



Information sheet for recognition as a Specialist or Consultant Physician

You should complete this application form if you:

- are an Australian citizen, permanent resident, a temporary resident, or a New Zealand citizen; and
- are a registered medical practitioner; and
- are or will be working as a specialist or consultant physician; and
- want to provide services to private patients that attract Medicare benefits at the specialist or consultant physician rates.

Before applying for recognition as a specialist or consultant physician, you must:

- be registered to practise as a specialist in your specialty by the relevant Australian State or Territory Medical Registration Board or have Australasian Specialist Medical College Fellowship and status as a Fellow of an Australasian Specialist Medical College in relation to the specialty; and
- have applied for a Medicare provider number for the specific practice location(s) at which you will render services.

Are you applying for recognition as a specialist or consultant physician?

To be eligible for recognition as a specialist, you should:

- be registered with the relevant Australian State or Territory Medical Registration Board to practise in an Australian State or Territory as a specialist in the relevant specialty or hold Fellowship and status as a Fellow of the relevant Australasian Specialist Medical College in the specialty. Recognition can only be granted for those medical specialties listed in Schedule 4 of the Health Insurance Regulations.

To be eligible for recognition as a consultant physician, you should:

- be registered with the relevant Australian State or Territory Medical Registration Board to practise in an Australian State or Territory as a specialist in a sub-specialty of internal medicine, psychiatry or rehabilitation medicine. Recognised sub-specialties in internal medicine are listed in Schedule 4 of the Health Insurance Regulations; or
- hold Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians or Fellowship of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and have status as a Fellow of the relevant College in relation to the specialty.

Schedule 4 of the Health Insurance Regulations is available at www.comlaw.gov.au.

Recognition in Intensive Care or Nuclear Medicine

If you are applying for recognition as a consultant physician in intensive care or nuclear medicine and do not hold the Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians but have Australian medical board registration to work in the specialty, you must have been assessed by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

If you were assessed by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists, the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists or the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care, you are only eligible to apply for recognition as a specialist.

Please note that specialist recognition does not make you eligible to access Medicare benefits for Nuclear Medicine Imaging Items (Group I4 items of the Medicare Benefits Schedule). To be able to access these items you must also be credentialed by the Joint Nuclear Medicine Credentialing and Accreditation Committee (JNMCAC) of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.

The JNMCAC secretariat will advise Medicare Australia when your name has been included on the Register of Credentialed Nuclear Medicine Specialists. Upon receipt of this advice Medicare Australia will update your Medicare provider record to show you are eligible to access Medicare benefits for Nuclear Medicine Imaging services.

If you have any questions regarding the credentialing process, you should contact the JNMCAC Secretariat on (02) 9818 4824.

MRI Services

Specialist recognition in the specialty of Diagnostic Radiology does not automatically render you eligible to attract a Medicare benefit for any MRI services you may perform. To be able to attract Medicare rebates for MRI services, you will also need to complete a Statutory Declaration and return it to the Provider Eligibility Section, GPO Box 9822, in your capital city. The Statutory Declaration will be forwarded to you with the letter from Medicare Australia advising you of your specialist recognition.

When should I start issuing accounts or submitting bulk bill claims for Medicare rebates?

Not until you receive written notice from Medicare Australia. The start date from which your services will attract a Medicare rebate will be shown in the letter.

Recognition as a specialist or consultant physician does not automatically provide you with access to Medicare benefits, you may have restricted access to Medicare billing because your primary qualification was obtained overseas or you are a former overseas medical student and you need an exemption approved under section 19AB of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* to attract Medicare benefits for your services.

The *Health Insurance Act 1973* is available at www.comlaw.gov.au.

When will I be required to provide supplementary information from the Medical Registration Board?

