



Royal Australasian College  
of Dental Surgeons  
*Let knowledge conquer disease*

# RACDS

## Guide to Fellowship and Preparation for Practice in Australia and New Zealand

### ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY



## Document information

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Related Documents/Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accredited Training in OMS Handbook</li><li>• OMS Admission to Fellowship Policy</li><li>• OMS CPD Mandatory Compliance Policy</li><li>• OMS CPD Standard</li><li>• OMS CPD Guide</li><li>• RACDS Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination Policy</li><li>• RACDS Complaints Policy</li></ul>

# Introduction

This guide has been developed to assist and support Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) trainees in their preparation for independent specialist practice in Australia and New Zealand.

This document is to be used as a guide and contains a general overview of information only. The relevant health department, board, or council should be contacted directly, and individual circumstances considered when reading this guide.



## College Fellowship

### Overview and Timelines

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) trainees in Australia and New Zealand must have completed the training and assessment requirements of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (RACDS) OMS Training Program outlined in the [RACDS Accredited Training in OMS Handbook](#) to be eligible to apply for Fellowship.

Following the Fellowship Examination in early November, the OMS Registrar will review the progress of trainees that have passed the examination and recommend to the RACDS Board of Directors a provisional list of new OMS Fellows.

Eligible trainees will receive Completion of Training letters from late November outlining their expected training completion date and outstanding training requirements. Within three weeks of their expected completion date, trainees must submit their final submissions to the College as follows:

- Final Trainee Assessment Report (WBA FORM 01)
- Final Logbook Summary
- Application for Completion of Research Requirement (FOMS 09)
- Application for Completion of OMS Training Program (FOMS 13)
- Admission to Membership or Fellowship (GEN03)

Following the Registrar's approval of a trainee's application for completion of training and payment of required fees, trainees will receive Confirmation of Fellowship letters from 1 February. The College will send testamurs separately.

### College Fees

The fees for admission to Fellowship and annual membership are published on the [RACDS website](#).



## Registration

### Specialist Registration Australia

The Medical Board of Australia and the Dental Board of Australia are responsible for regulating medical and dental practitioners practising in Australia. The Boards are supported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

[Specialist registration](#) is available to medical practitioners whom an AMC-accredited specialist college has assessed as eligible for Fellowship. Medical practitioners with the necessary qualifications in the approved specialties will be admitted on the Specialist Register.

There are 13 dental specialties in Australia which are approved for [specialist dental registration](#), including Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS). OMS Fellows who are qualified and eligible for specialist registration will be included in the Specialist division of the register.

#### Forms

- [Application for recognition as a specialist or consultant physician form \(HW077\)](#)
- [Application for specialist registration for oral and maxillofacial surgery \(ASOM-20\)](#)

### Vocational Registration in New Zealand

The Medical Council of New Zealand requires doctors who have completed their training as a specialist to be registered within a vocational scope of practice. In addition to being registered, medical practitioners must also hold a [current practising certificate](#).

[VOC1 \(specialist\) registration](#) is for doctors who hold an approved postgraduate qualification from Australia or New Zealand and already hold registration in the General scope of practice.

OMS trainees can apply for registration in another scope and [register as dental specialists](#) upon completing their Fellowship through the Dental Council of New Zealand. In addition to being registered, dental practitioners must also hold a [current practising certificate](#).



# Medicare for Health Professionals

## Medical Specialists

Eligibility to access Medicare benefits is determined in accordance with the Health Insurance Act 1973 and related regulations. Trainees or registrars cannot access full Medicare benefits until specialist eligibility requirements are met.

Recognition as a medical specialist is possible with Fellowship from an Australasian specialist college and either general or specialist registration with AHPRA. Medical specialists must have a [Medicare provider number](#) to [apply for specialist or consultant recognition](#). Both applications can be submitted at the same time.

A Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescriber number uniquely identifies eligibility to prescribe medication under the PBS and isn't location specific. More than one prescriber number is required if services are provided in multiple health professions.

## Dental Specialists

Dental specialists must register specifically for their specialist area to access [Medicare benefits for specialist dental services](#).

To claim Medicare benefits, dental practitioners must:

- meet the qualification requirements set out in the Health Insurance (Dental Services) Determination 2007
- be registered with AHPRA or a respective board or organisation
- be recognised as a dental practitioner in their field
- be in private practice
- be working in a private capacity

## Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS)

[MBS Online](#) lists the Medicare services subsidised by the Australian Government; how much is paid to a practitioner or patient for a service.

