

Supervised practice program for medical radiation practitioners

Supervision assessment report four (4): radiation therapy

The quarterly reports submitted during the supervised practice program will contribute to the assessment of the practitioner's application for general registration with the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia.

The Principal supervisor must discuss the assessment with the supervised practitioner prior to submitting.

It is important that the Principal supervisor refers to the Board's *Supervised practice registration standard* and the *Supervised practice program guide* before completing assessment reports.

These documents can be found at www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au

The practitioner's capability in each domain must be assessed. If the practitioner is assessed as making limited or no progress, further details must be provided. Comments are not required if the practitioner is making satisfactory progress.

Please submit this form.

This assessment form must be sent to mrpsupervisedpractice@ahpra.gov.au

Name of supervised practitioner: _____

Registration number: MRP _____

Name of principal supervisor: _____

Registration number: MRP _____

Date of report: _____ / _____ / 20_____

Total weeks completed in program: _____

No of weeks worked during reporting period (usually 12 weeks): _____ **Leave taken** _____ week/s

Professional capabilities for medical radiation practice

Key capabilities – what registered medical radiation practitioners must be able to do

The key capabilities describe the key features of safe and competent practice in a range of contexts and situations of varied complexity and uncertainty. During any one procedure or treatment, practitioners are expected to demonstrate key capabilities from various domains. This recognises that competent professional practice is more than a sum of each discrete part and requires an ability to draw on and integrate the breadth of capabilities to support overall performance.

Enabling components – evidence of the key capabilities for general registration as a medical radiation practitioner

The enabling components describe the essential and measurable characteristics of the corresponding key capabilities and facilitate assessment of performance in the practice setting. Medical radiation practitioners must be able to demonstrate all enabling components for all key capabilities for safe and competent practice. This includes applying, adapting and synthesising new knowledge from experience to continually improve performance.

The enabling components include different ways of demonstrating capability:

- **Apply knowledge / principles of:** indicates a practitioner is expected to apply detailed knowledge in the practice setting.
- **Understand** indicates a practitioner is expected to apply broad knowledge and understanding of information for safe practice, however may not need to understand or interpret detailed information or may not need to use their knowledge and understanding to perform certain procedures.
- **Performance e.g. 'perform', 'identify', 'respond' and/or 'operate'** are used for the majority of enabling components – these are abilities needed in the practice setting.

Definitions

Capable

Professional capability is the ability to take appropriate and effective action to formulate and solve problems in both familiar and unfamiliar, complex and changing settings. Professional capability develops over time and must be demonstrated to the standard of performance needed in the workplace.

Prior to completion of the supervised practice program a supervised practitioner must have demonstrated all of the key capabilities, including those relevant for the division of radiation therapy (not including MRI or US except where they form part of the supervised practitioner's practice)

A supervised practitioner may demonstrate capability (all of the enabling components) at any time during the program, including the early stages of the program.

For a supervised practitioner to be assessed as capable they must:

- demonstrate the capability according to the relevant descriptor (*apply, understand, perform* etc)
- consistently demonstrate all of the enabling components of capability at the standard required for safe and effective practice
- accept responsibility and are accountable for their practice, including managing individual patients within the supervisor's general oversight, and
- use their professional judgement, decision-making skills and experiential learning to apply their scientific knowledge, practical skills and ability in any given situation.

Not yet capable

The supervised practitioner has not demonstrated capability or has otherwise demonstrated limited progression since the third report.

The Principal supervisor should contact Ahpra when they anticipate that the supervised practitioner will not be assessed as being capable by the end of the 4th assessment period.

It is recognised that in rare circumstances a supervised practitioner may take longer than the usual 48 weeks of supervised practice to demonstrate all of the Professional capabilities. However, it is incumbent upon the Principal supervisor to raise concerns about a supervised practitioner's progress in a timely way so that remedial actions can be put in place before the end of the 4th assessment period.

Not assessed

This option is only available for the practice areas of MRI and ultrasound.

Selecting this option means that while there may have been some exposure or experience in MRI and / or ultrasound throughout the program of supervised practice, the supervised practitioner has not been assessed for independent practice in MRI and/or ultrasound.

1C: Practice in radiation therapy

1. **Use equipment and perform techniques to ensure reproducibility of the patient's position for radiation therapy**
 - a. Identify and apply appropriate equipment and techniques to ensure accurate and reproducible localisation, pre-treatment imaging, planning and treatment, for the patient's/client's diagnosis and condition.
 - b. Fabricate or adapt suitable stabilisation and ancillary equipment as needed.

Assessment:

Capable

Not yet capable (**provide details below**)

Detail the reasons for assessment: include details of the specific practice areas within the domain and why the practitioner has not yet demonstrated capability?

Is an additional period of supervised practice recommended for the practitioner to demonstrate they are capable of safe independent practice? Provide details of practice areas to be addressed and expected timeframe.

1C: Practice in radiation therapy

2. Perform localisation and pre-treatment imaging

- a. Select imaging modalities suited to individual patient/client presentations and related planning procedures.
- b. Perform localisation for a range of cancer sites using other modalities.
- c. Apply knowledge of a range of imaging modalities for use in localisation.