If you are not a Fellow of an Australasian Specialist Medical College or do not hold the relevant qualification (that is Fellowship of the Australasian Specialist College as listed in Schedule 4 of the Health Insurance Regulations) and have not successfully completed training in the specialty which is recognised by the College, or your medical registration certificate(s) does not provide details of the specialty, time-period and specific location (if limitations exist) in which you are registered to practise, then you must attach to your application, written advice from the relevant Australian State or Territory Medical Registration Board, which clearly states these details. The Medical Board should forward this to you along with your certificate. If not, please contact the Medical Board to obtain a copy before submitting your application for recognition.

What date will my specialist recognition take effect?

The delegate of the Medicare Australia Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of the Minister for Health and Ageing, will write to you advising the outcome of your application. This will include the date of recognition if your application is approved. The delegate may also consider requests to have recognition commence from an earlier date if you satisfied the criteria for recognition at that time.

Will my specialist recognition be time-defined?

If you are an Australian citizen/permanent resident, you may be granted recognition as a specialist or consultant physician without any time limitation if you hold the specified Australasian qualification and have status as a Fellow of the relevant College in relation to the specialty. If you are a temporary resident and you have obtained the specified Australasian qualification and have status as a Fellow of the relevant College in relation to the specialty you may be granted recognition as a specialist or consultant physician without an end date, however, this recognition will end when you become an Australian citizen/permanent resident. You will need to reapply for recognition at this time.

If you do not hold the specified Australasian qualification and do not have status as a Fellow of the relevant College you will be granted recognition as a specialist or consultant physician for a limited time period.

You may have restricted access to Medicare billing because your primary qualification was obtained overseas or you are a former overseas medical student and you need an exemption approved under section 19AB of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* to attract Medicare benefits for your services.

How should I renew my recognition as a specialist or consultant physician?

If your recognition is time defined you will have to submit a new application and pay the application fee. You must ensure that your new application is made in a timely manner to ensure there is no gap in your Medicare eligibility. Medicare Australia will not send you a reminder letter prior to the expiration of your recognition.

What if I am recognised when I am a temporary resident and I become an Australian citizen/permanent resident?

If you become an Australian citizen/permanent resident, you will need to submit a new application for recognition as a specialist or consultant physician because different sections of the legislation apply. These new applications will be considered by the delegate of the Medicare Australia Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of the Minister for Health and Ageing, under section 3DB of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*. You will be required to pay the application fee.

Before sending this application form please ensure that you have included:

- a copy of your current Australian State or Territory Medical Registration certificate(s), and
- a copy of a letter from the relevant Australian State or Territory Medical Registration Board specifying that you are registered to work as a specialist in the nominated specialty and the time period for which registration has been granted if this information is not specified on the Medical Registration certificate, or
- a copy of your Australasian Specialist Medical College Fellowship certificate and a copy of your status as a Fellow of the relevant Australasian Specialist Medical College in relation to the specialty, and
- copies of relevant pages of passport showing personal details and the Australian visa stamp, if applicable (this is necessary if you are a temporary resident or your residency status has changed), and
- an application fee of A\$30.00 (cheque or money order made payable to Medicare Australia).

Lodgement details

When completed, your application should be posted to:

Specialist Recognition
Medicare Eligibility Section
Medicare Australia
PO Box 1001
Tuggeranong DC ACT 2901

Faxed copies of the application form will not be accepted as the \$30.00 application fee should accompany this form.

When a complete application is received, including all supporting documentation and payment of the application fee, we will endeavour to process your application within 28 days of receipt.

Application fee: by cheque or money order made payable to Medicare Australia. Do not send cash.

