



Te Kaunihera Rata
o Aotearoa

**Medical Council
of New Zealand**

Medical Council of New Zealand (Council)

Change in start of intern year: FAQs

This document aims to clarify matters relating to the amended start date and changes to dates for intern clinical attachments for the year commencing at the end of 2020. Below we provide information for the following:

- final year medical students
- interns, prevocational educational supervisors
- clinical directors of training
- RMO and clinical education units.

This document focuses on Council's prevocational medical training programme and registration requirements.

Council recognises that this is a transitional year and we understand that medical students are able to choose whether to start their PGY1 year on 30 November 2020 or 18 January 2021. This change in start dates also has an impact on current PGY1 and PGY2 interns.

From 2022, we understand that all new graduates will start their PGY1 year in January.

The decision to change the rotation start date was made by the District Health Boards employing interns. As the regulatory body that registers all doctors to practise in New Zealand, Council's role is to operationalise this within the prevocational medical training programme and registration requirements. In doing so, Council's approach is that that no new or current intern should be negatively impacted in terms of Council's requirements, or by the change in start date.

Below are answers to some of the commonly asked questions about this transition. We will update this document as developments occur. You will find the most up-to-date document on the **Council's [website](#)**.

If you have any questions relating to the prevocational medical training programme and registration requirements that are not answered in this document, please email Council at prevocationalmailbox@mcnz.org.nz

Current medical students

I'm a medical student who is starting **PGY1 on 30 November 2020**

If you choose to start work at a DHB on 30 November 2020, please send your registration application to Council by **9 October 2020**.
If you have [disclosures](#) to make about your fitness to practise, you need to submit your application as early as possible to avoid any delay to your start date.

Interns are required to practise in Council accredited clinical attachments. These attachments are structured as set out below.

First PGY1 attachment (Partial attachment of 7 weeks – part 1)	This attachment will last for 7 weeks, instead of the usual 13 weeks (you will complete the remaining 7 weeks in your final attachment.) At the end of the first 7 weeks, ePort will show 'time requirement not met' and your dashboard will be coloured grey. Don't be concerned by this as the remaining time will be made up during your final attachment.
Next three PGY1 attachments	These will be the usual 13-week length attachments and will be allocated starting 18 January 2021.
Final PGY1 attachment (Partial attachment of 7 weeks – part 2)	Once you have completed three full 13-week attachments, you will be allocated to another attachment. If there were no concerns raised in the first attachment, this final attachment may be signed off as satisfactory after 7 weeks. This will be viewed as though you have completed the requisite four clinical attachments at this point.

This is a temporary arrangement for the transitional period only.

At the end of PGY1, your ePort dashboard will look like this:



I'm a medical student who is starting **PGY1 on 18 January 2021**

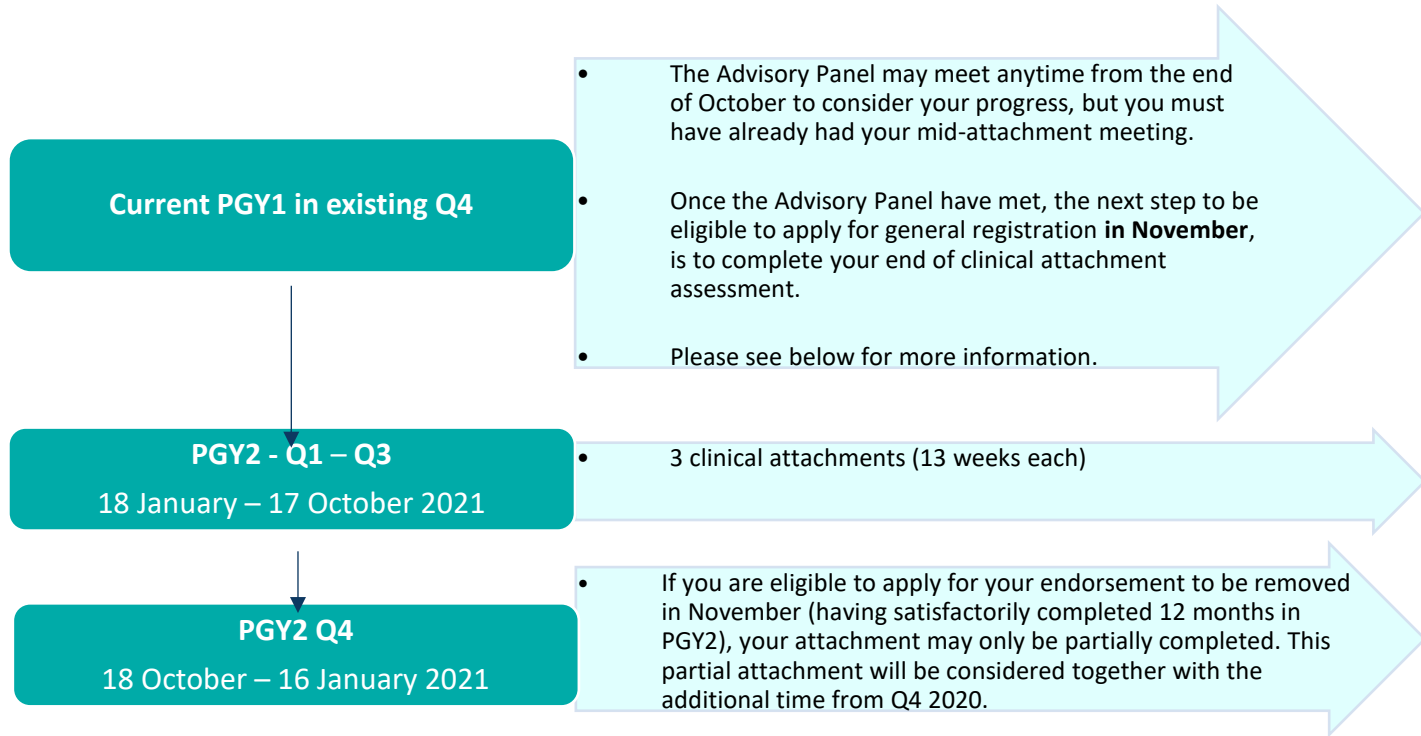
Please send your registration application to Council by **27 October 2020**.

