

Pathway Eligibility – 10 Year Moratorium – Who Does It Apply To?

Once applicants have established their eligibility to apply for General Practice training using the Eligibility Self-Assessment Guide, they will then need to assess their pathway eligibility.

Section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act (the Act) provides that Medicare benefits are not payable for professional services provided by overseas-trained doctors (including those trained in New Zealand) and international doctors trained in Australia, for a period of 10 years from the time they first become registered with a state or territory medical board or from when they first became permanent residents of Australia. This restriction is sometimes referred to as the 10-year moratorium.

- **OVERSEAS TRAINED DOCTORS** (including those trained in NEW ZEALAND) means any doctor who did not obtain his/her primary medical qualification in Australia. This includes doctors who obtained their primary medical qualification from a New Zealand medical school which has been accredited by the Australian Medical Council; and
- **INTERNATIONAL DOCTORS TRAINED IN AUSTRALIA** means any doctor who began studying in Australia under a temporary visa and has subsequently obtained their primary medical qualifications from an Australian university. **Note for NZ Citizens:** NZ citizens who live in Australia are not considered permanent residents until such time as Australian citizenship has been granted. Under the Migration Act 1953, New Zealanders are classified as temporary residents. The Medicare provider number restrictions contained in section 19AB continue until a change in residency status occurs.

The 10 year moratorium does not apply to doctors who:

- registered with a state or territory medical board before 1 January 1997; or
- had made an application to undertake the Australian Medical Council examinations and were assessed as eligible to undertake those examinations before 1 January 1997.

Exemptions

Under section 19AB of the Act, exemptions are granted for medical practitioners who are accepted into Australian General Practice Training for work performed as part of their training on the condition that the work is performed in rural areas which are defined as Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) 4 to 7 (see Appendix 3 in the 2006 Guide for Applicants).

Applicants restricted under section 19AB of the Act will be restricted to selecting the Rural Pathway in their application to Australian General Practice Training.

Note: Applicants are encouraged to access “Section 19AB Guidelines” (on the Department of Health and Ageing website at www.health.gov.au/workforce/pdf/workforce19ab.pdf) to obtain additional information regarding the 10 year moratorium legislation and policies relating to exemptions.

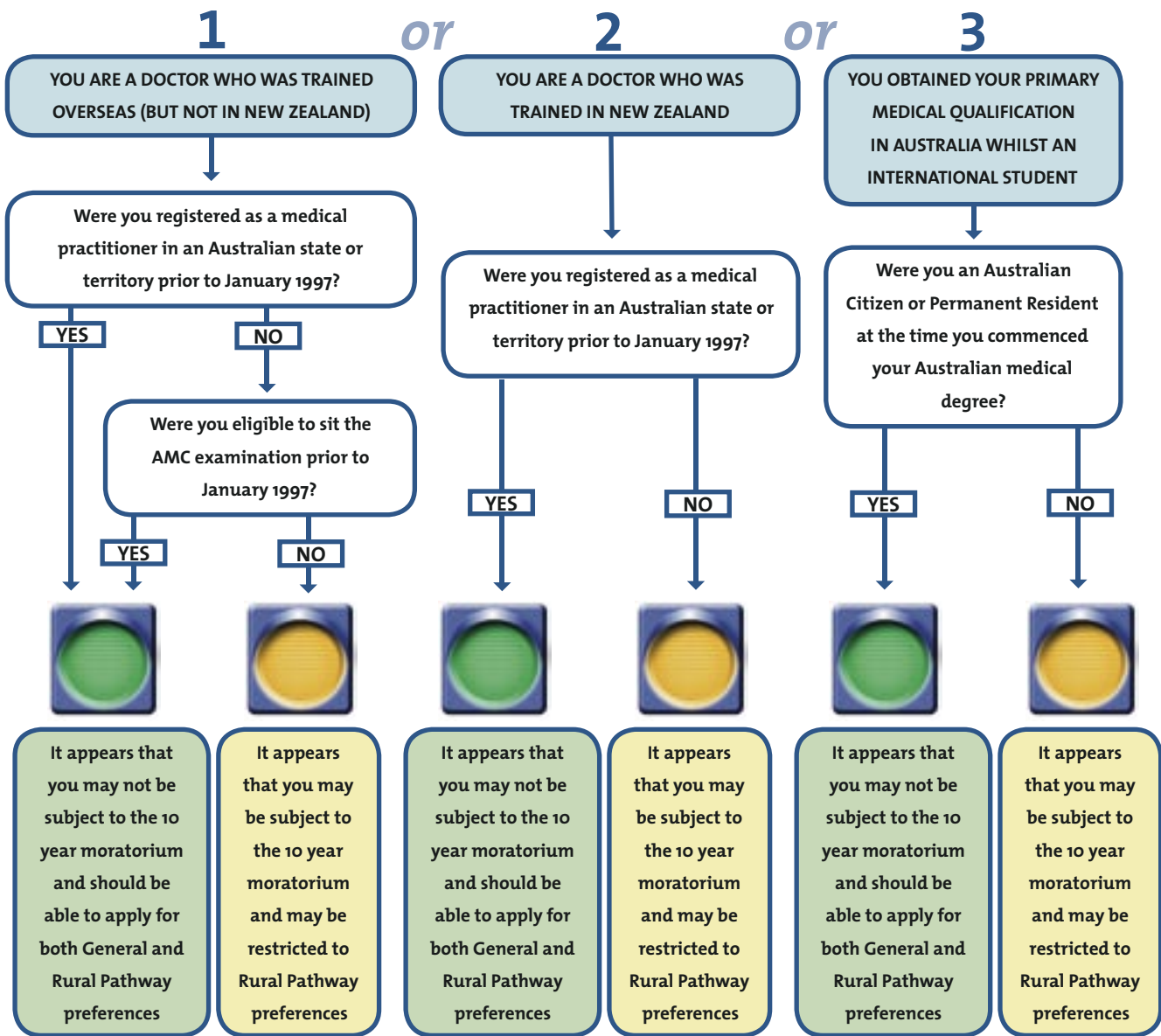
Note: GPET can only allocate applicants into General Pathway training places after receiving evidence that they are not subject to the 10 year moratorium (see Section 4.4.4 ‘Supporting Documentation’ in the 2006 Guide for Applicants, for information regarding documentation required in relation to the 10 year moratorium).

Applicants who have entered into a deed of agreement with the department of health and ageing:

Applicants who have entered into a Deed of Agreement with the Department of Health and Ageing for the 100 Places Program are restricted to working in RRMA 3-7 locations and selecting rural pathway preferences within Australian General Practice Training. In this instance applicants are able to apply for a General Pathway training place, but will be restricted to term placements within RRMA 3-7 only, and will not be eligible for the Registrars’ Rural Incentive Payment Scheme.

Applicants unsure about their pathway eligibility should contact the Selection Administrator at GPET on (02) 6263 6776.

Identify which of the following three categories applies to you, and then follow the arrows to determine which pathway you are eligible to apply for:



Applicants should regard the above self-assessment process as a guide only.

Confirmation regarding an applicant's eligibility to select General Pathway preferences can only be made by GPET upon receipt of relevant supporting documentation during the application process.

(For more information regarding the 10 year moratorium, please go to Section 4.1.1 of the 2006 Guide for Applicants).

GPET will only allocate applicants to General Pathway interviews if supporting documentation is complete and confirms they are not subject to the 10 year moratorium.