

National Framework for Prevocational Medical Training: FAQs for PGY2 Doctors

Currently the national Prevocational Framework, introduced in 2024, is focused on PGY1/2 doctors who have graduated from an Australian university. The Framework includes clinical experiences, specialty and sub-specialty terms and, from 2026, will include mandatory EPAs.

From 2025 second year postgraduate doctors (PGY2) across Australia will be required to meet the Australian Medical Council (AMC) requirements of the National Framework for Prevocational Medical Training.

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) must still meet the Medical Board of Australia's (MBA) registration requirements for the pathway they are on, which includes completion of core medical, surgical and emergency terms. This is the case for all IMGs, regardless of their MBA registration pathway.

Does the new prevocational framework mean that the internship is 2 years?

No. At the end of the first postgraduate year (PGY1), the health service's Assessment Review Panel will inform the Medical Board of Australia if a doctor has met the conditions for general registration by completing the requirements of PGY1. Once general registration has been gained, PGY2 doctors enter the second year of the National Framework for Prevocational Medical Training. At the end of the PGY2 year, the health service's Assessment Review Panel will be asked to recommend if a PGY2 doctor is eligible to be awarded a certificate of satisfactory completion.

Why did the AMC introduce a 2 year national framework?

Previously most hospitals focused on the intern (PGY1) training program. The framework has been expanded to include those in their second year of prevocational training – PGY2 (also called Resident Medical Officers in Tasmania). The 2 year framework provides increased opportunities for prevocational doctors to work in a range of settings, including general practices, to better understand Australia's healthcare system and the health needs of the Australian community.

What are the requirements for PGY2 terms?

The PGY2 year must include a minimum of three terms (a minimum of 10 weeks) in different sub-specialties, with a maximum of 25% in any one single sub-specialty. A maximum of 25% can be spent in a service term. PGY2 doctors are required to gain exposure to three of the four different types of clinical experience: care of patients with undifferentiated presentations (A), care of patients with chronic illnesses (B), and care of patients with acute and critical illnesses (C).

Are PGY2 doctors required to complete Entrustable Professional Activities?

Yes, the requirements for Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) are the same for PGY1 and PGY2 doctors. EPAs will be introduced in 2025 and will become mandatory in 2026. Both PGY1 and PGY2 doctors will be expected to complete ten EPAs in each year from 2026.

What assessments are PGY2 doctors required to complete?

PGY2 doctors will be required to have mid and end of term assessments (global ratings based on performance across the term). The end of term assessment forms will include information on the EPAs assessed within that term.

What is Clinical Learning Australia (CLA)?

CLA is a national ePortfolio that is a web-based system for recording all mid and end of term assessments and EPA assessments. Implementation will take place in 2025. CLA will include Prevocational Outcome Statements, guidelines for terms, EPAs, term descriptions, term supervisors and term and EPA assessment forms. Each prevocational doctor will have an individual record of learning summarizing rotations and assessments completed, and progress against the Prevocational Outcome Statements.

How are PGY2s assessed at the end of the year?

At the end of the year a global judgement will be made by the health service's Assessment Review Panel, based on consideration of the end-of-term assessments, the EPA assessments and any other learning activities documented in the e-portfolio's record of learning. There is no requirement to 'pass' a minimum number of EPA or end-of-term assessments. The health service will then make a recommendation for the PGY2 doctor to receive a Certificate of Completion.

Will PGY2s in college training programs automatically be included in the Framework and receive a certificate of completion for PGY2?

No. PGY2 doctors enrolled in a college training program are not included under the National Framework, and therefore do not obtain a certificate of completion of PGY2. Postgraduate Medical Councils and Health Services could agree on arrangements for a prevocational doctor to complete the Framework requirements in addition to or integrated with their college requirements and be managed within the Framework in parallel to receive a certificate of completion for PGY2.

Additional information

- PGY2 doctors can take a year off between PGY1 and PGY2.
- Prevocational doctors can change health services or hospitals or states between PGY1 and PGY2.
- Health services can offer one, two or three-year contracts.
- Each year is 47 weeks, which excludes annual leave but may include up to 10 days of personal, carer's or sick leave. The medical staffing team should be contacted to discuss any potential impact on meeting the Framework requirements.

More information: *Please contact Medical Staffing at your local THS site.*

More information?

You may find the following resources useful:

- AMC website: <https://www.amc.org.au/accredited-organisations/prevocational-training/new-national-framework-for-prevocational-pgy1-and-pgy2-medical-training-2024/>
- PMCT website: <https://www.pmct.org.au/resources/amc-national-framework>