

Portfolio	Pathways to Fellowship	Ref. No.	REG-2085
Department	SIMG Assessments		
Title	Specialist International Medical Graduate Transition		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1. RACS was made aware that there may have been a variation between the regulation ETA-IMG-038 Version 4 and the MBA Standards as published in January 2021. As such, the regulations were revised to REG-2038 Version 5 in August 2024 to align with the MBA Standards.
- 1.2. This SIMG Transition Regulation REG-2085 applies to all SIMGs who received an interim assessment of comparability, made pursuant to ETA-IMG-038 Version 4, between 1 January 2021 and 31 July 2024. This is applicable to all interim assessments of not comparable, partially comparable and substantially comparable.
- 1.3. A new assessment outcome will be made under the new SIMG Transition Regulation 2085, in accordance with the interim regulation REG-2038 Version 5. RACS will take into consideration all relevant information pertaining to the SIMG's original application documentation, intended scope of practice, recent specialist experience, including supervised practice, any assessment of performance communicated to RACS, and continuing professional development completed by the SIMG.
- 1.4. A new assessment is a determination of entry status to a RACS fellowship pathway. It is not a proxy for determining progression/ achievement of current program participation. Program progression/ achievement within current program participation is governed by a separate framework and assessment strategy.

2. KEYWORDS

Specialist; International; Medical; Graduate; Comparability; New Assessment; Surgical; Specialist;

3. NEW ASSESSMENT

3.1. Eligibility

SIMGs who received an interim assessment of comparability pursuant to ETA-IMG-038 Version 4 between 1 January 2021 and 31 July 2024 may apply for a new interim assessment of comparability.

A request for a new interim assessment of comparability, under this SIMG Transition Regulation, must be received by RACS by 30 June 2025.

3.2. Assessment Criteria

3.2.1 The assessment criteria used for a new interim assessment of comparability are outlined in:

3.2.1.1 REG-2038 Version 5 Assessing a Specialist International Medical Graduate's Comparability to an Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Trained Surgical Specialist; and

3.2.1.2 REG-2037 Specialist International Medical Graduates Assessed with a Limited Scope of Practice.

3.2.2. The new interim assessment of comparability under this SIMG Transition Regulation will be based on a SIMG's performance and scope of practice at the time of the new assessment. In determining the assessment outcome, RACS will take into consideration all relevant information pertaining to the SIMG's intended scope of

Portfolio	Pathways to Fellowship	Ref. No.	REG-2085
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Title	Specialist International Medical Graduate Transition		

practice, recent specialist practice, surgical experience including supervised practice, continuing professional development and any relevant assessments (including supervisor reports) available at the time of the new assessment.

4. INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR NEW ASSESSMENT

4.1. SIMGs are only required to provide new information and supporting documents not previously submitted in the SIMGs original application. Documentation may include:

- Updated CV
- Updated logbooks if not already submitted to RACS
- Supervisor letter of support if currently under supervised practice or completed supervised practice
- Information relating to their intended scope of practice
- Any restrictions on medical registration

SIMGs are not required to submit information previously submitted to RACS.

Supporting documentation must be submitted within 4 weeks of acknowledgment by RACS of the request for new assessment.

4.2. RACS will also consider the information it holds provided by the SIMG for their previous assessment and information obtained by RACS during any period of RACS approved supervised practice. This information may include, but is not limited to:

- Work-based assessments
- Term reports
- Logbooks
- Fellowship Examination performance reports and results
- Multisource Feedback information
- Information shared with RACS by another jurisdiction, eg MCNZ
- Complaints made about the SIMG

Any information being considered by the Assessors will be shared with the SIMG and the SIMG will be provided with an opportunity to respond to any of this information prior to the assessment being made.

5. PROCESS

5.1. Documentation based assessment

5.1.1 The new comparability assessment request and supporting documents will be assessed by the Clinical Director SIMG Assessment and Support (CDSIMGAS) or nominee and a representative from the relevant surgical specialty approved by the Specialty Training Committee or Board (STC/B) (the Assessors).

5.1.2 The Assessors will undertake their documentation-based assessment as set out at Clause 4 above.

Portfolio	Pathways to Fellowship	Ref. No.	REG-2085
Department	SIMG Assessments		
Title	Specialist International Medical Graduate Transition		

5.1.3 The document-based assessment will result in a recommendation that a SIMG is: assessed as either Not Comparable, Partially Comparable or Substantially Comparable. All recommendations will be forwarded to the EC Executive for approval. The definitions of Not Comparable, Partially Comparable and Substantially Comparable are set out in REG-2038.

5.1.4

- SIMGs previously assessed as Not Comparable who were able to demonstrate Recency of Practice at the time of the original assessment, should not be disadvantaged if their practice has lapsed since the original assessment. For these applicants, RACS will take into account the MBA's minimum requirements for Recency of Practice:

Practise within the SIMG's scope of practice at any time for a minimum total of:

- *4 weeks full-time equivalent in one registration period, which is a total of 152 hours, or*
- *12 weeks full-time equivalent over three consecutive registration periods, which is a total of 456 hours.*

Full-time equivalent is 38 hours per week.

- Where a new assessment results in an outcome of Partially Comparable or Substantially Comparable, and the SIMG meets the MBA's definition of Recency, Assessors will determine a return from absence plan that will elevate the SIMG's levels of recent practice to that required to ensure patient safety.

5.2. Interview assessment

5.2.1 The need for an interview after the paper-based assessment will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

5.2.2 If an interview is required, interview assessments will be conducted in accordance with REG-2038, REG-2037 and TOR-2047.

5.2.3 Following the interview assessment, a SIMG may receive an interim assessment of comparability assessing them as Not Comparable, Partially Comparable or Substantially Comparable. The definitions of Not Comparable, Partially Comparable and Substantially Comparable are set out in REG-2038.

5.2.3 The interview panel's interim assessment of comparability will be forwarded to an EC Executive panel for approval.

5.3. New Interim Recommendation

5.3.1 A new assessment will not result in an outcome determination inferior to the current determination

5.3.2 The new interim recommendation will supersede the existing interim assessment of comparability, regardless of the outcome.

5.3.3 A SIMGs Specialist pathway will not be disadvantaged by the new interim recommendation.

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Portfolio	Pathways to Fellowship	Ref. No.	REG-2085
Department	SIMG Assessments		
Title	Specialist International Medical Graduate Transition		

5.3.4 Any periods of satisfactory completed supervised practice undertaken in accordance with Reg-2041 will be credited towards the SIMG's pathway.

5.3.5 The new interim assessment will not impose additional requirements that exceed the SIMG's current pathway requirements

6. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**Regulations**

REG-2038 Assessing a Specialist International Medical Graduate's Comparability to an Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Trained Surgical Specialist

REG-2037 Specialist International Medical Graduates Assessed with a Limited Scope of Practice

TOR-2045 Specialist International Medical Graduate Assessment Interview Panels

REG-2041 Supervised Practice of Specialist International Medical Graduates in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

REG-2053 Reconsideration, Review and Appeal

Standards

MBA Standards: Specialist medical college assessment of specialist international medical graduates

Approver: Education Committee
Authoriser: Council