

Registration standard: Recency of practice

Effective from: 1 December 2016

Summary

This registration standard sets out the Medical Radiation Practitioner Board of Australia's (the Board) minimum requirements for recency of practice for medical radiation practitioners to competently and safely provide services to the public.

Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to all registered medical radiation practitioners except students, or those with non-practising registration.

What must I do?

1. All medical radiation practitioners undertaking practice **must** have completed a minimum of 450 hours of practice in the past three years.
2. If you are registered in more than one division of registration you are required to complete a minimum of 450 hours of practice in the past three years for each division in which you are registered.
3. If you are returning to practice after an absence of more than three years you **may be required to do any of the following**:
 - a. an examination and/or assessment
 - b. a Board-approved course or program or part thereof,
 - c. a Board-approved supervised practice program,
 - d. meet any other requirement the Board considers necessary to ensure that the practitioner is safe to practise in a competent and ethical manner.

If you are returning to practice after an absence of 10 years or more you will be required to:

- a. have your primary qualification assessed against an approved course of study, and/or
- b. undertake an examination and/or assessment, and/or
- c. undertake a Board-approved course or program or part thereof, and/or
- d. participate in a Board-approved supervised practice program, and/or
- e. meet any other requirement the Board considers necessary to ensure that you are safe to practise in a competent and ethical manner.

Meeting the Board's minimum requirements for recency of practice does not automatically satisfy your professional and ethical responsibilities for a particular scope of practice. In addition to the Board's recency of practice requirements, you must ensure that you have the knowledge and skills necessary to provide safe and effective care.

Are there exemptions to this standard?

There are no exemptions to this standard. The section below, 'What happens if I don't meet this standard?' explains what you need to do if you don't meet this standard and wish to continue or return to practice.

What does this mean for me?

At application

When you apply for registration as a medical radiation practitioner, you must meet this registration standard. This includes practitioners who are applying for new or additional types of registration, such as changing from non-practising to general registration or applying for an endorsement.

You don't need to meet this registration standard if you are a recent graduate applying for registration for the first time.

At renewal of registration

When you apply to renew your registration, you are required to declare that you have complied with this registration standard.

During the registration period

Your compliance with this registration standard may be audited from time to time. It may also be checked if the Board receives a notification about you.

Evidence

You should retain records as evidence that you meet the requirements of this standard for five years in case you are audited.

What happens if I don't meet this standard?

If you are returning to practice after taking a break and you don't meet this standard, you will need to provide information to help the Board decide if and how you can return to practice.

This standard describes some of the methods the Board may apply to safely facilitate your return to practice. The *Recency of practice guidelines* will assist registered medical radiation practitioners to understand what information the Board may request of you.

Other possible consequences

The National Law establishes possible consequences if you don't meet the recency of practice requirements in this standard, including that:

- the Board can impose conditions on your application for registration or renewal of registration or can refuse your application for registration or renewal of registration (sections 82 and 112 of the National Law), and
- registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against you as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice or conduct for medical radiation practitioners (section 41 of the National Law).

Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 August 2015.

Registration standards are developed under section 38 of the National Law and are subject to wide-ranging consultation.

Guidelines on recency of practice

The Board's guidelines on recency of practice provide guidance about how to meet the requirements of the registration standard. You are expected to understand and apply these guidelines together with the registration standard.

Definitions

National Law means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.

Recency of practice means that a health practitioner has maintained an adequate connection with, and recent practice in the profession since qualifying for, or obtaining registration.

Recent graduate means a person applying for registration having completed an approved program of study that was awarded not more than two years prior to the date of their application.

Scope of practice means the professional role and services that an individual health practitioner is qualified and competent to perform.

Review

This standard will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every five years.

Last reviewed: 1 December 2016

This standard replaces the previous registration standard dated 1 July 2012.