



Australian Government
Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Instructions for Doctors and Radiologists in the United States of America

The following instructions are intended for use by doctors conducting a medical or radiological examination of a temporary visa applicant in the United States of America **only**.

The following personnel are **not** authorised to conduct the medical or radiological examination and complete forms 26 and 160:

- Doctor of osteopathy (DO)
- licensed practical nurse (LPN)
- certified nurse practitioner (CNP or NP)
- physician's assistant (PA).

Whenever possible, visa applicants should attend a doctor or radiology clinic appointed to the Australian Panel of Medical Examiners. Permanent visa applicants or applicants who are applying for a temporary visa that is intended to lead to permanent stay **must** attend a doctor appointed to the Australian Panel of Medical Examiners.

Australian migration legislation requires that almost all applicants seeking a visa to travel to or remain in Australia must meet prescribed health criteria. These criteria are intended to protect the Australian community's standard of public health and safety, expenditure on health and welfare and access to health services.

Note: Doctors are **not** responsible for providing opinions as to whether applicants meet Australia's health requirement.

If the doctor finds the applicant to be seriously ill and in need of urgent treatment, the doctor should inform the applicant and refer the applicant to their usual doctor or to an appropriate specialist or health facility.

How to complete the form 26 or 160

1. Confirm the identity of the applicant

Doctors, radiographers and radiologists must confirm the identity of the applicant by sighting the applicant's original passport and signing across the form and attached photograph that is a true likeness of the examinee. If the applicant fails to provide their passport, please document the alternative photo ID(s) they presented. US driver's licences are **not acceptable** as the sole or primary means of verifying an applicant's identity. Attach a photocopy of either their passport or photo ID(s) to the form.

Note: The applicant will be required to return to your clinic and complete a further identification check if the photo verification has not been completed or acceptable photo ID was not presented.

2. Make a recommendation

Doctors and radiologists should make a recommendation of either an 'A' or 'B' grade clearance on form 26 or 160 after considering the examination results. This grading is simply a means of processing forms effectively and does not determine whether a visa will be granted.

Note: 'B' grading does not mean that an applicant will not meet health criteria.

3. Radiologists

Please note:

- The form 160 may only be completed by a specialist radiologist.
- Only visa applicants 11 years of age or older require a radiological examination.
- The radiologist must place a mark in all boxes for questions 1 to 7 and make a recommendation.
- Provide a separate diagnostic report if a chest x-ray abnormality is detected which details the management and prognosis of the condition.

4. Provide a signature

The doctor, radiographer and radiologist must sign and date the form including their full medical title, for example 'MD'. Please stamp the form with your clinic's address and telephone number, or attach a business card with this information.

5. Dispatch of films and reports

Films, reports and specimens must never be given to applicants. Completed medical reports, radiological reports and x-rays should be returned directly to the departmental office specified below.

If the applicant has been requested to undergo both a medical and radiological examination, radiologists should send form 160 directly to the examining doctor so that they in turn can provide a comprehensive report on the visa applicant. Otherwise, radiologists must forward the films and forms directly to the departmental office. Films should be dry before they are handled and must not be folded or rolled at any stage. They must be kept flat and protected by cardboard when prepared for dispatch.

The envelope must be sealed and the doctor's signature or rubber stamp must be placed over the junction of all flaps of the envelope.

When using couriers or registered mail to forward medical results, the charge should be passed on to the client as part of their examination fee. As they have paid for this service, the clients should also be provided with the tracking number that relates to their documents.

When sending documents by courier to Australia, doctors will be asked to record the commercial value of the contents of the package. Immigration medical documentation does not have a commercial value, so the commercial value should be noted as 'Nil'.

Send the envelope to the address specified in an attached covering letter or on the forms – either the Health Operations Centre or DIAC office in Washington.

DIAC Washington

By post or courier: 1601 Massachusetts Ave NW, WASHINGTON DC 20036-2273 USA

Or

DIAC Health Operations Centre (HOC)

By post: GPO Box 9984 Sydney, NSW 2001, AUSTRALIA

By courier: Level 3, 26 Lee St, Sydney, NSW 2000, AUSTRALIA

Further information

The Health Operations Centre (HOC) manages the international panel of medical examiners and is the primary point of contact for appointed Panel members. If an unappointed doctor conducting a medical or radiological examination for a temporary visa applicant has any further queries regarding the completion of form 26 or 160, please contact HOC.

Email: Health.Operations.Centre@immi.gov.au