

22 October 2013

RACGP STANDARDS FOR GENERAL PRACTICES (4TH EDITION) FACT SHEET**INTERPRETATION OF CRITERION 3.2.1 B**

Can a practice that employs non-vocationally recognised general practitioners be accredited under the RACGP Standards for general practices (4th edition) (the Standards)?

Answer:

When interpreting Criterion 3.2.1 B, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has determined that the practice has met the overall intent of Criterion 3.2.1 B, if they can provide evidence:

- of appropriate current national medical registration (3.2.1 A); and
- that doctors have the qualifications and training necessary to meet the needs of their patients (part of 3.2.1 B); and
- that the doctors participate in quality improvement and continuing professional development to at least the same standard as the RACGP Quality Improvement and Continuing Professional Development (QI&CPD) Program (3.2.1 C); and
- that the practice's general practitioners have undertaken training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in accordance with RACGP QI&CPD recommendations (3.2.1 D).

Rationale:

RACGP has received queries in relation to employment of non-vocationally recognised GPs and whether their health service or practice is eligible to meet Criterion 3.2.1 B. The College has considered its position in relation to this issue taking into account the preamble of the Standards which states 'The RACGP envisages that formal accreditation against the RACGP Standards will be based on common sense and will not seek to penalise or exclude on the basis of technicalities.'

As such the RACGP has adopted a common sense approach, in relation to the interpretation of Criterion 3.2.1 B of the Standards. The RACGP does not wish to unnecessarily exclude practices from undertaking accreditation.

In the scenario where non-vocationally recognised GPs still meet the requirements for:

- ongoing training,
- participation in quality improvement,
- continuing professional development, and
- CPR training in according with the RACGP QI&CPD recommendations,

that will meet Criterion 3.2.1 B.