

RACGP Standards for general practices (5th edition) factsheet

Who can gain accreditation against the *RACGP Standards for general practices* (5th edition) (the Standards)?

In order to be accredited against the Standards, a general practice or health service must meet all the following three core criteria:

1. The practice or health services operates within the model of general practice described in the RACGP definition of general practice (www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/what-is-a-gp/what-is-general-practice/)
2. General practitioner services are predominantly of a general practice nature.
3. The practice or health service is capable of meeting all mandatory indicators in the Standards.

Rationale

The current RACGP definition of a general practice for the purposes of accreditation has been in place since 2013 and is provided in the [Introduction to the Standards](#). The definition provides clarity as to which general practices and health services are eligible to be accredited against the Standards.

There are three key issues to consider to determine whether a health service meets the definition of a general practice for the purpose of accreditation:

- 1. Can the service demonstrate each of the 10 characteristics of general practice, as defined on the [RACGP's website](#)?**

For example, is the healthcare provided by the health service comprehensive? Does the health service provide whole-person care? Does the health service participate in continuing quality improvement?

- 2. Are the general practice services provided by the health service predominantly delivered by general practitioners or is it predominately provided by clinical staff other than general practitioners?**

A measurable requirement for determining eligibility for general practice accreditation enables a fair distinction between a health service that is eligible and a health service that is not. Therefore, a simple proportion of services provided by general practitioners at a health service is used as the measure to determine the general practice status.

'Predominantly' is defined by the Health Insurance Vocational Registration of General Practitioners Regulations 1989 as 'more than 50% of clinical time, and more than 50% of services for which Medicare benefits are claimed, are in general practice.'



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3. Does the health service operate within a safety and quality model that meets peer expectations (as required by core criteria 3)?

A health service needs to be able to meet all of the mandatory Indicators that are set in the Standards.

For example:

- Does the health service have appropriate systems for clinical handover, the follow up of test results and patient identification?
- Do the general practitioners in the health service have appropriate qualifications and training?
- Can the health service demonstrate improvements made in response to analysis of patient feedback?

If a general practice or health service can demonstrate that it meets all these core criteria, it can seek accreditation against the Standards.

While the RACGP sets the Standards as a framework for practices, it does not assess practices against the three core criteria above.

The RACGP cannot determine whether a health service meets the definition of a general practice for the purpose of accreditation. [Accreditation agency surveyors](#) are positioned to make this determination based on their observations and can support practices to meet all indicators as best they can.

Further information

Email standards@racgp.org.au for further information.