Enquiries: Telephone (02) 6124 7149 or (02) 6124 6939

Email: srac@medicareaustralia.gov.au

Please Note:

- Your application and supporting documentation should be sent to Medicare Australia prior to your proposed commencement date.
- You should not commence billing until Medicare Australia has advised you in writing that your recognition has been approved.
- This Information sheet and form is available on our website www.medicareaustralia.gov.au



Application for recognition as a Specialist or Consultant Physician

You should read the Information sheet before completing this form.
Please print clearly if completing this form by hand

Section 1—Personal details

Title Dr Mr Mrs Ms Miss Other (please specify)

Family name First name

Other given names Date of birth / / Gender M/F

Provider number

Section 2—Personal contact details

For this application only For general mailout purposes

Telephone number (during business hours) <input type="text"/>	Street details <input type="text"/>
Mobile <input type="text"/>	OR Postal details PO Box number <input type="text"/> or GPO Box number <input type="text"/>
Facsimile number <input type="text"/>	Suburb/Locality <input type="text"/>
Pager <input type="text"/>	State <input type="text"/> Postcode <input type="text"/>
	Email <input type="text"/>

Section 3—Residency Status

Are you a: (tick the appropriate box)

Australian citizen

Permanent resident

Temporary resident (including a New Zealand citizen)

Section 4—Registration details

A copy of your Australian medical registration certificate or confirmation from the State or Territory Medical Registration Board advising your current registration status should be sent with this application form. Applicants from Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory must also provide proof that they are registered in their specialty with the appropriate Medical Registration Board.

State or Territory	Registration Number	Specialty (if applicable)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Section 5—Fellow Details

Are you a Fellow of a relevant Australasian Specialist Medical College?

Yes

No

A copy of a letter/certificate confirming your status as a Fellow in relation to the specialty must accompany this application.

Section 6—Qualifications

Post-graduate medical qualification

Awarding body

Field of supervised training

Month/Year

A copy of your fellowship certificate or letter must accompany this application.

Section 7—Specialty(ies) in which recognition is sought

In what specialty(ies) do you wish to be recognised

You can only be recognised in the specialty(ies) in which you are currently registered or hold the appropriate qualification and have satisfactorily completed training in the specialty as recognised by the relevant Australasian Specialist Medical College.

You may apply for specialist recognition for Medicare purposes in the specialty(ies) listed in Schedule 4 of the Health Insurance Regulations.

Preferred date of recognition

This date will be taken into consideration when determining commencement date of recognition.

Section 8—Restrictions on accessing Medicare

Are you:

- an overseas trained doctor (your primary medical qualification was obtained at a medical school outside Australia) who first held Australian Medical Board registration on or after 1 January 1997; or
- a former overseas medical student (your primary medical qualification was obtained from a medical school located in Australia and you were a temporary resident when you commenced study) who first held Australian Medical Board registration on or after 1 January 1997;

Yes

No

If **yes** you are subject to restrictions on accessing Medicare benefits for a period of at least ten years.

To access Medicare benefits you will need to apply for a section 19AB exemption. Applications for 19AB exemptions are made through Medicare Australia to the Department of Health and Ageing. You should complete an application for a 'Medicare provider number for a medical practitioner' and forward it to Medicare Australia's Provider Eligibility Section in your State or Territory together with any required documentation (please refer to the Information sheet with that form).

Section 9—Application fee

An application fee of \$30.00 applies. Your application is incomplete if you do not pay this fee and will not be processed until payment is received. Payment will be accepted by cheque or money order made payable to Medicare Australia.

Section 10—Declaration

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all information provided on this application form is true and correct.

I am working, or will be commencing work, as a specialist or consultant physician in a private medical practice or have rights to private practice within a hospital.

I understand that Medicare Australia may contact the relevant Specialist Medical College(s), Australian State or Territory Medical Boards or my employer in relation to this application.

Signature of applicant

Date

Privacy Note: Information provided on this form will be used to assess your eligibility for recognition as a specialist or consultant physician for Medicare purposes. Its collection is authorised under the *Health Insurance Act 1973*. This information may be disclosed to the Department of Human Services, Department of Health and Ageing, Department of Veterans' Affairs, private health funds and other approved organisations or as authorised or required by law. Medicare Australia may contact the relevant Specialist Medical College or the State or Territory Medical Board to verify the information.

Your application will not be processed unless all required information is attached.