



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

CONSULTATION OUTCOMES:

Examination Fee

IN JULY 2018 THE MEDICAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGISTS BOARD PUBLISHED A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT SEEKING FEEDBACK ON THE PROPOSED FEE FOR A REGISTRATION EXAMINATION.

THIS REPORT SUMMARISES THE KEY THEMES OF THE CONSULTATION FEEDBACK AND THE BOARD'S RESPONSE.

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Introduction

The Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board) extends its thanks and appreciation to the individuals and groups who provided feedback to a recent (July 2018) consultation on a proposed fee for the computer-based examination the Board is introducing as a tool for registration and recertification purposes.

Consultation Response Rate

Respondents came from the following groupings:

Category	Number of respondents
Groups	6
Practitioners	35
TOTAL	41

Consultation Submissions: Key Themes

Consultation respondents were asked to provide their feedback via email or letter. Key themes included:

- The proposed online examination fee was high in comparison to the fee for similar examinations run by registration bodies in New Zealand and overseas.
- The proposed online examination fee could act as a barrier to overseas practitioners seeking registration and in particular for New Zealand practitioners returning to work.

There was support for the introduction of the examination but there was some misunderstanding about the purpose of the examination and the fact that not all overseas practitioners/return to work practitioners would be required to sit the examination.

Consideration of the Consultation Feedback

The Board appreciates the feedback received on the proposed examination fee and would like to take this opportunity to clarify some points.

Who will be required to sit the examination

Not all overseas qualified practitioners seeking registration in New Zealand will be required to sit and pass the examination to be registered. Where the Board has assessed an overseas qualification as being equivalent to a prescribed qualification for registration in a scope of practice the practitioner will not normally be required to sit the examination. However, if a qualification is not considered to be equivalent, a practitioner may be directed to sit the examination to determine if they have the required foundational knowledge to practise medical imaging or radiation therapy in New Zealand.

Directing an applicant to sit the online examination does not preclude the Board from also imposing a period of supervision on the practitioner once they have passed the examination and gained registration. The length of the supervision period will vary depending on the applicant's previous clinical experience.

The online examination will replace the current Registration Examination Assessment (REA). The REA is a practical assessment to assess a candidate's skills and clinical competency. The REA is undertaken after a three month familiarisation period in a hospital based clinical centre in New Zealand. The cost of familiarisation period in New Zealand is in addition to the REA fee and is a further cost for the candidate.

Examination Costs

The Board cannot fund the running cost of the online examination out of annual practising fees. Therefore, the Board is required to set the examination fee on a cost recovery basis. To establish the proposed fee the Board took into account the overall costs of running an examination and the estimated number of candidates who would sit the examination annually. The Board anticipates there will be up to 50 candidates sitting the examination annually. If enrolments are significantly different to this estimated number, the Board may review the examination fee.

The Board notes some submissions compared the proposed fee for the examination to that charged by other regulators for similar examinations. However, this does not take into account the difference in candidate numbers across different regulators.

The proposed online examination fee is lower than the current REA fee which is currently \$NZ 2,620 (incl. GST). The online examination will reduce the costs for overseas applicants as they will not need to fund a three month familiarisation period in New Zealand. Consequently, the overall cost for candidates sitting the online examination will be less than the cost of sitting the REA.

Conclusion

The Medical Radiation Technologists Board advises that it will be introducing a computer-based examination that will be used to assist with registration and recertification decisions, effective from early 2019. The Board will post ongoing updates on the introduction of the examination on the website. The examination fee will be set at \$NZ 2,400 (incl. GST).