

## KEY ACTIONS for clinicians

# National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards Certification and Recertification of practising colonoscopists\*

Certification (of training) and Recertification (of ongoing competency) in colonoscopy are now mandatory for all practitioners working in health service organisations being assessed to the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (second edition).

## Certification

- Certification of gastroenterologists, surgeons and general practitioner endoscopists is through the Conjoint Committee for the Recognition of Training in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy ([CCRTGE](#)).
- CCRTGE is a national body comprising Gastroenterological Society of Australia (GESA), the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. It sets the minimum standards for training in colonoscopy.
- Colonoscopy training is usually assessed and certified in the context of College Specialist Advanced Training Programs but the CCRTGE also assesses other training options.
- The Experienced Practitioner Pathway (EPP) is available for experienced clinicians who were not assessed for certification in the context of their College Specialist Advanced Training Program (usually because their training antedated the CCRTGE). EPP pathway logbooks require a minimum of 200 colonoscopy procedures to be logged. These can be retrospective cases, however 10% of logged procedures must be under the direct supervision of a CCRTGE recognised colonoscopist (who is a more experienced practitioner or in a more senior position).

The CCRTGE also offers pathways for the assessment of overseas specialists with prior training and endoscopic experience seeking to practice in Australia.

## Steps in the certification process for practicing colonoscopists applying through EPP are:

- Register and pay enrolment fee through [CCRTGE](#) website
- Provide evidence of experience
- Provide evidence of admission as a fellow to an Australian medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council at least five years prior to application
- Organise supervision by a CCRTGE recognised colonoscopist. Supervisors must be more experienced practitioner or in a more senior position.
- Go online and establish your CCRTGE logbook for either paediatric or adult colonoscopy
- Log relevant procedures
- Pay logbook submission fees
- Submit online application for certification under the EPP to CCRTGE

Information on all available pathways for recognition of training and application is available [here](#)

\* Nurse endoscopists are certified and recertified to the same standard through their jurisdiction.



## Recertification

GESA is the only organisation currently providing recertification of colonoscopists in Australia.

The program provides for triennial recertification and incorporates:

- a formal recertification program using evidence from your online logbook
- training and education opportunities for practicing colonoscopists.

### Steps in the recertification process are:

- Hold current CCRTGE recognition
- Register online with the [GESA Colonoscopy Recertification Program](#)
- Log consecutive colonoscopies and upload or keep supporting records of any necessary imagery and pathology reports
- When the criteria are satisfied, submit the online logbook and pay submission fee
- Undertake recertification every 3 years using your established GESA logbook

**The minimum criteria to be met for recertification are available [here](#).**

**Practitioners seeking recertification as an adult colonoscopist are required to:**

- Hold current CCRTGE certification
- Completed at least 150 consecutive colonoscopies over 3 years, which can be recorded in batches of 50. It is a requirement that at least 50 are performed in the 12 months prior to the application.
- Ensure at least 95% of the 150 procedures are to the caecum or terminal ileum of intact colons
- Ensure the adenoma detection rate is at least 25% in eligible\*\* patients
- Ensure the sessile serrated adenoma/polyp detection rate is at least 4% in eligible\* patients
- Complete a short, online 'cognitive review' which provides links to education tools for further education and information.

**Practitioners seeking recertification as a paediatric colonoscopist are required to:**

- Hold current CCRTGE certification
- Completed at least 50 consecutive colonoscopies over 3 years. It is a requirement that at least 17 are performed in the 12 months prior to the application.
- Ensure at least 90% of the 50 procedures are to the caecum or terminal ileum of intact colons and at least 80% have ileal intubation.
- Complete a short, online 'cognitive review' which provides links to education tools for further education and information

Applicants will be notified once an application has been assessed as satisfactorily meeting the criteria for recertification by the GESA Colonoscopy Recertification Committee panel. Applicants that do not initially meet the criteria will be provided with feedback from the panel. This may include information on relevant education and training opportunities and/or requirements to submit further data and supporting records.

- Information on pathways for recertification and application is available [here](#)
- GESA provides a [list](#) of recertified colonoscopists and a [map](#) by the location of the applicant's practice at the time of application for recertification.

\*\* Eligible patients are defined as 50 years of age or older, have intact colons and who had no indication of IBD prior to their colonoscopy.

## Questions?

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/clinical-care-standards/colonoscopy-clinical-care-standard/>

You can also contact the Clinical Care Standards team at: [CCS@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:CCS@safetyandquality.gov.au)