

Figure 1: Historical overview of key policies indicating who was eligible for medical licensing in Aotearoa New Zealand since 1849 (source: Johanna Thomas-Maude).

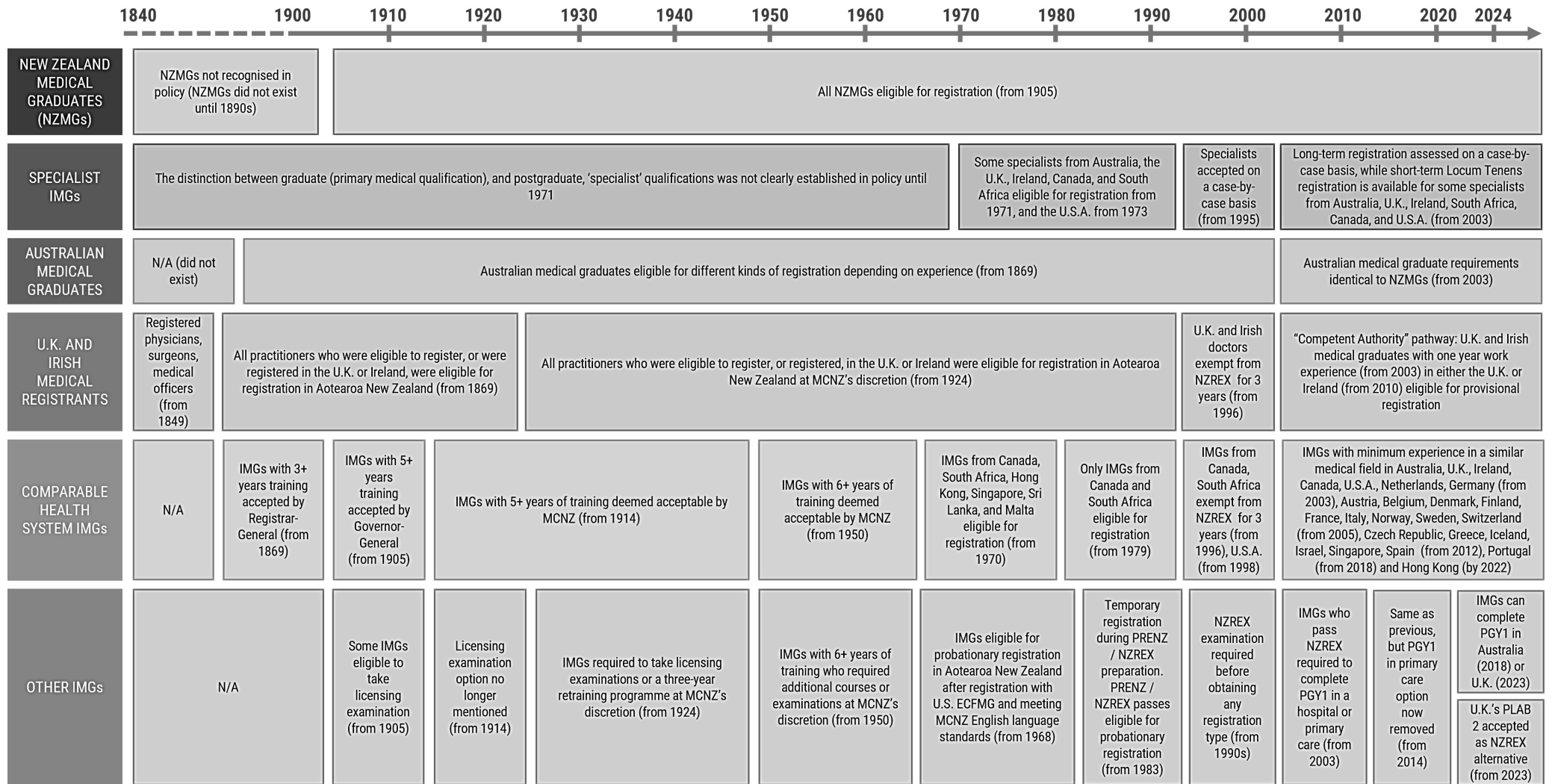


Table 1: Comparison of general registration pathways in 1905 and 2024.

Pathway	1905 ¹⁶	2024 ^{10,11,12,13,14}
New Zealand medical graduates (NZMG)	NZMGs were automatically eligible for registration	NZMGs are automatically eligible for registration
Australian medical graduates/registrants	Australian medical graduates were eligible for registration (because they were eligible for British registration)	Australian medical graduates are eligible for registration IMGs with general registration in Australia are eligible for general registration
British and Irish graduates/registrants	All practitioners registered or eligible to register in the UK or Ireland were entitled to registration	Doctors with a primary medical degree from the UK or Ireland, and 1 year of general medical experience in that country, are eligible for registration under the competent authority pathway IMGs with general registration in the UK are eligible for general registration
Comparable health systems	Governor in council (now known as the governor-general) prepared a list of foreign qualifications he considered to be “ <i>equal in status to that of New Zealand</i> ”, and such IMGs were eligible for registration	IMGs are eligible for registration if they have worked 20 hours per week for a minimum of 33 months within the past 48 months, in a country the MCNZ designates as a “comparable health system”
New Zealand Registration Examination (NZREX)	IMGs whose qualifications were not deemed “equal in status” could apply for registration after completing the final examination at the University of Otago medical school	To be eligible for registration via PGY1, IMGs must pass an approved medical knowledge examination and complete the NZREX or the UK’s PLAB 2 clinical skills examination

IMG = international medical graduates; UK = United Kingdom; MCNZ = Medical Council of New Zealand; PGY1 = Postgraduate Year 1; PLAB 2 = Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board.