

Advice Notice: Scopes of Practice Review

Date: 11th November 2021

Kia ora koutou

Earlier this year the Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board) held some pre-public-consultation hui with representatives from key stakeholder groups to discuss a review of the scopes of practice for medical imaging and radiation therapy. The hui discussions were based on a concept of moving to a single scope structure (with five practice modalities).

Following on from those stakeholder pre-public-consultation hui the Board has now completed a stocktake of “where to” in terms of its scopes of practice review and that initial proposal, with a decision to not progress the proposal for the foreseeable future.

As you are all aware the Aotearoa health system is in the process of facing major changes with the impending move to an integrated health structure and the establishment of two centralised health organisations – Health New Zealand, and a Māori Health Authority. Last week the Board was also advised of the commencement of a reform programme for the health regulation sector, with a timeframe of around 18-months to 2-years for the implementation of any changes.

All these changes going on across the spectrum of health services have resulted in elevated levels of uncertainty not only for health workforces themselves but also what the structure of health regulation will look like in the near future. Proceeding with a scopes review to the extent that was being proposed would not be optimal at this time. However, once there is more clarity on the above-mentioned changes the Board will consider a new timeframe to recommence the scopes of practice review.

The Board has a responsibility to continue its programme of regular reviews of all aspects of the regulatory framework for the medical imaging and radiation therapy profession. In accordance with their ongoing review programme, the Board intends to review two aspects of the current scopes structure as part of next year’s annual business plan. These pertain to the training scopes of practice and the regulation of the sonographic practices of cardiac and vascular ultrasound. More detail on what these reviews will involve will be released in the first quarter of 2022.

Ngā mihi nui



Mary Doyle
Chief Executive