New Zealand does not have equivalent provider or prescriber numbers and does not have a national Medicare system like Australia.

## Forms

- [Application for a Medicare provider number and, or prescriber number for a medical practitioner form \(HW019\)](#)
- [Application for a Medicare provider number and, or prescriber number for allied health and non-medical health professionals form \(HW093\)](#)



## Continuing Professional Development

All practicing OMS Fellows and specialists are responsible for complying with regulatory requirements that apply individually for medical and dental specialist registration purposes in Australia and New Zealand. The CPD requirements remain the same regardless of whether OMS Fellows and specialists practice part-time or otherwise.

From 1 January 2022, all participants must complete 50 hours of CPD activities each year made up of 12.5 hours of educational activities (Category 1); 25 hours in outcome measurements and performance review (Category 2 and 3) with five hours minimum of each type; and 12.5 hours from any category. The CPD activities must align with the RACDS CPD Framework.

Participants must log completed CPD activities and upload an annual CPD learning plan (Professional Development Plan from 2023) in the [RACDS My OMS CPD](#) online tracker by 28 February of the following year to receive a Statement of Participation or the Annual Certificate of CPD Compliance. New Zealand practitioners must also engage in peer conversations.

Participants need to maintain a CPD portfolio, which facilitates the documentation of the CPD learning plan/professional development plan, a record of professional peer interactions, completed learning activities, personal evaluation of CPD, and provides a record of CPD participation for audit purposes. The CPD Committee will randomly select 10% of OMS Fellows and specialists annually to verify their CPD activities. Fellows who successfully verify their CPD activities will not be randomly selected for verification for the next three years.

New Fellows should become familiar with the RACDS OMS CPD requirements and the [My OMS CPD](#) portal. Please refer to the [OMS CPD Mandatory Compliance Policy](#), [OMS CPD Standard](#), and [CPD Guide](#) for more information.





## Referrals for Specialist Treatment

### Australia

Most referrals from a General Practitioner to a specialist will last 12 months for a single course of treatment. Referrals from one specialist to another will last for three months unless the patient is admitted to the hospital.

Referrals should include relevant clinical information, date, and the signature of the referring practitioner.

Refer to [Referring and Requesting Medicare Services](#) which outlines obligations when referring or requesting services under Medicare. Not all specialist care is funded by the government.

### New Zealand

In New Zealand, government-funded specialist services are through the District Health Board (DHB) and will usually require a referral from a General Practitioner.

For non-acute medical and surgical care, the [Planned Care Programme](#) reflects a new direction for publicly-funded healthcare, aiming to provide respectful and timely services based on need, preferences, and availability of resources.

Following a referral, specialists are to respond to the patient and their referring practitioner within 15 calendar days as to whether a First Specialist Assessment (FSA) can be provided within four months. Specialists can decide to accept, decline or transfer a referral for an FSA.

When specialist treatment is needed, a numerical 'Priority Score' is given based on a patient's level of need and ability to benefit from treatment in comparison to other patients. This will determine whether publicly funded treatment is offered.

There are five [Elective Services Patient Flow Indicators](#) measuring the success of DHBs in a patient's planned care health journey.



## Insurance

### Australia

The Medical Board of Australia's [Registration Standard: Professional Indemnity Insurance Arrangements](#) sets out requirements for professional indemnity insurance arrangements for all registered public and private medical practitioners, excluding non-practising registration and students.

Upon registration and renewal of registration, practitioners must declare they will not/ have not practiced without professional indemnity arrangements in place.

Insurers must be registered with the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority to meet minimum product standards.

Medical indemnity insurers include:

- Avant
- Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company (distributed by Tego Insurance)
- Guild Insurance Limited
- MDA National
- Medical Indemnity Protection Society Limited (MIPS)
- Medical Insurance Group (MIGA)

The [Medical Indemnity Insurance Association of Australia \(MIIAA\)](#) is the peak body for the medical indemnity insurance sector in Australia.

Government support via [medical indemnity schemes](#) is available for eligible private medical practitioners.

### New Zealand

New Zealand Medical Professionals Ltd and Medicus Indemnity New Zealand provide medical indemnity insurance in New Zealand.







## Fee Setting

### Australia

Medical professionals in Australia should refer to the [Australian Competition & Consumer Commission](#) website and are subject to the provisions of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 when setting fees in private practice.

