, confirming that the doctor is a vocationally registered doctor undertaking post graduate training.

4.3. **GSAHS VERSION:** Following this process CCCT will seek from AHS the following undertaking:

4.3.1. Temporary appointment of the Registrar as a VMO for a 3 month period

4.3.2. After three months appointment of the Registrar as a VMO subject to satisfaction with all documentation and MDACC approval

4.4. **SESIAHS VERSION:** *Following this process CCCT will seek from AHS the following undertaking:*

4.4.1. Inclusion of the VMO appointment on the agenda for the final MDACC in the calendar year with the intention of approving the appointment subject to Supervisor confirmation that the Registrar has been assessed as suitable. The appointment will date from receipt of supervisor advice.

CoastCityCountry Training

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