

Policy

Locum Practice

Effective 26 August 2025

Policy title	Locum Practice Policy
Reference number	20250106 MRTB Locum Practice Policy
Scope	This policy applies to medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners registered with Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke New Zealand Radiation Technologists Board practising in a locum capacity

Associated documents	File name
Scopes of Practice	2023-May-MRT-prescribed-qualifications-and-SOP-2023-gs2008.pdf
Competence Standards	2024-Sep-Competence-Standards.pdf
Practising Certificate policy	2021-May-Practising-Certificates-Policy.pdf
Registration policy	2021-May-Registration-Policy.pdf
Supervision guidelines	Guidelines for Supervisors October 2021

Revision Schedule			
Version number	Version date	Approved by	Next review
One	April 2017	MRTB	2019
Two	October 2019	MRTB	2022
Three	September 2022	MRTB	2024
Four	August 2025	MRTB	2027

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Legislative context

1. 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 by ensuring practitioners are competent and fit to practise.

Policy statement

2. All Board practitioners working in a locum capacity must be registered with the Board and hold an annual practising certificate. Practitioners working in a locum capacity must not have a requirement for supervision on their practice.

Definitions

Locum

3. A locum practitioner is one who is contracted for a short period of time to work as a medical imaging or radiation therapy practitioner. This may be to replace existing staff or in response to staff vacancies.

Supervision

4. Supervision 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.

Scope

5. This policy applies to all medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners providing services in a locum capacity in Aotearoa New Zealand. This includes practitioners who come from overseas to take up a locum position and then return to their country of residence once the period of locum work has ceased.

Background

6. Medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners may work in a locum capacity for a wide variety of reasons in both public and privately funded facilities.
7. Practitioners working in Aotearoa New Zealand are required to be registered with the Medical Radiation Technologists Board and hold a current practising certificate, regardless of the length of the locum contract or the facility worked in.
8. Practitioners who have a requirement for supervision on their practice **cannot** work in a locum capacity.
9. Medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners working in a locum capacity are required to practise within the Scope of Practice and Competence standards along with other relevant Board statements and information.
10. The Board expects that practitioners working in a locum capacity undertake appropriate orientation to the place of employment.

Supervision requirements by the Board

11. The Board may require a practitioner to be under supervision for a variety of reasons.
Supervision is applied as part of the new graduate recertification programme to support practitioners into the transition from student to health practitioner. Supervision is also often required for practitioners new to practice in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Board may also use supervision where a practitioner is subject to a competence, conduct or fitness requirements.

Responsibilities when working in a locum capacity

Medical imaging/radiation therapy practitioner	Employer
Ensures that they have no supervision requirement on their practice	Ensures the practitioner is registered with a current practicing certificate with no requirement for supervision on their practice.
Practices within all Board requirements for medical imaging or radiation therapy practitioners	Provides the practitioner with appropriate orientation to the place of work