



New Zealand
 Medical Radiation
 Technologists Board
Te Poari Ringa Hangarua Iraruke

MRTB
 NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND MEDICAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGISTS BOARD

FROM THE CHAIR

Reflecting on the first six months of 2019, it has been a very busy period with the Board working on the set up of the online examination project for overseas-trained practitioners which has been one of the major projects over the last two years. A big thank you to the content writers and our examination committee who have ensured that the project's momentum was maintained.

There have been changes in the MRTB membership with the Chair, Prue Lamerton (NMT) and lay member, Sue McKenzie resigning at the end of their nine year term with the Board. Their commitment and contributions to the Board have been exemplary. The Board would like to welcome Pru Burns (NMT) and Susan Yorke, our new lay member. The Board looks forward to working with them.

Our second audit of practitioners, under the new guidelines, will occur in August this year. The first audit was very successful with more than 99% of practitioners passing.

As we move into the winter period, most of the departments and their staff will be put under additional pressure from those winter ailments. Take care of yourselves and show empathy to those trying to manage through what can be a stressful season.

Take care,

Ngā mihi

Beryl Kelly

MRTB Chair

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Once you are registered, you have a legal requirement to notify the Board of any changes to your residential, postal or work address within one month of the change. You can do this by logging into "My Profile" on the website.

BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITY

The primary responsibility of the Board is to protect the health and safety of the New Zealand public by ensuring practitioners registered with the Board are competent and fit to practice.

2019 AUDIT REQUIREMENTS:

A reminder for the practitioners who have been called for audit, documents are required to be submitted by 5 August 2019.

The requirements are:

- A signed declaration form. If you hold an APC in more than one scope of practice you need to complete the declaration for each scope of practice.
- A copy of your logbook listing the CPD activities you have completed in the 24 month period (two-years) up to 31 March 2019 .
- Evidence of six (6) CPD activities completed in the 24 month period (two-years) period up to 31 March 2019 (including at least two substantive activity).
- Four (4) reflective statements for CPD activities completed in the 24 month period (two-years) period up to 31 March 2019 (two of the reflective statements must be for a substantive activity).
- A summary of your employment history, including a brief description of your key responsibilities in your current role and previous roles you held in the three-year period up to 31 March 2019.

ADMENDMENTS TO THE HPCA ACT 2003

The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Amendment Act received Royal Assent on 12 April 2019. You can access the updated version of the Act from the New Zealand Legislation website.

Key changes include:

Naming Policy – the Board is required to develop and publish a policy on naming health practitioners who have been subject to disciplinary action.

Periodic Reviews – The Board will be working with the Ministry of Health to develop a performance review framework which will measure the Board’s performance against key indicators to measure how well the Board is carrying out its key functions. Once the framework is agreed the Board has until April 2022 to complete their first review. Thereafter reviews will be conducted every five years. The Board will publish the outcome of the reviews and report annually on issues raised in the review and how they are responding to these.

Data Collection –The Board is now required to collect additional data about health practitioners (including name, date of birth, gender, ethnicity, employer, place of employment and hours of work, their scope of practice and speciality) and share this with the Ministry of Health to inform workforce development and planning. The Board has already made changes to the APC renewal process for 2019/2020 so the data required by the MOH has begun to be collected.

Tribunal Running Costs –The Board will be required to contribute to the running costs of the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (the Tribunal). The Board has made provision for this in the 2019/2020 budget.

Cultural Competence Provisions – The Board is required to have cultural competence provisions with specific mention of cultural competencies that will enable effective and respectful interaction with Māori. The Board’s policy and guidelines on cultural competence which was issued in 2018, addresses the new requirements.

Convictions – The Board now has the discretion to refer health practitioners convicted of some offences (such as drink driving) for treatment or counselling instead of referring them to a professional conduct committee.

Interdisciplinary collaboration and cooperation – All responsible authorities are required to promote and facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration and cooperation in the delivery of health services. The Board will need to review if its competency standards need updating to include reference to interprofessional practice.

REVISION OF THE REGISTER

The Board is revising its register to ensure its accuracy and currency. This will involve removing the names of any practitioners who are no longer in practice. The Board is trying to contact registered practitioners for whom it does not hold current details and a list of those names are published on the website.

If your name is on the list, or if you know someone who is named on the list, please make contact with the Registrar as soon as possible and by no later than 22 July 2019 at mrt@medsci.co.nz.

The Board reminds all registered practitioners of their legal obligation to promptly inform the Registrar of any changes in their contact details (s 140 Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003).

ONLINE EXAMINATION UPDATE

The Board has made significant progress with the implementation of an online examination.

Registrations for the first exams will open for MIT, RT and NMT scopes of practice in late 2019.

The examination is of a multi-choice design with a total of 150 questions to be sat in one 3 hour sitting. Questions will be either a single topic or clinical scenario, testing for clinical reasoning and are set against entry-level competencies for the relevant scopes of practice.

Please note: New Zealand graduates are NOT required to undertake the examination. This examination is only for the purpose of registration for overseas-trained practitioners whose qualification have been assessed as non-equivalent. Practitioners who fall under the TTRMA pathway are exempt from sitting the online examination.

Further communiques regarding the online examination will be released in the next couple of months.