

2 April 2020

GESA COLONOSCOPY RECERTIFICATION PROGRAM SUSPENDED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In light of the disruptive times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the GESA Board and the Colonoscopy Recertification Committee is suspending the Colonoscopy Recertification Program until at least 30 September 2020.

The purpose of this suspension is to relieve some of the significant pressure being put upon medical practitioners, and in anticipation of the decreased number of colonoscopy procedures performed during the next six months making it more difficult for practitioners to meet the program criteria.

Key messages:

For the practitioners who are currently recertified	An additional 6 months will be added to your Recertification period. Your records will be amended to reflect this extension. This amendment should be in place by the end of April.
For those who have a recertification application in process	You may not receive a recertification result until sometime after October, when the Committee functions are currently anticipated to resume. On request, a letter will be provided (via email) indicating that an application that complies with the program criteria has been received but not reviewed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
For those seeking to submit a completed logbook for assessment and Recertification	Please continue to enrol in the program, log procedures and submit any completed logbooks. However, please be aware that it is unlikely the application will be assessed until after 30 September, as it is likely there will be a backlog of submissions for the Committee to assess. As mentioned above, if an application is submitted prior to 30 September an acknowledgement email will be provided indicating that an application that complies with the program criteria has been received but not reviewed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
For hospital administrators and credentialing staff	Please recognise the current situation provides challenges for colonoscopists as few procedures are likely to be performed during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also anticipated to have an impact on many practitioners even after the pandemic phase has passed. In reviewing the Recertification status of colonoscopists please note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of colonoscopists who are currently recertified is available at https://recert.gesa.org.au/recertifiedAU.php • During the period of suspension of the program, a practitioner can request written confirmation of their submitted application • Practitioners who have not yet applied for Recertification can show their active involvement in the Recertification Program by providing a “screenshot” of their logbook dashboard page.

The situation will be reviewed as the pandemic continues. We wish you the best in these challenging times

For any questions please contact the GESA Credentialing Team at recert@gesa.org.au or 03 9001-0279.

Regards,



Simone Strasser
GESA President



Mark Schoeman
GESA Recertification Committee Chair



Fiona Bailey
GESA CEO