

Consultation

September 2022

The Medical Radiation Technologists Board is proposing to make a change to the period within which practitioners are expected to manage their CPD from an auditing perspective, moving from the current 3-year (triennium) cycle to a 2-year (biennium) one. The CPD year would also move from being aligned with an APC year (April - March) to a calendar year (January – December). Thirdly, audits would be conducted once every 2-years.

This document sets out the reasons behind the proposal and how a 2-year CPD cycle would work.



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

Current CPD Cycle and Proposed CPD Cycle

- CPD is managed within a 3-year period known as a triennium
- Each year of the cycle is aligned to an annual practising certificate (APC) year from April – March
- Each triennium is fixed
- Audits of CPD are conducted by the Board every year
- The CPD information practitioners must provide in terms of the triennium varies for each year within a single cycle - they may have to provide 1-year, or 2-years, or 3-years of CPD information

Current

**Continuing
Professional
Development**

Proposed

- CPD would be managed within a 2-year period known as a biennium
- Each year of the cycle would be aligned to a calendar year from January – December
- Each biennium is fixed
- Audits of CPD would be conducted by the Board every 2-years, that is, in the year following the end of a biennium
- The CPD information practitioners would provide in terms of the biennium would be the same – that is the CPD would relate to the full 2-years of each cycle

How the Proposed CPD Cycle Would Work

| Year Audit Carried Out by Board | Period of CPD to be Audited Per Calendar Year |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 2023 – Transition Year | 2022 |
| 2025 | 2023 - 2024 |
| 2027 | 2025 - 2026 |
| 2029 | 2027 - 2028 |

- The audit carried out in 2023 would be a transition year, with practitioners called for audit in that year having to provide one-year's worth of information relating to CPD they undertook between January to December 2022.
- In the 2023 audit practitioners would need to demonstrate they engaged in at least 10 hours of CPD in 2022 (between January to December).
- The Board would not carry out a CPD audit in 2024. Practitioners must continue to engage in CPD, and in 2022 meet the minimum of 10 hours of CPD as is currently required in the triennium framework.
- From 2023 practitioners would need to engage in at least 40 hours of CPD in each biennium. Additionally they must be able to demonstrate they have engaged in at least 15 hours of CPD in any one-year of the biennium.
- Moving to a 2-yearly audit programme would see the Board increasing the percentage of practitioners called for audit, from the current 20% threshold to a 40% sample of all practitioners holding a current APC.

Why is the Board proposing to change the CPD cycle?

The current triennium framework has been in place now for five-years and over this time it has become evident that having a 3-year CPD cycle linked to an annual audit programme is confusing and unnecessarily complex for some practitioners.

When it comes to auditing practitioners in respect of their compliance with the CPD standards, the amount of CPD they are required to submit differs according to the particular year of a triennium they are selected for audit. So, someone being audited in the first year of a triennium must provide one-year of CPD information, whereas someone selected for audit in the last year of a triennium must provide three-years of CPD information.

Moving to a 2-year cycle of CPD with the audit programme being directly linked to each 2-year period provides a level-playing field for all practitioners in terms of the amount of CPD information they would need to provide.

Administration of the audit process for the current triennium framework is very involved with increased potential for misinterpretations.

Every year Board staff field many calls from practitioners seeking more clarity around the CPD audit process and it is not uncommon to have several conversations with practitioners to assist them with meeting the CPD audit information requirements. In reviewing the current structure of the CPD framework and audit programme, the Board is aiming to simplify the process for both practitioners and staff alike. We believe that moving to the proposed 2-year CPD cycle and having a synchronised audit programme will achieve this. A central concern in our deliberations has been that whatever is put in place, the process must support the underpinning standard for practitioners to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to lifelong learning to support competent and safe practice thereby protecting the health and safety of the public.

Your Feedback is Important

An online questionnaire has been set up for practitioners and stakeholder groups to tell the Board your thoughts about the proposed change to the CPD cycle for medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners.

You have until **30 September 2022** to complete the questionnaire. The Board will then consider all feedback received at its meeting scheduled for late October, with a target date of November/December 2022 for issuing a final decision on the CPD cycle to be adopted going forward.

We thank you in advance in anticipation of you taking the time to complete the questionnaire. Your feedback is important to help the Board come to an informed consensus on this matter.