

# **Credentialling for International Medical Graduates in Country Health SA**

**Dr Peter Chapman**  
Chief Medical Advisor  
Country Health SA




**Government  
of South Australia**

---

SA Health



**Meeting National Standards**  
for International Medical Graduates



# The New RACGP/COAG National Assessment Process for International Medical Graduate General Practitioners

- > The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and COAG as of 1 July 2008 have implemented a new International Medical Graduate National Assessment Process.
- > The new process has 5 levels in which a International Medical Graduate is assessed

# The New RACGP/COAG National Assessment Process cont...

1. General practice training, postgraduate qualification and experience equivalent to the FRACGP. Currently they are;
  - FRNZCGP
  - Holders of both the MRCGP and the Certificate of the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice, UK
  - Holders of the Certificate of Family Practice from the College of Family Physicians who have successfully completed both parts of the Medical Council of Canada qualifying examination

# The New RACGP/COAG National Assessment Process cont...

2. GP training, postgraduate qualifications and experience, which is recognised, but not considered equivalent to FRACGP. This includes;
  - Holder of either the MRCGP or the Certificate of the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice, UK
  - Membership of the Irish College of General Practitioners
  - Certificate of the American Board of Family Practice
  - Master of Family Medicine, South Africa
  - Master of Prax Medicine, South Africa
  - Membership of the College of Family Practitioners (MFGP/MCFP), South Africa
  - Holders of registration as a Family Physician with the Health Professions Council of South Africa
  - Master of Medicine (Family Medicine) from the National University of Singapore



## The New RACGP/COAG National Assessment Process cont...

3. GP training and postgraduate qualification not recognised, but have more than five years of full time GP experience in another country.
4. No GP training or postgraduate qualifications, but have more than five years of full time GP experience in another country.
5. No GP training or postgraduate qualifications and less than five years of equivalent full time GP Experience in another country.



# **Recruitment** of International Medical Graduates



## The 5 Years Overseas Trained Doctor Scheme (5 Year OTD Scheme)

- > The 5 Year OTD Scheme was developed to address long term rural medical workforce shortages. This scheme allows experienced and/or qualified overseas GP's to be assessed by the RACGP as an alternative to undertaking the AMC examination.

## 5 Year OTD Scheme cont...

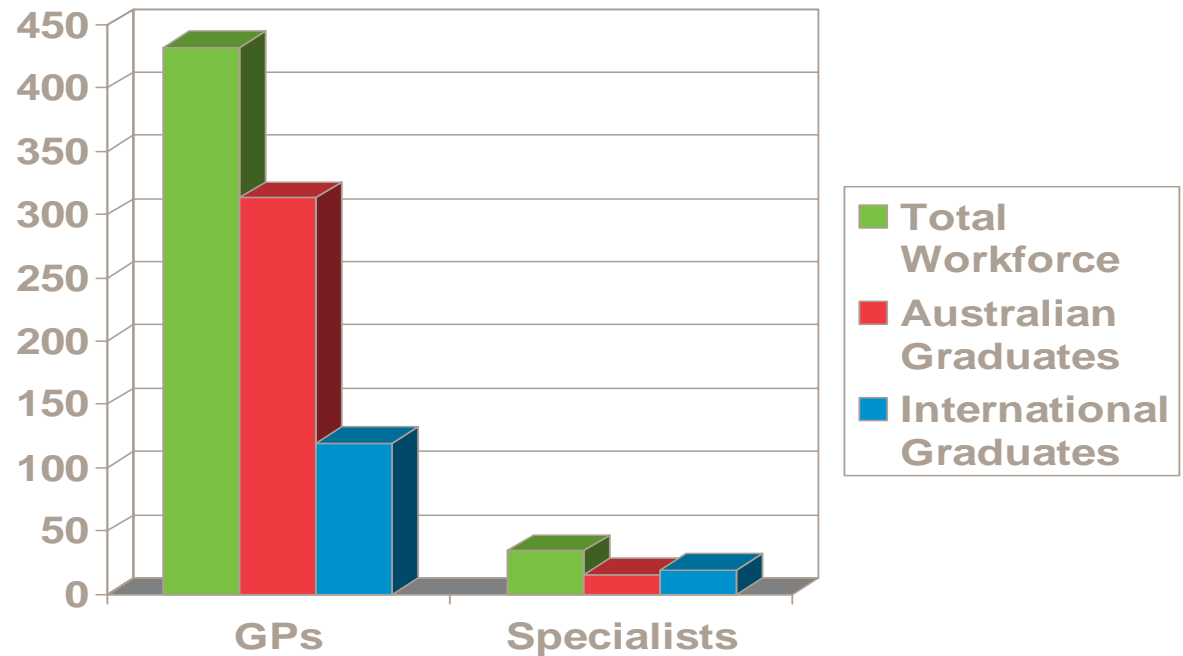
- > To be eligible for the scheme, doctors must:
  - Complete 5 years service in general practice in an agreed rural location, (in some remote locations, the requirements may be as little as 3 years)
  - Obtain Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP) within 2 years of joining
  - Obtain permanent residency in Australia

