



2 May 2025

Tēnā koutou

## **Consultation on proposed changes for medical college advice for registration in a provisional vocational scope of practice**

### **Executive summary**

Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa | the Medical Council of New Zealand (Council) is seeking feedback on a proposed change to its processes. Specifically, in relation to advice obtained from medical colleges regarding an international medical graduate's (IMG) application for registration in a provisional vocational scope of practice. This proposed change forms part of the Council's ongoing focus on improving efficiency and once fully implemented will decrease the timeframe for processing provisional vocational applications from IMGs.

The proposed change recognises the time that medical colleges put into doing paper-based assessments for IMGs, effectively swapping the interview and paper-based assessment fees, and will not result in any increase to IMGs - in fact we expect that in a large number of applications, it will result in a net decrease in fees IMGs pay. This is because it recognises the shift to paper-based advice being the final advice provided by the college (with interview not required) and ensures that medical colleges are appropriately recompensed for the time spent on paper-based assessments. An interview should only occur as the exception when required. The change is aimed at enabling faster access to vocational registration, and aligned to a number of changes the Council is making to streamline processes.

Your feedback is welcome and will be carefully considered by Council before a final decision is made. If you would like to provide feedback, please do so by **5pm Friday 23 May 2025**.

### **Background**

Medical college advice fees are set by Council, paid by the IMG seeking registration in a provisional vocational scope of practice (or by their prospective employer, on their behalf) and passed to the medical college in full, on receipt of advice and an invoice. As such, there is no net financial impact to Council.

### **Proposed changes**

The objective is to ensure the revised process and fees appropriately reflect the workload undertaken by medical colleges and support the shift toward a more efficient and consistent assessment model.

The proposed changes are as follows:

- rename the existing fee 'assessment of documents (preliminary advice)' to 'paper-based assessment'.
- adjust the existing fee structure to better reflect the effort required at each stage, with the paper-based assessment fee becoming the higher of the two, and the interview fee the lower. Paper-based assessments are known to involve more substantial review and decision-making effort than interviews, and most recently, interviews have not often been required.
- an annual inflation adjustment of 2.2%<sup>1</sup> to proposed medical college advice fees.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/consumers-price-index-december-2024-quarter/>

We anticipate this change will lead to:

- Greater consistency and quality in advice; we note that the majority of colleges are already providing final advice following the paper-based assessment.
- Streamlined processing for IMGs, supporting faster progression to vocational registration.

The proposed revised fees schedule is outlined in Appendix 1.

### **Feedback and submissions**

Council invites your feedback on the proposed changes before a final decision is made. If you would like to provide feedback, please do so by **5pm Friday 23 May 2025**.

Council will consider all submissions before making a final decision. Following this a notice will be placed in the New Zealand Gazette for an effective date of 1 July 2025.

Responses can be submitted to:

### **Fee Consultation**


Medical Council of New Zealand

PO Box 10509

Wellington 6143

Email: [feeconsultation@mcnz.org.nz](mailto:feeconsultation@mcnz.org.nz)

Nāku noa nā,



Joan Simoen

**Manukura | Chief Executive**

**Medical Council of New Zealand**

Appendix 1: Existing Fee Schedule and Proposed Fees

	Current	Proposed	\$ Change
College advice fees for registration in a provisional vocational scope of practice			
> Assessment of documents (preliminary advice) Paper based assessment	1,961.20	4,737.54	*
> Interview (final advice) Interview	4,635.56	2,004.35	*
> Re-evaluation	1,426.33	1,457.71	31.38
> Advice on supervisor/employment	237.72	242.95	5.23

\* The existing fee structure has been adjusted to better reflect the workload required at each stage, with the paper-based assessment fee becoming the higher of the two, and the interview fee the lower. An inflation adjustment of 2.2% has also been applied to the existing fees.

All figures are proposed to take effect from 1 July 2025 and are GST exclusive.