Assessment:

Capable

Not yet capable (**provide details below**)

Detail the reasons for assessment: include details of the specific practice areas within the domain and why the practitioner has not yet demonstrated capability?

Is an additional period of supervised practice recommended for the practitioner to demonstrate they are capable of safe independent practice? Provide details of practice areas to be addressed and expected timeframe.

1C: Practice in radiation therapy

3. Perform treatment planning

- a. Apply the principles of radiation physics, dosimetry and radiobiology to treatment planning.
- b. Apply knowledge of tumour and target volumes, and normal tissue volumes to treatment planning.
- c. Apply knowledge of cross-sectional anatomy, physiology and oncology to treatment planning.
- d. Create clinically acceptable treatment plans.
- e. Evaluate treatment plans to ensure they are clinically acceptable and safe.

Treatment planning may include but is not limited to imaging and treatment modalities used including CT, MRI, PET and may include brachytherapy, superficial radiation therapy, radiosurgery/stereotactic radiation therapy, paediatric radiation therapy, total body irradiation and proton therapy.

Treatment plans may include but are not limited to 2D, 3D and 4D, conformal radiation therapy (CRT), intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) and may include volumetric modulated arc therapy (VMAT).

Evaluating radiation therapy treatment plans may include but are not limited to radiation therapists evaluating and analysing treatment plans that they create, as well as treatment plans created by other practitioners.

Assessment:

Capable

Not yet capable (**provide details below**)

Detail the reasons for assessment: include details of the specific practice areas within the domain and why the practitioner has not yet demonstrated capability?

Is an additional period of supervised practice recommended for the practitioner to demonstrate they are capable of safe independent practice? Provide details of practice areas to be addressed and expected timeframe.

1C: Practice in radiation therapy

4. Perform radiation therapy treatment according to approved radiation therapy prescriptions and treatment plans

- a. Operate imaging equipment and radiation therapy treatment systems safely and effectively.
- b. Operate treatment delivery record and verification systems safely and effectively.
- c. Implement the radiation therapy treatment plans for a range of treatment techniques.
- d. Apply knowledge of radical and palliative treatment doses and acceptable dose limits to critical structures during implementation of treatment plans.
- e. Evaluate treatment verification images and modify the patient's treatment delivery according to local protocols.
- f. Evaluate treatment plans to ensure they are clinically acceptable and safe.

Assessment:

Capable

Not yet capable (**provide details below**)

Detail the reasons for assessment: include details of the specific practice areas within the domain and why the practitioner has not yet demonstrated capability?

Is an additional period of supervised practice recommended for the practitioner to demonstrate they are capable of safe independent practice? Provide details of practice areas to be addressed and expected timeframe.

Domain 2: Professional and ethical practitioner

- 2.1. Practise in an ethical and professional manner, consistent with relevant legislation and regulatory requirements.
- 2.2. Provide each patient with dignity and care
 - Cultural competency is the acknowledgment of the importance of culture, the assessment of cross-cultural relations, vigilance of the dynamics that may result from cultural differences, expansion of cultural knowledge and adapting services to meet culturally-unique needs
 - Cultural safety is the individual (and institutional) knowledge, skills, attitudes and competencies needed to deliver optimal health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as determined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities.
- 2.3. Take responsibility and accountability for professional decisions.
- 2.4. Advocate on behalf of the patient when appropriate.
- 2.5. Seek (supports) opportunities to progress the profession.

Assessment:

Capable

Not yet capable (**provide details below**)

Detail the reasons for assessment: include details of the specific practice areas within the domain and why the practitioner has not yet demonstrated capability?

Is an additional period of supervised practice recommended for the practitioner to demonstrate they are capable of safe independent practice? Provide details of practice areas to be addressed and expected timeframe.

Domain 3: Communicator and collaborator

- 3.1. Communicate clearly, sensitively and effectively with the patient and their family or carers.
- 3.2. Collaborate with other health practitioners.

Assessment:

- Capable Not yet capable (**provide details below**)

Detail the reasons for assessment: include details of the specific practice areas within the domain and why the practitioner has not yet demonstrated capability?

Is an additional period of supervised practice recommended for the practitioner to demonstrate they are capable of safe independent practice? Provide details of practice areas to be addressed and expected timeframe.

Domain 4: Evidence-informed practitioner

- 4.1. Resolve challenges through application of critical thinking and reflective practice.
- 4.2. Identify ongoing professional learning needs and opportunities.

Assessment:

- Capable Not yet capable (**provide details below**)

Detail the reasons for assessment: include details of the specific practice areas within the domain and why the practitioner has not yet demonstrated capability?

Is an additional period of supervised practice recommended for the practitioner to demonstrate they are capable of safe independent practice? Provide details of practice areas to be addressed and expected timeframe.

