



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

**POLICY AND GUIDELINES:
RETURN TO PRACTICE**

APRIL 2021

Policy Title		Return to Practice
Reference Number	2021-APR-V3-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			
Version Number	Version Date	Approved By	Next Review
One	November 2012	Medical Radiation Technologists Board	
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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 and:

- have not practised in New Zealand for more than 3-years immediately preceding the date of their application,
- have practised outside New Zealand since they last held an APC, or
- have not held a practising certificate since they graduated or were first registered in New Zealand, or
- were registered with supervision conditions and did not commence their supervised practise within 12 months of being registered.

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 fall into one of the listed below categories must meet return-to-practice requirements 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 was first registered or ceased practising in New Zealand.

Practitioners covered by this policy:

- practitioners have not practised for more than 3-years immediately preceding the date of their application,
- practitioners have practised outside New Zealand since they were registered or last held a practising certificate (whichever is most recent) or

- practitioners have not held a practising certificate since they first graduated or were first registered in New Zealand.
- Practitioners who registered with supervision conditions and did not commence their supervised practise within 12 months of being registered

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) including a record of CPD activities for the 3 years prior to their application
- Two written professional references.

In addition, practitioners who have practised overseas since they were first registered or ceased to practise in New Zealand (whichever is most recent) must provide the following:

- Certificates of professional status (or equivalent) from relevant regulatory agencies in each of the countries they have been practising in since they were first registered or ceased practice, whichever is most recent, in New Zealand.
- A verifiable work history and a clinical experience form for the full period of their overseas practice.

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
Not practised following graduation or registration in New Zealand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practitioners in this category will be required to meet return to practice requirements depending on the length of time since they graduated or were first registered in New Zealand (whichever is most recent).
Practised in New Zealand following graduation or registration 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.
Practised in New Zealand and taken a break from practice for between 3 to 5 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May be required to complete between 125 and 450 hours of supervised practice
Been out of clinical practice for more than 5 but less than 10-full years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May be required to pass an examination as set by the Board. - Must complete between 125 and 960 hours of supervised practice
Remained in the clinical health care environment ¹ but out of patient-centred medical imaging or radiation therapy practice for 10 years or more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May be required to pass an examination as set by the Board. - Must complete between 450 and 1800 hours of supervised practice
Not remained within the clinical health care environment ² 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. - Must complete a period of supervised practice for a minimum of 1800 hours (12-months) within a maximum period of 13-consecutive calendar months.

¹ Includes Medical Imaging/Radiation Therapy education and application specialists.

² Includes Medical Imaging/Radiation Therapy education and application specialists.

Medical Imaging or Radiation Therapy Practitioners Who Have:	Return to Practice Requirements
Held an APC in New Zealand within the past three year and have practised medical imaging/radiation therapy overseas and wish to return to practise in New Zealand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide standard return to work documentation.
Held an APC in New Zealand more than three years ago and have practised medical imaging/radiation therapy overseas within three years of the date of application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide standard return to work documentation. - The practitioner may be required to complete between 150 and 450 hours of supervised practice.
Been registered with conditions and have not commenced their supervised practice within 12 months of being registered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide standard return to work documents - The Board will review the conditions placed on the practitioners scope of practice and determine if these need to be modified depending on whether the practitioner has practised overseas since registration was granted.

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. - 150 hours of supervised practice must be completed within a maximum of 2-consecutive calendar months - 450 hours of supervised practice must be completed within a maximum period of 4-consecutive calendar months - 960 hours of supervised practice must be completed within a maximum period of 8-consecutive calendar months - 1800 hours of supervised practice must be completed within a maximum period of 13-consecutive calendar months - 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,