The Australia Medical Association (AMA) publishes an [Annual List of Medical Services and Fees](#) for costing guidance purposes only. It is available online for a fee.

The Australian Government has also created the [Medical Costs Finder](#), an online tool that provides information about the cost of medical services provided by specialists.

### New Zealand

Practitioners in New Zealand can refer to general information on pricing services and anti-competitive behaviour on the [Commerce Commission New Zealand](#) website.



## Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC)

Registered health professionals and treatment providers in New Zealand governed by the Accident Compensation Act 2001 can register to become an ACC provider. The ACC is New Zealand's national accident insurance scheme to cover the cost of accidental injuries. The [ACC website](#) has information on getting started and quick guides for healthcare providers.

### Form

- [Application to register as a health provider \(ACC24\)](#) or [online application](#)



## Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination

The RACDS [Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Policy](#) provides guidance on the expected behavior of Fellows, Members, candidates, employees, contractors and volunteers of the College to prevent bullying, harassment and discrimination in the workplace.

The College is committed to a zero tolerance of bullying, harassment and discrimination and this policy outlines the process to be followed should a member feel they are subject to this within the College community.

Fellows can also refer to the following websites:

- [Fair Work Commission Australia](#)
- [Australian Human Rights Commission](#)
- [Worksafe New Zealand](#)
- [New Zealand Human Rights Commission](#)



## Preparation for Practice Workshop

A Preparation for Practice Workshop is conducted for trainees around December of each year. The workshop aims to support trainees by inviting recent graduates from Australia and New Zealand to share their experience and knowledge in transitioning into public or private practice as consultants.



## College Contact

Fellows may contact the Education Officer by email at [omsfellow@racds.org](mailto:omsfellow@racds.org) or by phone +61 2 9262 6044. Please allow two business days for a response.



## Relevant Documents

The following documents are available on the policy page of the [RACDS website](#):

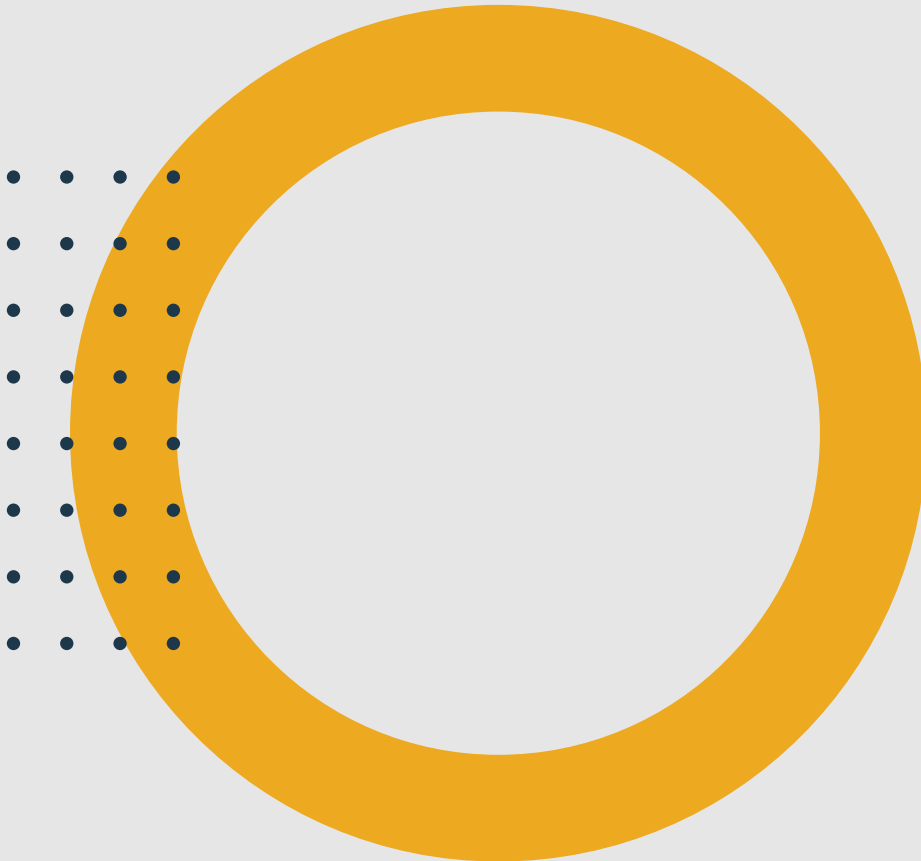
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## Contact Us



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