



# Policy on changing the scope of practice for doctors registered via the provisional general comparable health system pathway, to registration within the General scope of practice without limitations

## Policy statement

This policy sets out the requirements that must be met by doctors registered in the provisional general scope of practice via the comparable health system pathway before they can be registered in the General scope of practice, without limitations.

## Background

Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa | the Medical Council of New Zealand (Council) sets requirements for doctors to meet before they can be registered within the General scope of practice. This includes a period of satisfactory supervised practice, in an approved position and under approved supervision.

For doctors applying via the comparable health system pathway, the approved position will be in the same or a similar area of medicine and at a similar level of responsibility, to the work they were doing prior to moving to New Zealand.

Council may limit a doctor's General scope of practice in the interests of public health and safety. This is because some doctors' general medical competence has not been assessed – only their medical competence in the area of medicine they have worked in prior to moving to New Zealand, and once practising in New Zealand.

Council policy is to limit the General scope of practice for doctors:

- practising in a hospital-based setting: to the area of medicine they are working in, and hospital-based practice
- practising outside of a hospital-based setting, other than in general practice: to the area of medicine they are working in only.

Doctors who have practised satisfactorily in general practice for at least 6 months full-time equivalent (FTE), are not limited.

However, Council may consider the approval of a doctor's General scope of practice, without limiting their General scope to a particular area of medicine, if the doctor can demonstrate that they have adequate skill and knowledge to practise medicine within the General scope of practice without limitation.

### **Who does this apply to?**

This policy only applies to doctors who have:

1. Obtained registration within a provisional general scope of practice through the comparable health system pathway
2. Satisfied the requirements for registration in the General scope of practice.
3. Either satisfactorily completed:
  - a. 6 months FTE surgery and 6 months FTE medicine under supervision during their provisional General scope, with the 6 months FTE medicine must not including more than 3 months FTE emergency medicine, **or**
  - b. 6 months FTE in general practice.

Doctors meeting the above criteria will not be limited to hospital-based practice or to an area of medicine.

### **Applying for approval of a position in a different area of medicine**

The doctor must [apply for approval of a new position and supervision arrangement](#). Before approving this, Council must be assured the proposed position and supervision arrangements are suitable, considering:

- the doctor's practice to date – Council expects to see at least 6 months FTE satisfactory supervised practice has been completed before an application is made
- the doctor's absence from practice from the proposed area of medicine
- the ability of the supervisor, given the proposed role and supervision arrangement, to assess competence across the given area of medicine.

If the doctor would not have been approved when applying for registration to practise general practice, Council policy is not to approve an application for a position in general practice while the doctor is practising under supervision in the provisional general scope. A doctor in this circumstance must meet the criteria above in another way.

### **Who can apply for an unlimited General scope once already registered in the General scope with limitations?**

Doctors limited to an area of medicine and hospital-based practice can apply for an unlimited General scope by applying for approval, as explained above.

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