

English Language Proficiency

Under Sections 16(a) and (b) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board) must be satisfied an applicant is able to communicate effectively to practise within the scope for which they are seeking registration, and sufficiently communicate in and comprehend English to protect the health and safety of the public.

This policy sets out the standards medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners must meet to demonstrate English language proficiency.



New Zealand
Medical Radiation
Technologists Board
Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke

English Language Proficiency

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Applicability

This policy applies to all practitioners registered with the Medical Radiation Technologists Board

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4

Policy Overview

5

Demonstration of English Language Proficiency

6

Four Pathways to Demonstrating Proficiency

7

English Language Test

8

Ongoing Competency Requirements

Policy Overview

Registration applicants must satisfy the Board they can communicate effectively to practise in the medical imaging and radiation therapy profession. Their ability to communicate and comprehend English must be sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public.

English language is inclusive of speaking, reading, listening, and writing.

Demonstration of English Language Proficiency

Four Pathways to Demonstrating Proficiency

1. They have graduated from a Board-accredited qualification programme; or
2. English is their first language and their primary qualification¹ is from an educational institution where English is the sole language of instruction and assessment, and located in one of the following countries recognised by the Board: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America; or
3. They have continuously worked as a registered health practitioner² in an accredited medical imaging or radiation therapy facility in one of the recognised countries where English was the first and primary language. In addition they must have worked in a role comparable to the scope of practice for which they are seeking registration, for a period of at least 2-years within the 5-years immediately prior to their application. They will be required to provide the names and contact details of at least two referees who are senior health practitioners who speak English as a first language and who can attest to the applicant's ability to comprehend and communicate effectively in English within a clinical setting with patients and professional colleagues. Referees will be contacted directly by a Board delegate; or
4. They meet the required standards of a Board-approved English language test.

¹The Board must be satisfied the primary qualification is equivalent to or as satisfactory as a prescribed qualification for the scope of practice in which the applicant is seeking registration

² If the applicant works in a country where registration is not required to practise in the scope of practice for which they are seeking New Zealand registration, they must have worked in an accredited medical imaging and/or radiation therapy facility

English Language Test

Applicants required to sit an English language test will need to complete the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) to the following standards:

01

The test was in the academic band of IELTS; and

02

A minimum score of 7 in each of the four sub-tests of listening, reading, writing, and speaking; and

03

The results are achieved in one sitting; and

04

IELTS results were achieved within 2-years immediately prior to their registration application. In limited circumstances the test result may be more than 2-years prior to their application date. The applicant must have been in continuous employment as a registered medical imaging or radiation therapy practitioner in one of the recognised countries where English was the primary language of practice. They must have lodged their registration application within 12-months of finishing their last period of employment.

Ongoing Competency Requirements

Should concerns be raised about the communication competencies (including their proficiency in English) of a practitioner registered with the Board, a competency review may be undertaken under sections 34 and 36 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.