

Additional FAQ's

- revised Recency of practice registration standard commencing 1 December 2016

I am taking a break from practice, should I let my registration lapse or change to non-practising registration?

It is up to you to decide which option will best suit your circumstances.

If you apply for non-practising registration, your name will remain on the public, online register of practitioners and you can continue to use the protected title for medical radiation practice but you must not practice.

The protected titles for medical radiation practice are

- medical radiation practitioner
- diagnostic radiographer
- medical imaging technologist
- radiographer
- nuclear medicine scientist
- nuclear medicine technologist, and
- radiation therapist

There is an annual non-practising registration fee which is significantly less than the full registration fee.

If you let your registration lapse, your name will be removed from the register and you will no longer have to pay registration fees. You cannot use a protected title.

I am a registered practitioner but I don't see patients – will I meet the standard?

The Board recognises that each registrant's scope of practice may change over time and that the practice of experienced registrants often becomes more focused and specialised than that of newly-registered practitioners. This might be because of specialisation in a certain area or with a particular client group, or a movement into management roles, education or research.

For example, you can meet the recency of practice standard working solely in a medical radiation practice administration, teaching, or medical radiation practice policy or research role, if you practised at least a minimum of 450 hours over the past three years in your scope of practice.

Please note that if you intend changing your scope of practice the [Code of Conduct](#) describes how you can do this. If you are re-commencing clinical practice, ordinarily this will include undertaking any necessary training and supervised experience to make sure that you are practising safely and effectively.

I work part time as a medical radiation practitioner – will I meet the standard?

To meet the recency of practice standard you must have practised in your scope of practice for a minimum of 450 hours in the previous three years.

For example:

- Working one day a week (i.e. 7.6 hours per day) will be sufficient to meet the standard as long as the total hours worked meets the minimum number of hours required in the standard.
- Working one day a month (i.e. 7.6 hours per day) will not be sufficient to meet the standard.

What does scope of practice mean?

Scope of practice is the professional role and services that an individual health practitioner is trained, qualified and competent to perform. A medical radiation practitioner's scope of practice may include clinical and non-clinical practice. If your scope of practice is in a non-clinical role, you do not need to practise in a clinical role to meet the recency of practice standard.

The Board's [Code of Conduct](#) requires medical radiation practice to recognise and work within the limits of their competence and scope of practice.

I do a mix of clinical practice and some administration work – will I meet the standard?

It depends on the number of hours you have practised, and the mix of work undertaken. It's your responsibility to make sure you're safe and competent to practise in your intended scope of practice.

If your scope of practice is a mix of clinical and non-clinical, in assessing whether you meet the recency of practice standard you need to consider the balance of clinical and non-clinical work, and whether you have practised the required number of hours to remain safe and competent in the clinical aspect of your scope of practice. If you have not practised the required number of hours to remain safe and competent in the clinical aspect of your scope of practice, you may be required to undertake additional CPD or further training. Refer to the registration standard and guidelines for more information.

Can I have a year off and still meet the recency of practice standard?

Yes, the recency of practice standard provides for flexibility and enables you to meet the standard over a three year period. You don't need to practise every year provided that you practise at least 450 hours in your scope of practice over the three-year period prior to applying for registration or renewal of registration.

The 450 hours can be at any time during the three years, in one block or multiple blocks. For example, you could practise in year one, have year two off and practise again in year three.

If I am applying for registration and I don't meet the standard – what happens?

This will depend on your individual circumstances. The *Guideline - Recency of practice* provides information for practitioners who do not meet the standard. Attached to the *Guidelines* is an Appendix that provides information on the factors that affect your recency of practice. In some cases you may simply be required to undertake a minimal period of supervised practice. Where you have an extended absence from practice you may be required to sit an examination and be required to undertake a period of supervised practice.