



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

POLICY: LOCUM PRACTICE

This document sets out the Medical Radiation Technologists Board's policy on the registration and issue of annual practising certificates to medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners who are working in a locum and/or casual capacity

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Legislative Context

The Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board) is responsible for the regulation of medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. The Board's core function is to protect the health and safety of the public through ensuring practitioners are competent to fit to practise.

Policy Statement

Medical imaging and/or radiation therapy practitioners working in a locum and/or casual capacity must be registered and hold an annual practising certificate. Their practising certificate must not contain any conditions on their practice.

Mechanisms for Ensuring Practitioner Competence and Fitness to Practise

The Board uses a number of mechanisms for assessing and monitoring a practitioner's competence and fitness to practise.

1. Scopes of Practice

Under section 11 of the Act the Board must describe the contents of the medical imaging and radiation therapy profession in terms of one or more scopes of practice. The Board has specified eight scopes of practice (three of which are in identical modalities of practice but as a training scope). Each scope is denoted by a title and subsequent descriptive overview of the area of science practised and activities commonly performed.

2. Registration

Registration is a one-off event for practitioners and denotes that a practitioner is competent and fit to practise in the medical imaging and radiation therapy profession in New Zealand. Registration is granted in a specified scope of practice and the practitioner's name is entered on a public register.

3. Annual Practising Certificates

Each year a practitioner wishes to work as a medical imaging or radiation therapy practitioner (in any of the defined scopes of practice for which they hold registration) they must apply for and be issued with an annual practising certificate (APC). An APC is valid for only 12-months between 1st April and 31st March (of the subsequent calendar year).

4. Conditions on Practice

Sometimes the Board may place a condition on a person's APC. A common type of condition is a requirement for the practitioner to complete a specified period of supervised practice. This requires the practitioner to work under the supervision of a medical imaging or radiation therapy practitioner who is registered and holds a current annual practising certificate in the same scope of practice as the applying practitioner.

5. Supervised Practice

Supervised practice serves to protect the health and safety of the public. It is a formal process of professional support and learning to enable the practitioner to build on their knowledge, skills and professional attributes, and to progressively assume responsibility for their own practice.

Supervision and Locum Practice

Practitioners working in a locum or casual capacity cannot have a condition for supervised practice on their annual practising certificate.

Locum positions are typically for a short period of time and practitioners working in a casual capacity often work across more than one practice site. In either of these capacities practitioners will need to be able to practise without supervision so as to protect the health and safety of the public.

It is therefore inappropriate to offer locum and/or casual employment to practitioners who have a condition on their practice that they must complete a period of supervision. Employers have a responsibility for checking the registration and practising status of all new and/or potential medical imaging and radiation therapy staff before they are confirmed into their new position.