



Frequently asked questions

June 2012

Information for Registered Practitioners transitioning from State and Territory Boards.

What are registration standards?

From 1 July 2012 Medical Radiation Practitioners registered with State and Territory Boards will transition into the national scheme and be registrants of the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (the Board). The Board has specified a number of mandatory Registration standards that set the requirements that must be met by a practitioner in order to be registered. Practitioners must meet all registration standards for their profession in order to be considered for registration. Under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory, the Board has developed the following five standards:

- professional indemnity insurance
- recency of practice
- continuing professional development
- criminal history
- English language skills

As well as the five mandatory standards, the Board has also agreed on the following registration standard:

- Grandparenting

Information detailing this standard is available on the board's website at www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au

1. Professional indemnity insurance

What is professional indemnity insurance (PII)?

The PII required for registration of health professionals is designed to cover the risks arising from a health practitioner's provision of health care to a person.

Why do I need it?

Under the National Law, a registered health practitioner must not practice their profession unless they have appropriate PII arrangements in force. The Board has determined that practitioners are required to have professional indemnity arrangements that provide:

- coverage of \$10 million for a single claim, and
- Unlimited run off cover.

The Board's PII registration standard is available at the Board's website:
<http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>

Where can I get further information?

The Board has released a Statement clarifying the Professional Indemnity Insurance arrangements. This can be found at <http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx>

2. Recency of practice

What is recency of practice?

Recency of practice refers to how recently you have practiced your profession, as well as the nature and extent of that practice.

Why is there a recency of practice registration standard and what is it?

In accordance with the National Law, the Recency of Practice Standard requires practitioners to ensure that they are competent and fit to practice in the profession through the making of an annual declaration that their practice is current and in keeping with contemporary practice.

If you are a registered medical radiation technologist but have not worked in the profession for at least three years, you will be required to demonstrate to the Board that you are competent to practice, or that you are updating your skills to ensure that you are competent, before being issued with a certificate of registration.

The standard applies to everyone applying for initial registration or renewal of registration. It does not apply to students or practitioners who have non-practising registration.

The Recency of Practice registration standard is available on the Board's website:

<http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>

Further information is available in the Board's Guidelines for Recency of Practice which can be found at:

<http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx>

3. Continuing professional development

What is continuing professional development (CPD)?

CPD is mandatory under the National law. All registered health practitioners must undertake CPD.

The community has the right to expect that health practitioners will provide services in a competent and contemporary way, and meet best practice standards. CPD is an interactive process to maintain and extend the practitioner's knowledge, expertise and competence throughout his or her career.

The CPD cycle involves reviewing practice, identifying learning needs, planning and participating in relevant learning activities, and reflecting on the value of those activities. CPD helps to ensure that the needs of patients are met and that the health outcomes and healthcare priorities of the community are delivered. CPD is an important component in providing safe and effective service.

Medical radiation practitioners must complete a minimum of 60 hours of self directed CPD activities over a three year cycle, with a minimum of 10 hours in any one year; or comply with the requirements of a CPD program approved by the Medical Radiation Practice Board. These CPD requirements and a guideline explaining them are available on the board's website at

<http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>.

To help you understand this standard, the Board has developed CPD Guidelines, which are available at

<http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx>

4. English Language

Do the English language requirements apply to me even if I am from Australia?

Yes. This standard applies to all applicants for initial registration. It does not apply to students.

In accordance with the National Law, the Board may decide that an individual is not a suitable person to hold general registration in the medical radiation practice profession if in the Board's opinion, the individual's competency in speaking or otherwise communicating in English is not sufficient for the individual to practice the profession (section 55 of the National Law).

In general, an applicant who gained their qualifications overseas or who gained their qualifications in Australia but who did not undertake and complete their secondary education in English, in a designated English-speaking country (see list within the registration standard), will be required to provide specific evidence of their competency in the English language.

The Board has developed a registration standard setting out requirements for the English language skills that are necessary for an applicant to be suitable for registration in the medical radiation practice profession. The registration standard is available at the Board's website at <http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>.

5. Criminal history

What if I have a criminal history from overseas?

All criminal history, whether from Australia or overseas, must be declared when applying for registration. Failing to declare your criminal history upon application for registration may jeopardise your application.

How will the Board decide if my criminal history is relevant to practising my profession and if it will register me?

The Board will consider ten factors (which are set out in the standard) when deciding if your criminal history will affect your application for registration. Factors include such things as, for example, the nature and gravity of the offence and its relevance to health practice, time that has elapsed since the offence, whether or not the offence is part of a pattern of behaviour, and so on. While every case will need to be decided on an individual basis, the ten factors provide the basis for the Board's consideration.

Detailed guidelines are available at <http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>.

For more information

- The Board's registration standards, policies, guidelines and FAQs are published on its website www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au, in particular the Board's Manual for Grandparenting Applications
- To lodge an online enquiry form follow the *Contact us* link from the AHPRA homepage www.ahpra.gov.au
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200