



New Zealand
**Medical Radiation
Technologists Board**
Te Poari Ringa Hangarua Iraruke

POLICY:
RETURN TO PRACTICE

FEBRUARY 2019

Policy Title		Return to Practice
Reference Number	2019-Feb-V2-MRT Return to Practice	
Scope	This policy document applies to all medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners re-entering practice within New Zealand	

Associated Policy Documents	
Competence Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Practice in New Zealand	
Supervision	

Revision Schedule			
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Policy Overview

The issue of an annual practising certificate (APC) is conditional on the Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board) being satisfied the practitioner is fit and competent to practise. This policy sets out the Board's requirements for the issue of an APC to practitioners who are registered but have not practised in New Zealand for more than 3-years immediately preceding the date of their application.

Legal Context

Under section 27 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) the Board may decline to issue an APC when the practitioner has not held an annual practising certificate of a kind sought by the application within the 3-years immediately preceding the date of the application.

Section 29 of the Act enables the Board to consider what conditions it may impose or vary before it issues an APC.

Competence to Practise

To be issued with an APC, registered practitioners must provide evidence that they are practising within their registered scope(s) of practice and are maintaining their competence to practise.

The scopes of practice (as articulated in the current Gazette notice) provide the broad parameters of medical imaging and radiation therapy practice. The Board's *Competence Standards for the Practice of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Practice in New Zealand* provide the detail of how registered practitioners are expected to practise and what they must be capable of doing. The competence standards set the minimum threshold required of entry-level practitioners for the purpose of registration.

To ensure public safety, as a minimum, practitioners applying for an APC must be able to work at the level expected of an entry-level practitioner and be able to demonstrate they meet all of the competence standards for their registered scope(s) of practice.

Return to Practice

Practitioners who have not practised for more than 3-years immediately preceding the date of their APC application must meet a number of return-to-practice requirements so as to assure the Board of their competence to safely practise in New Zealand. Those requirements may be different according to the length of time elapsed since the practitioner ceased practising in New Zealand.

Practitioners who are Registered but Never Practised

In some instances New Zealand trained practitioners may have been granted registration after gaining their qualification, but never practised in the medical imaging and radiation therapy profession either in New Zealand or overseas.

Practitioners in these circumstances must meet the Board's return to practice requirements as set out in this policy document.

Standard Information Requirements

Irrespective of the return-to-practice category, each practitioner seeking to return to practice must provide the following documents at the time they apply for an APC:

- A criminal history/police report from any country where the practitioner has lived for 12-months or more (including New Zealand). The report must be no more than 6-months old.
- Curriculum vitae (CV).
- Name and contact details for two professional referees.

Return to Practice Process

The following sets out the process for all practitioners applying to return to practice:

- Identify the appropriate return-to-practice category.
- Provide the standard information requirements along with any additional information as described in the appropriate return-to-practice category.
- Upon Board agreement the practitioner is fit to practise, an interim practising certificate (IPC) will be issued for those return to practice categories where a period of supervised practice has been specified.
- Upon evidence the practitioner has met all requirements for the period of supervised practice and including certification of practice competence, the IPC will be cancelled and replaced with an APC. Issue of the latter will be at no additional cost providing it is in the current APC year.

Return to Practice Categories

The time periods and return to practice requirements described in each category are indicative of the Board's expectations for practitioners in those circumstances. Each practitioner seeking a practising certificate after an absence from practice exceeding 3-years will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The Board will consider all relevant information pertaining to a practitioner's return to practice including their qualification, clinical practice experience, and any relevant experience since ceasing practice.

Return to Practice Categories and Requirements

Practitioners who are on the Medical Radiation Technologists Board register and are returning to practise would normally fall into one of the following categories:

Medical Imaging or Radiation Therapy Practitioners Who Have:	Return to Practice Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Practised in New Zealand following graduation and taken a break from practice for less than 3-years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Practitioners in this category do not fall within the definition of formal return-to-practice requirements under the criteria of the Act.- Must complete the routine recertification requirements required of all practitioners seeking issue of an APC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Practised in New Zealand and taken a break from practice for between 3 to 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Complete a period of supervised practice for a minimum of 450 hours within a maximum period of 4-consecutive calendar months
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Been out of clinical practice for more than 5 but less than 10-full years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Would normally be required to pass an examination as set by the Board- Subsequent to passing of an examination, the practitioner must complete a period of supervised practice for a minimum of 450 hours (3-months) within a maximum period of 4-consecutive calendar months
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Remained in the clinical health care environment but out of patient-centred medical imaging or radiation therapy practice for 10 years or more	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Would normally be required to pass an examination as set by the Board- Subsequent to the passing of an examination, the practitioner must complete a period of supervised practice for a minimum of 960 hours (6-months) within a maximum period of 8-consecutive calendar months

Medical Imaging or Radiation Therapy Practitioners Who Have:	Return to Practice Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not remained within the clinical health care environment and out of medical imaging/radiation therapy practice for 10 years or more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would normally be required to successfully pass an examination as set by the Board OR may be required to undertake further tertiary study - Subsequent to the passing of an examination, the practitioner must complete a period of supervised practice for a minimum of 1800 hours (12-months) within a maximum period of 13-consecutive calendar months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practised medical imaging/radiation therapy overseas for less than 3-full years and who wish to return to practise in New Zealand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide a verifiable work history for the full period of their overseas practice - Provide certificates of professional status (or equivalent) from relevant regulatory agencies in each of the countries they have been practising and since ceasing practice in New Zealand - Provide a record of CPD activities for the 3-years immediately prior to the last date of practice in any country
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practised medical imaging/radiation therapy overseas for between 3 to 5-full years immediately preceding the date of application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide a verifiable work history for the full period of their overseas practice - Provide certificates of professional status (or equivalent) from relevant regulatory agencies in each of the countries they have been practising and since ceasing practice in New Zealand - Provide a record of CPD activities for the 3-years immediately prior to the last date of practice in any country - The practitioner may be required to complete a period of supervised practice for a minimum of 150 hours within a maximum of 2-consecutive calendar months

Medical Imaging or Radiation Therapy Practitioners Who Have:	Return to Practice Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practised medical imaging/radiation therapy overseas for more than 5-full years immediately preceding the date of application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide a verifiable work history for the full period of their overseas practice - Provide certificates of professional status (or equivalent) from relevant regulatory agencies in each of the countries they have been practising and since ceasing practice in New Zealand - Provide a record of CPD activities for the 3-years immediately prior to the last date of practice in any country - The practitioner may be required to complete a period of supervised practice for a minimum of 450 months within a maximum period of 4-consecutive calendar months

All practitioners who are required to complete a period of supervised practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supervision will initially be within Level 1 for a minimum of 50% of the total period of supervision - The supervision period, level of supervision and timeframes, and reporting requirements are set out in a letter to the practitioner and are non-negotiable once accepted by the practitioner - At the conclusion of the period of supervised practice the practitioner must be certified by the Board-approved supervisor as meeting the competence standards required for their scope of practice - The practitioner and nominated supervisor must meet all reporting requirements as specified by the Board