



POLICY AND GUIDELINES
CLINICAL AND NON-CLINICAL PRACTICE
RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

MAY 2020

Policy Title	Clinical and Non-Clinical Practice Recertification Requirements
Reference Number	2020-May-V2-MRT Non-Clinical Practice
Scope	This policy document applies to all medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners who are practising in a non-clinical role

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

Revision Schedule			
Version Number	Version Date	Approved By	Next Review
One	June 2017	Medical Radiation Technologists Board	2019
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Policy Overview

The Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board) requires registered medical imaging and radiation therapy working in New Zealand to hold a current annual practising certificate (APC). An APC can be issued for either clinical practice or non-clinical practice.

Scope of the Policy

This policy sets out the expectations for registered medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners who apply for an APC.

Definitions

Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Practice

The practice of medical imaging and radiation therapy goes wider than clinical practice and includes teaching, research, and health management in hospitals, clinics, community and institutional contexts, whether paid or unpaid.

Annual Practising Certificates (APC)

Issue of an annual practising certificate is a critical mechanism used by the Board to certify that the holder of that document is competent and fit to practise as a registered practitioner in the profession of medical imaging and radiation therapy.

The primary intent of the issue of annual practising certificates is to protect the health and safety of the New Zealand public.

Clinical Practice

Clinical practice is any work undertaken by a medical imaging and/or radiation therapy practitioner that relates to the direct care of an individual patient.

Non-Clinical Practice

Non-clinical practice is any work undertaken by a medical imaging and/or radiation therapy practitioner that does not relate to the direct care of an individual patient.

Recertification Requirements for Clinical Practice

Medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners working clinically must be able to demonstrate they have undertaken 880-hours of patient-contact hours over the previous 3-year period:

Practising Status	Minimum Practice Hours
Single Scope of Practice	Total of 880 hours over 3-years
	- At least 360 of those hours must involve direct patient contact
	- The remaining 520 hours may be a combination of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patient contact ○ Direct supervision of staff in clinical practice ○ Delivery of educational activities ○ Quality assurance directly related to the delivery of medical imaging/radiation therapy ○ Research activities that inform medical imaging/radiation therapy practice
Dual Scope of Practice	Total of 880 hours over 3-years
	At least 360 hours of direct patient contact in each scope of practice
	- The remaining 160 hours may be a combination of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patient contact ○ Direct supervision of staff in clinical practice ○ Delivery of educational activities ○ Quality assurance directly related to the delivery of medical imaging/radiation therapy ○ Research activities that inform medical imaging/radiation therapy practice

Recertification Requirements for Non-Clinical Practice

Achieving the minimum of 360 direct-patient-contact hours can be difficult for some practitioners due to the non-clinical nature of their work, and yet they continue to have a significant impact on the delivery and quality of medical imaging and radiation therapy practice with a subsequent potential for risk of harm to the public.

Medical imaging or radiation therapy practitioners may apply to have a condition for non-clinical practice placed on their APC. This means that they will not have to demonstrate a minimum number of direct-patient-contact hours.

Meeting Non-Clinical Practice Recertification Requirements

Practitioners with a condition of non-clinical practice on their APC are still required to meet the Board's *Competence Standards for the Practice of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Practice in New Zealand*, interpreting those as appropriate within a non-clinical context.

They will also need to meet the Board's *CPD for Annual Recertification of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Practitioners*

Application Process for Non-Clinical Practice

Practitioners applying for a non-clinical APC for the first time will need to complete *Non-Clinical Practice Application Form* and send that to the Board office.

Practitioners wanting to renew their non-clinical APC can do so via the usual electronic APC renewal process.

Returning to Clinical Practice

Practitioners who wish to return from holding a non-clinical APC to a clinical APC (that is, returning to practice in the direct care of patients in terms of medical imaging or radiation therapy) will need to meet the Board's *Recency of Practice* policy requirements.

This may include completing a period of supervised practice, sitting a registration examination, and/or retraining.