If you have [disclosures](#) to make about your fitness to practise please submit your application as early as possible to avoid any delay to your start date.

Current PGY1s

Can I apply for a general scope of practice in November 2020?

Current PGY1s who have met requirements and have been recommended for general registration by the DHB advisory panel are able to apply for general registration from the end of November 2020 onwards.



Please note: If you are still working on the attachment after you have gained general registration, your DHB will assign you to the same attachment again. This attachment will be marked as 'time requirements not met' as illustrated below (you should not be concerned about the 'not met' requirement as the time requirement is made up later in the year)

At the end of PGY2, your ePort dashboard will look like this:



The time in the two partial attachments will be counted as one attachment, even if they are both different clinical attachments.

When will the Advisory Panel meet?	From the end of October, after your mid-attachment meeting.
I am moving DHBs in November 2020, what do I need to know?	<p>This must be organised directly with the DHBs concerned.</p> <p>If you are able to move DHBs in November 2020, you need to ensure that you have been reviewed by the Advisory Panel and have had your Q4 assessment completed by both your clinical supervisor and prevocational educational supervisor. To find out more about your Advisory Panel, please contact your RMO unit office. If this is not possible, you MUST submit a COS1 form – please contact prevocationalmailbox@mcnz.org.nz for more information.</p>
Current PGY2s	
When can I apply to have my endorsement removed?	Current PGY2s can apply for their endorsement to be removed as normal – at the end of November if they meet the requirements and have been recommended by their prevocational educational supervisor. You will need to have your end of clinical attachment assessment completed and then apply as usual in ePort.
I'm applying for a registrar role, when can I commence this?	After your endorsement has been removed from your practising certificate and you have advised Council whether you are entering a vocational training programme or Inpractice. For more information please contact prevocationalmailbox@mcnz.org.nz .
DHBs	
What do DHBs need to do in ePort for PGY1s starting 30 November 2020	<p>Please note: If interns have disclosures about their fitness to practise, this may delay their start date.</p> <p>To support interns who choose to start on 30 November 2020, Council advises the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Allocate the intern to an existing attachment in ePort. The intern will remain on this attachment for 7 weeks and receive an assessment of 'time requirements not met'. In ePort, this will be considered Q4 2020 when allocating an intern to an attachment. Please contact Council staff if you require additional capacity for attachments. b. The intern will then be allocated to the usual 13-week attachment on 18 January 2021 and satisfactorily complete three attachments. c. Once the intern has completed their third full 13-week attachment, they will be allocated to another 7-week attachment (Q4 2021). d. If no concerns were raised in the first and last 7-week attachments, the final 7-week attachment could be signed off as satisfactory. e. This is a temporary arrangement for the transitional period only.

Council recommends that training providers use existing attachments.

At the end of PGY1, ePort dashboards will look like this:



When can a PGY1 apply for general registration?

Current PGY1s who have met requirements and been recommended for general registration by the DHB advisory panel may apply for general registration from the end of November 2020 onwards.

Current PGY1 in Q4

- The Advisory Panel may meet at the end of October, once an intern has had their mid-attachment meeting.
- The intern's end of clinical attachment assessment must be completed before they are eligible to apply for general registration.
- If the intern is still working on this attachment, you will need to reallocate them to this attachment. This attachment will be marked as 'time requirements not met' as illustrated below.


PGY2 - Q1 – Q3
18 January – 17 October 2021

- 3 clinical attachments (13 weeks each)

PGY2 - Q4
18 October – 16 January 2021

- If the intern is eligible to apply for the endorsement to be removed in November 2021, they may have completed only part of an attachment. This partial attachment will be considered together with the additional time from Q4 2020.

At the end of PGY2, their ePort dashboards will look like this:

	
When will the Advisory Panel meet?	From the end of October, after the intern has had their mid-attachment meeting.
I have interns who are moving DHBs in November 2020, what do I need to know?	If you have agreed to an intern moving between DHBs in November 2020 that intern should not be disadvantaged. Ahead of moving DHBs, the intern should be signed off by the Advisory Panel. If that is not possible, the intern must submit a COS1 to Council at prevocationalmailbox@mcnz.org.nz .