## 5 Year OTD Scheme cont...

- > In South Australia there are currently 31 doctors in the 5 year OTD scheme.
- > 23 of these doctors have already achieved their FRACGP
- > 19 have been granted permanent residency

# Workforce Statistics in 2006 for Country Health SA

- > During the period of 2000 – 2005 Country Health SA recruited 138 International Medical





**General Practice Credentials**  
for International Medical Graduates

# Obtaining Credentials

- > For International Medical Graduates to obtain Credentials with Country Health for GP Medicine they must first complete an Emergency Medicine Course, such as:
  - Rural Emergency Skills Program (RESP) which is run by the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency
  - Early Management of Severe Trauma (EMST) which is run by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
- > From this point the IMG is now eligible to apply for Credentials with Country Health SA

# Overview of the application process for International Medical Graduates in Country Health SA

IMG lodged application for Credentials with the Central Clinical Credentials Advisory Committee (CCCAC)

If applicant is acceptable CCCAC approved Credentials for 3 month period after which a GP Medicine Supervisor's Report is to be completed to assess the competency of the IMG

At the end of the three month period Supervisor's Report is received and application is reassessed for full Credentials



# GP Medicine Supervisor's Report

- > The Central Clinical Credentials Advisory Committee has developed a formal *GP Medicine Supervisor's Report*
- > The report is aligned with the recommended template for Supervisor's Reports from the Medical Board of South Australia.

# GP Medicine Supervisor's Report cont...

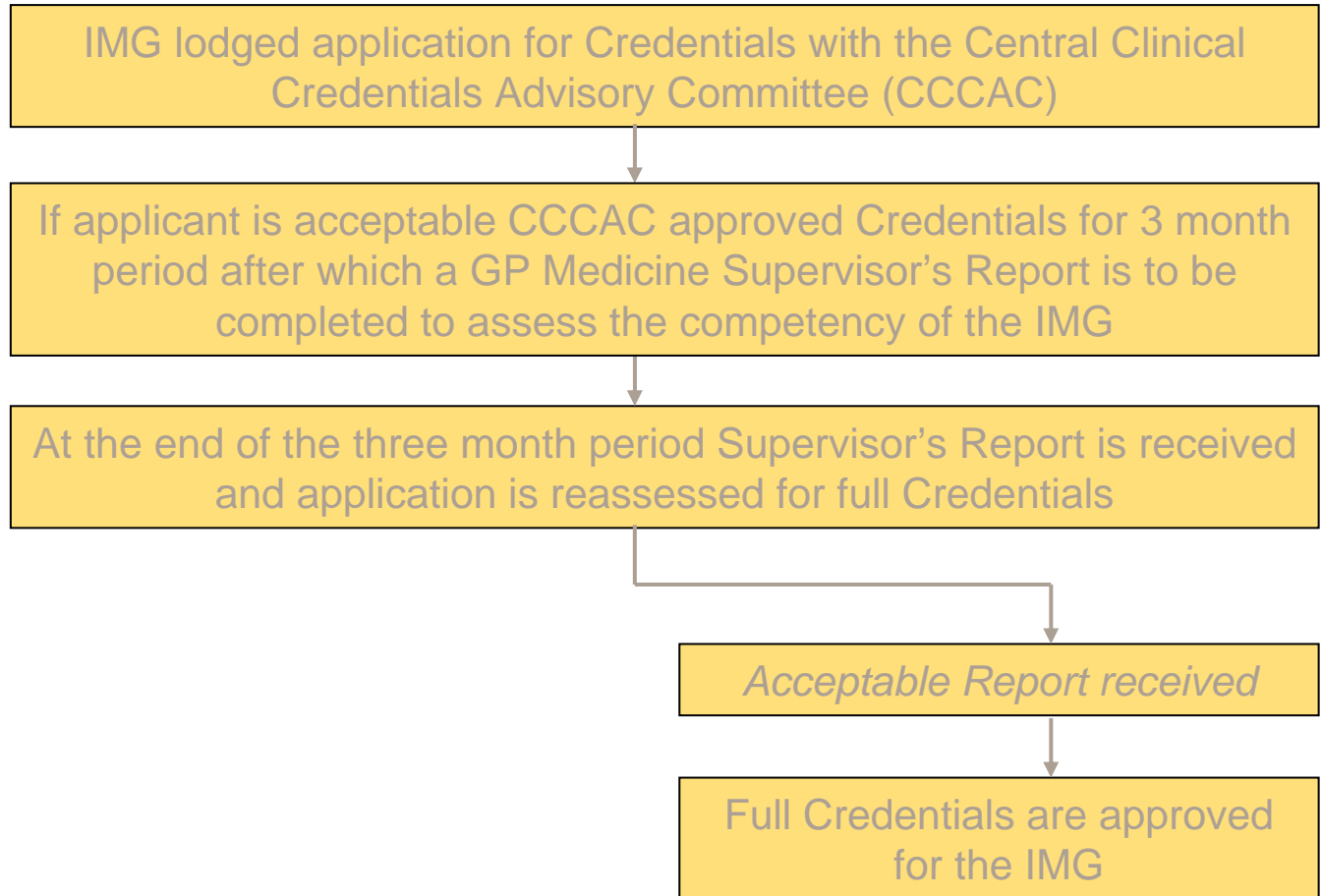
- > This Report is used to deem the doctors competency in the following areas:
  - Clinical Management
  - Communication
  - Professionalism
  - Safe Practice
  