Domain 5: Radiation safety and risk manager

- 5.1. Perform and provide safe radiation practice.
- 5.2. Protect and enhance patient safety
- 5.3. Implement quality assurance processes imaging or treating patients
- 5.4. Maintain safety of the workplace and associated environments

Assessment:

- Capable Not yet capable (**provide details below**)

Detail the reasons for assessment: include details of the specific practice areas within the domain and why the practitioner has not yet demonstrated capability?

Is an additional period of supervised practice recommended for the practitioner to demonstrate they are capable of safe independent practice? Provide details of practice areas to be addressed and expected timeframe.

Assessable capabilities if magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) forms part of a supervised practitioner's practice

The following enabling components cover the knowledge, skills and attributes needed by all medical radiation practitioners who use MRI as part of their practice. Meeting the capability requirements ensures that practitioners who use MRI are capable of providing safe, quality, patient-centred care.

Perform magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

- a. Operate MRI systems safely and effectively.
- b. Apply knowledge of the principles of MRI physics and surrounding environment to ensure patient and others' safety.
- c. Select equipment and imaging parameters relevant to the patient presentation and where appropriate, modify imaging parameters to achieve optimal diagnostic outcomes.
- d. Collaborate in the design and evaluation of MRI protocols.
- e. Perform and evaluate MRI examinations where appropriate, modify the examination according to the MRI findings and clinical presentation.
- f. Process image data sets.

Contrast agents and other medicines

MRI includes contrast-enhanced studies and the safe and appropriate selection of MRI contrast agents for the patient presentation.

The safe use of contrast agents, and any other medicines used in connection with MRI examinations must be assessed under Domain 1, Key capability 8 - Apply knowledge of safe and effective use of medicines.

MRI safety

As part of assessment a supervised practitioner must consistently apply the knowledge and principles of MRI safety in performance of MRI examinations.

MRI safety includes but is not limited to:

- maintaining the integrity of MRI safety zones
- applying principles of electro-magnetic forces and fields (static and gradient and radiofrequency)
- minimising the bioeffects of magnetic fields (including tissue heating and peripheral nerve stimulation)
- exposure limits (including specific absorption rates)
- assessing and managing risks associated with devices/implants/projectiles, acoustic risks, and
- implementing emergency procedures in the event of quench or the distressed and/or deteriorating patient.

Assessment:

Capable Not yet capable (provide details below) Not assessed

Detail the reasons for assessment: include details of the specific practice areas within the domain and why the practitioner has not yet demonstrated capability?

Is an additional period of supervised practice recommended for the practitioner to demonstrate they are capable of safe independent practice? Provide details of practice areas to be addressed and expected timeframe.

Assessable capabilities if ultrasound (US) forms part of a supervised practitioner's practice

The following enabling components cover the knowledge, skills and attributes needed by all medical radiation practitioners who use ultrasound (US) as part of their practice. Meeting the capability requirements ensures that practitioners who use ultrasound are capable of providing safe, quality, patient-centred care.

Perform ultrasound imaging

- a. Operate ultrasound imaging systems safely and effectively.
- b. Apply knowledge of the principles of ultrasound physics to minimise the likelihood of biological effects and identification of artefacts.
- c. Apply knowledge of cross-sectional anatomy, embryology, pathophysiology, haemodynamic and sonographic appearances of normal and abnormal anatomy.
- d. Use standard techniques/images and equipment for the body area being examined and, where appropriate, modify them to consider the patient presentation and clinical indications.
- e. Perform and evaluate ultrasound imaging and where appropriate, extend or modify the examination according to the sonographic findings and clinical presentation.
- f. Document the real-time examination and evaluate findings.

Ultrasound imaging systems must include 2D, Doppler and may include contrast and 3D where appropriate.

Ultrasound physics includes transducer design and operation, identification of artefacts and understanding of the biological effects of ultrasound.

Documenting the real-time examination must follow organisational protocols and still images/cine loops must accurately represent any pathology present or absent.

Assessment:

Capable Not yet capable (provide details below) Not assessed

Detail the reasons for assessment: include details of the specific practice areas within the domain and why the practitioner has not yet demonstrated capability?

Is an additional period of supervised practice recommended for the practitioner to demonstrate they are capable of safe independent practice? Provide details of practice areas to be addressed and expected timeframe.

Overall assessment

1. Is the supervised practitioner considered capable of safe, independent practice in all areas of medical radiation practice within their division of registration?
 Yes (go to Q2)
 No (Go to Q3)
2. Have you discussed this supervision assessment report with the supervised practitioner and do they agree with the recommendation?
 Yes
 No (you must discuss the report before submitting)

Additional supervised practice

3. If practitioner is not yet capable, is an additional period of supervised practice recommended?
 Yes (provide details below)
 No (provide details below)

Please provide details of the areas of practice and additional time required

Please provide details of the reasons an extension is NOT recommended

4. If an extension of supervised practice is required, how many weeks extension do you recommend?
_____ Week/s (*please provide an updated supervision plan*)
5. You must discuss this report and its recommendations with the supervised practitioner.
6. Does the supervised practitioner agree to the recommendations?
 Yes No (the supervised practitioner must outline their reasons below)
