



Health Operations Centre April 2009

Revised Forms and Panel Instructions

To obtain a copy of the latest Panel Instructions and review the forms 26, 160 and 1163i, visit the Panel Doctors Gateway:

www.immi.gov.au/gateways/panel_doctors

In our February 2009 newsletter, the Health Operations Centre (HOC) notified doctors of the impending revisions to the forms 26/160 and the *Instructions for medical and radiological examination of Australian visa applicants*, (the "Instructions"), due at the end of March. The new forms and Instructions are now available.

Changes to the form 160 are limited to the information directed at visa applicants on pages 1 and 2. The substantial revision and shortening of the form 26 is highlighted over-page.

We have extensively updated the Instructions to correlate to the form changes and provide more information to clinics about the standards and procedures HOC evaluates during an onsite audit visit. Some significant changes are detailed over-page.

The department has also revised the form 1163i, (referred to in the Instructions), which provides information to doctors and applicants about Australia's health requirements for temporary visa applicants. The attached Health Matrix information sheet describes these changes.

Please note, if an applicant is uncertain about their visa class or does not provide details of their health requirement, conduct a health screening based on the standard permanent visa requirement. For adults, this is usually a form 26 medical examination, including an HIV test (if 15 years or over), and a form 160 radiological examination (if 11 years or over).

Period of Transition

Panel members may continue to accept the previous versions of the forms 26/160 presented by clients over the next few weeks as DIAC transfers visa applicants to the new forms. Most clients will be unaware of the recent form changes. However, if a client presents a form that is more than 1-2 years out of date, please print the latest version for their health examination.

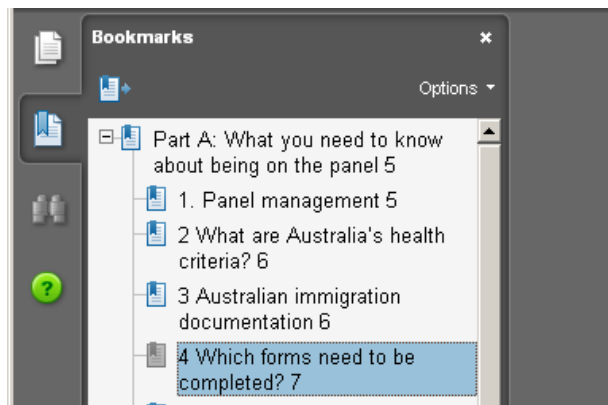
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Using Adobe Reference Tools

The Instructions are accessible online as a PDF (Portable Document Format) file. To view or print a PDF file you need the Adobe Reader®, version 5 or later, on your computer. You can download a free copy of Adobe Reader® from the Adobe website. A link is available through the Panel Doctors Gateway.

When you open the document, useful tools for referencing the Instructions PDF file are located as tabs on the left-hand side of the screen. In particular, the Bookmarks tab (shown below) allows you to view the contents as a list and navigate to a page, while the Search tab allows you to look for a word or phrase.



For ready access, save a copy of the Instructions to your desktop or add the Panel Doctors Gateway to your list of favourite Internet websites. Remember to refresh the website each time you view it to ensure you access the latest information available.

If you have any difficulty accessing the Instructions electronically, please let us know. HOC will mail a copy of the Instructions to clinics that do not have Internet access.

Online Health (eHealth) Identity Flag

Panel doctors who use Online Health (eHealth) are required to attach a scanned copy a client's passport to their health case when they raise an identity concern flag.

If you have any questions about using Online Health, contact the team who manage the system directly via the *eHealth Enquiry and Feedback Form* on the Panel Doctors Gateway's homepage.

Changes to the Form 26

Previous Form 26 (Design date Oct 2008)	Page	New Form 26 (Design date Mar 2009)
New information for visa applicants	1	Applicants are asked to assist the department to link their health examination(s) to their visa application and process their results by writing the visa subclass number on the form.
New information for visa applicants	1	Applicants are informed that they are responsible for the costs of the health examination(s), including further tests and courier charges. Visa applicants under Australia's Offshore Refugee and Special Humanitarian Program will have their examination costs covered by the Australian Government.
Part A, Applicant's details Questions 17 (a)-(m), 18 (a)-(f) and 19	5	Part B – Applicant's medical history, Questions 16-28. The order and subject matter of the questions detailing an applicant's medical history have changed.
Part B, Applicant's declaration	5	Part C – Applicant's declaration. Please note that visa applicants declare their understanding that the Commonwealth of Australia becomes the owner of the information on the form and that the doctor is required to send the form to the department.
Part C, Examining doctor's findings, Questions 1-15	6	Part D – Physical examination, Questions 1-17. Changes include: No request for the head circumference of children under 2 years of age; urinalysis has been incorporated into the exam section; the gastrointestinal system no longer specifies the inclusion of hernial orifices; the breast examination has a check box for "not applicable"; and details of teeth abnormalities are not requested.

Changes to the Instructions

Description	Page	Instructions – March 2009
Pro forma for Applicants aged 70 and Over	7	Please note that on 28 March 2009 the "over 70s health check" became known as the Aged Visitor Health Check. The validity period for the Aged Visitor Health Check has increased from three to six months from the date of the examination.
Form 1091 – Medical reports/tests for an Australian visa	N/A	HOC does not require Panel members to use the Form 1091 when referring visa applicants to specialists for further tests, or for any other situation where the applicant has to leave the panel clinic premises.
If a medical condition is detected	21	The "Disclosure of abnormal health conditions to applicants" clarifies the requirement to advise applicants of any abnormal findings and a Panel members' duty of care.
Where to send completed forms	23	The Instructions advise panel members that they must never return original forms, films and reports to applicants, however, upon request, panel members can now provide copies of any forms or reports to clients without permission from HOC.
Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C testing	30	"All temporary visa applicants intending to work as, or study to be a doctor, nurse, paramedic or dentist now require testing for the presence of hepatitis B surface antigen and hepatitis C antibody. Note: The test requirements for paramedics will come into effect from July 2009 ."
Breast Examination	36	The Instructions advise panel doctors that breast examination is not routinely required in women under the age of 40, however, doctors should offer it to all women over the age of 40. Doctors should also conduct a breast examination if there is a history of breast cancer/lumps or axillary nodes are palpated.

In addition to the changes outlined above, the 2009 Instructions provide further information to Panel members about the standards we expect in relation to language requirements, facilities, record keeping, privacy considerations, itemised receipts and specimen integrity. If you have any queries or concerns about changes in the forms or Instructions, please contact HOC.