



# Health Operations Centre February 2009

## Panel Doctors Gateway

### DIAC Website Launch

Visit the Panel Doctors Gateway:

[www.immi.gov.au/gateways/panel\\_doctors](http://www.immi.gov.au/gateways/panel_doctors)

The new year ushers in a new means of keeping in touch with the Health Operations Centre (HOC) and staying up-to-date with news and developments related to Australian immigration assessments.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship's (DIAC) website has launched dedicated pages for Panel members to use as a reference tool – the Panel Doctors Gateway.

The Panel Doctors Gateway provides access to the following information at a click of the mouse:

- The latest *Instructions for the medical and radiological examination of Australian visa applicants*
- A Panel doctor Enquiry and Feedback form that allows your clinic to contact HOC directly
- An eHealth enquiry and Feedback form for clinics requiring technical support or eHealth access
- Frequently Asked Questions
- HOC newsletters
- Useful Internet resources for related to immigration health
- Where to send Australian visa medicals

**Remember to add the Panel Doctors Gateway to your clinic's list of favourite Internet websites.**

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## New Forms, New Panel Instructions

On 27 March 2009, DIAC will release new versions of the Forms 26 and 160. While changes to the Form 160 will be minor, the Form 26 has undergone a significant review. The good news is the Form 26 is four pages shorter!

HOC will also release a new edition of the *Panel Instructions* via the Panel Doctors Gateway to coincide with the form release. Please look out for our email reminder. A mail distribution to clinics without Internet or email access will follow.

## Online Health (eHealth)

In 2005, DIAC launched an online health processing system called eHealth. eHealth is an easy-to-use, web-based system that registered users access via a secure Internet connection. At clinics using the eHealth system the visa applicant completes their health declaration online and the clinic completes the health examination (including uploading a digital photograph and chest x-ray) online. Applicants who attend eHealth clinics usually have their health results assessed within 48 hours of examination.

eHealth has been operating successfully at selected clinics in ten countries since its launch. DIAC recently rolled out eHealth in South Africa following the Chief Medical Officer's onsite audit visit in April and May 2008. Over the next few years, DIAC intends to advance eHealth expansion worldwide.

When we contact your clinic to request the completion of a Clinic Assessment prior to arranging an onsite audit visit, please advise HOC of your clinic's computer, Internet and Digital Radiography or Computed Radiography capabilities.

For further information about ehealth, please visit the Panel Doctors Gateway.

## Attention: Panel Radiologists

### Re: Reporting Cardiomegaly

Increased cardiac diameter is a relatively common finding on x-ray, particularly for elderly persons, and especially where there is not full inspiration. Providing an objective assessment of this in the form of a cardio-thoracic ratio (CTR) greatly assists in speeding up processing for clients.

The significance of a report that mentions only "cardiomegaly" without providing further information is uncertain. This cannot be evaluated without review of the film by one of the department's Medical Officers. Obtaining such a review takes time, and in many cases this delay can be avoided if a CTR is provided. Please contact the HOC mailbox should further clarification be required.

## Identifying an applicant's visa subclass number

The visa subclass number assists a processing officer or Medical Officer of the Commonwealth to finalise a health assessment.

It also allows your clinic to determine where to send the health assessment results by referring to the table below. This is a list of the visa class medical results processed by HOC. If a visa class is not included in this table, then send the medical results to your local DIAC processing office (Embassy / Consulate / High Commission). Some exceptions apply to visa class medical results from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and India.

When reviewing the Form 26 check that an applicant has provided answers to all the questions in Part A and Part B. If they have not already done so, please ask the applicant to complete the questions on page 4 relating to their intended length of stay and visa details.

If you are outside Australia, which visa are you applying for?

Sometimes an applicant will undertake their health assessment prior to lodging a visa application. In these circumstances, even if the applicant is unable to specify a visa subclass, they should be able to identify their proposed length of stay. It is important to determine if an applicant intends to stay in Australian on a permanent or temporary basis.

How long do you intend staying in Australia?

Permanently  (including non-migrating applicant)

Temporarily  For how long?  YEARS  MONTHS

Please ensure this information has been provided. A standard health screening for a permanent or temporary visa application can follow. If the visa subclass is unknown, send the results to HOC for processing.

## List of visa class medical results processed by the Health Operations Centre

Please note: Exceptions apply to some visa class medical results from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

If the visa class is not listed in the table below, send the medical results to the local DIAC processing office outside of Australia (Embassy/Consulate-General/High Commission).

In addition, Panel doctors in China and India also need to note that HOC processes:

- All subclass 570-580 student visas from People's Republic of China;
- All subclass 570-580 student visas lodged electronically (eVisas) from India.

103	Parent	405	Investment Retirement
119	Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme	416	Special Programs
120	Labour Agreement	420	Entertainment
121	Employer Nomination Scheme	422	Medical Practitioner
124	Distinguished Talent (Australian Support)	457	Sponsored Temporary Business (Long Stay)
132	Business Talent (Migrant) <sup>1</sup>	459	Sponsored Business Visitor (Short Stay)
143	Contributory Parent	470	Professional Development
151	Former Resident	475	Skilled – Regional Sponsored
160	Business Owner (Provisional) <sup>2</sup>	476	Skilled – Recognised Graduate
161	Senior Executive (Provisional) <sup>2</sup>	485	Skilled – Graduate
162	Investor (Provisional) <sup>2</sup>	487	Skilled – Regional Sponsored
163	State/Territory Sponsored Business Owner (Provisional) <sup>2</sup>	679	Sponsored Family Visitor
164	State/Territory Sponsored Senior Executive (Provisional) <sup>2</sup>	856	Employer Nomination Scheme
165	State/Territory Sponsored Investor (Provisional) <sup>2</sup>	857	Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme
173	Contributory Parent (Temporary)	885	Skilled – Independent
175	Skilled – Independent	886	Skilled – Sponsored
176	Skilled - Sponsored	887	Skilled - Regional

The following exceptions apply to visa class medical results from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan ONLY:

- 132** In China and Hong Kong, send to the Australian Consulate-General in Hong Kong.
- 160 - 165** In China and Hong Kong, send to the Australian Consulate-General in Hong Kong; in Taiwan send to the Australian Commerce and Industry Office (ACIO).