

Guidance on determining eligibility against the RACGP definition of a general practice

This fact sheet provides guidance for healthcare services on determining their eligibility against the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) definition of a general practice for the purpose of accreditation.

Healthcare services must be deemed a general practice according to the definition to be eligible for accreditation against the RACGP *Standards for general practices* (the Standards) under the National General Practice Accreditation (NGPA) Scheme. Prior accreditation does not automatically guarantee eligibility.

RACGP definition of a general practice

The purpose of the definition is to identify healthcare services eligible to be assessed as a general practice against the Standards.

The definition

In order for a practice or health service to seek accreditation:

- it must provide comprehensive, patient-centred, whole-person and continuous care; and
- its services must be predominantly* of a general practice nature.

* more than 50% of the practice's general practitioners' clinical time (i.e. collectively), and more than 50% of services for which Medicare benefits are claimed or could be claimed (from that practice) are in general practice.

Further information is available in the '[Accreditation](#)' section of the Standards, and the RACGP [Interpretive guide for the accreditation of general practices under the new definition of a general practice for the purpose of accreditation](#).

Before registering for accreditation

Each healthcare service is responsible for determining whether it meets the definition above, prior to engaging an accrediting agency for accreditation assessment.

Where clarification is required as to whether a healthcare service's operating model meets the definition, advice may be sought from the [RACGP](#).

After registering for accreditation

If a healthcare service declares itself a general practice according to the definition, and the engaged accrediting agency has reason to believe it does not meet the definition during or following an assessment, the accrediting agency may determine that the healthcare service is not eligible for accreditation.

Where there is a dispute concerning the definition, advice should be sought from the [RACGP](#). In the interim, the assessment process will proceed, and all [NGPA Scheme requirements and timeframes](#) must be fully complied with to achieve accreditation.

Costs

All costs associated with registration and assessment are the responsibility of the healthcare service that declares itself to be a general practice in accordance with the definition.

Questions?

For more information, contact the Safety and Quality Advice Centre at AdviceCentre@safetyandquality.gov.au or call 1800 304 056.

For more information

Please visit: safetyandquality.gov.au/ngpa

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