- > The doctor is rated on the following scale:
  1. Performs consistently **well below** the level expected
  2. Performs consistently **below** the level expected
  3. Performs consistently **at** the level expected
  4. Performs consistently **above** the level expected



# GP Medicine Supervisor's Report cont...

- > Once the GP Medicine Supervisor's Report has been completed it is lodged with the Central Clinical Credentials Advisory Committee for further assessment

# When an ACCEPTABLE GP Medicine Supervisor's Report is received



# When an UNACCEPTABLE GP Medicine Supervisor's Report is received

IMG lodged application for Credentials with the Central Clinical Credentials Advisory Committee (CCCAC)

If applicant is acceptable CCCAC approved Credentials for 3 month period after which a GP Medicine Supervisor's Report is to be completed to assess the competency of the IMG

At the end of the three month period Supervisor's Report is received and application is reassessed for full Credentials

*Unacceptable Report received*

CCCAC requests for another IMG to complete another Supervisor's Report in a further 3 months

CCCAC withdraws Credentials

CCCAC Requests an independent assessment on competency



# GP Medicine Supervisor's Report cont...

- > A International Medical Graduate is NOT granted full Credentials with Country Health SA until a consistent and appropriate level of practice is achieved in all competencies.

## GP Procedural

- > There are three GP procedural categories which Country Health use:
  - GP Anaesthesia
  - GP Obstetrics
  - GP Surgery
  
- > The doctor must have relevant procedural training and experience to be considered by CCCAC. A specialist GP Procedural Supervisor's Report may also be requested by CCCAC.



# Issues for General Practice IMG's

- > Rural Hospital v Primary Care
- > GP Practice
- > Treatment v Prevention
- > Communication
- > Culture of Overseas Health Systems



# **Specialist Credentials** for International Medical Graduates



## Specialist IMG's

- > Limited Registration with Medical Board of South Australia
- > College Assessment required at relevant specialty college
- > Supervision 3 month report
- > Remote and/or onsite supervision is required
- > Continuing Professional Development requirements



## Issues for Specialist IMG's

- > General Physicians v Surgical Subspecialties
- > Scopes
- > Teaching
- > Metropolitan and Rural links



**Questions?**

Phone. (08) 8226 8724  
[chsa.credentialling@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:chsa.credentialling@health.sa.gov.au)



# **Government of South Australia**

---

SA Health