

Consultation

Modification of Competence Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Practitioners in Aotearoa New Zealand

as at July 2024

We invite you to provide feedback on proposed changes to the competence standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Practitioners in Aotearoa New Zealand by completing the online consultation form.

Background

Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke | The Medical Radiation Technologist's Board (the Board) is responsible for ensuring Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy practitioners are competent to practise. Under section 118(1) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) the Board sets the standards of competence for practitioners in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The standards are used by education and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) providers, practitioners, the public and the Board to ensure services are provided in a safe and competent way.

A review of the competence standards was last conducted, in consultation with the profession, in 2022/2023 - results being published in May 2023. Since then, the practice of imaging and radiation in Aotearoa New Zealand has continued to evolve. The Board has received feedback about several additions and changes that could be made to ensure the standards remain current for practice. A consultation is therefore being conducted that looks at the changes that are being proposed. A more extensive review of the competence standards is planned over the next few years.

Purpose

The purpose of this consultation is to get your feedback on proposed changes and additions to the competence standards. The Board will consider all feedback received before making any changes to the standards.

A summary of the proposed changes is listed below. The changes generally relate to:

- Rewording for clarity
- Rewording for plain language throughout the standards (Note these are not individually identified where they do not change the meaning of the text)
- Rewording or additions to ensuring alignment and consistency between modalities and scopes
- Addition of references
- Inclusion of informed consent
- Ensuring Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles are aligned with those used by Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health

A copy of the standards including the proposed changes is available [here](#). The current standards can be viewed [here](#).

Providing feedback

We invite you to provide feedback to the proposed changes to the competence standards by completing the online consultation form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QXFS7YF>. If you need help with this please contact us by emailing mrtconsultations@medsci.co.nz or phoning 04 801 6250. The consultation will begin on 22 July and end at 5pm on 19 August 2024.

[Online consultation response form](#)

Summary of changes

The overall structure of the standards remains unchanged - a summary of proposed changes is listed below.

Change ref	Current	Proposed	Type of change and reason for proposed change
<i>Domains overview section</i>			
1	3.1 Review and manage patient's medical imaging requirements	3.1 Review and manage a patient's medical imaging requirements	EDIT Alignment of language for each scope of practice
2	4.4 Access, evaluate, and provide MRI information	4.4 Application and evaluation of magnetic resonance imaging clinical practice	EDIT Alignment of language for each scope of practice
3	7.4 Access, evaluate, and provide sonography imaging information	7.4 Application and evaluation of sonography clinical practice	EDIT Alignment of language for each scope of practice
<i>Domain 1: Professionalism</i>			
4	NEW	1.1.5 Demonstrates a sound knowledge of informed consent principles and processes and ensures that patients have information from which to make informed decisions	ADDITION Inclusion of informed consent in competence standards

5	Page 17 This includes developing an understanding of the contemporary application of Te Tiriti o Waitangi through the principles of partnership, participation and protection. Māori in pre-European Aotearoa New Zealand had a range of world views and practices that continue to have relevance to their current health status	Page 18 This includes developing a contemporary understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi through application of the principles of Tino Rangatiratanga (self-determination) Pātuitanga (partnership), Mana Taurite (equity), Whakamarumarutia (active protection) and Kōwhiringa (options)	EDIT Updated to include treaty principles as defined by Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health
<i>Domain 2: Communication and collaboration</i>			
6	NEW	Page 22 - Using plain language (avoiding the use of colloquialisms, slang, acronyms – unless spelt out in the first instance)	ADDITION
<i>Domain 3: Medical Imaging practice</i>			
7	3.3.2 Identify and manage safety requirements	3.3.2 Identify and manage safety requirements related to the use of ionizing radiation in the medical imaging procedure	EDIT Expanded for clarification
8	NEW	3.3.5 Use infection control measures to protect the safety of the patient, self and others in the work environment	ADDITION Inclusion of infection control
9	NEW	3.4.6 Apply knowledge of pathophysiology, anatomy and radiobiological principles	ADDITION
<i>Domain 4: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) practice</i>			
10	Page 28 They may use their discretion, in accordance with clinical and workplace <i>guidelines</i> , to modify the procedure to include relevant regions and/or	Page 29 They may use their discretion, in accordance with clinical and workplace <i>policies</i> , to modify the procedure to include relevant regions and/or	EDIT Text edited for clarification

	sequences not suggested in the referral or protocol	sequences not suggested in the referral or protocol	
11	NEW	4.2.7 Apply knowledge of MR physical principles and clinical applications	ADDITION
12	4.3.5 Perform standard MRI procedures	Removed	REMOVAL
13	NEW	4.3.5 Use infection control measures to protect the safety of the patient, self, and others in the work environment	ADDITION Inclusion of infection control
14	NEW	4.4.7 Apply knowledge of pathophysiology, anatomy and tissue characteristics	ADDITION
<i>Domain 5: Nuclear Medicine practice</i>			
15	Page 32 Nuclear medicine practitioners operate gamma camera (SPECT/CT)	Page 34 Nuclear medicine practitioners operate gamma camera (Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography) (SPECT/CT)	EDIT Text edited for clarification
16	Page 32 * Enabling condition to practice diagnostic CT 1 Maintenance of currently held MIT) Scope of Practice (see Page 27) 2 Completion of a Board approved training program in CT 3 Evidence of CT competency obtained elsewhere, satisfactory to and approved by the Board	Page 34 For a Nuclear Medicine Technologist (NMT) to operate a CT scanner for diagnostic CT scans they need to: 1 Hold a practising certificate in the Medical Imaging Technologist scope of practice OR 2 Demonstrate completion of a Board approved education programme in CT OR 3 Provide evidence of CT competency obtained elsewhere, is deemed	EDIT Text edited for clarification

		satisfactory and approved by the Board	
17	NEW	5.3.4 Use infection control measures to protect the safety of the patient, self, and others in the work environment	ADDITION Inclusion of infection control
18	Page 35 They must be able to recognise the need for further sources of input as required, and to maintain patient records in accordance with organisational <i>protocols</i> to effectively convey information when significant findings are identified	Page 37 They must be able to recognise the need for further sources of input as required, and to maintain patient records in accordance with organisational <i>policies and procedures</i> to effectively convey information when significant findings are identified	EDIT Replacement of protocols with policies and procedures
19	Page 36 These must be able to be performed in accordance with New Zealand legislation and organisational processes.	Page 38 These must be able to be performed in accordance with New Zealand legislation, specifically: 1 Code of Practice for Nuclear Medicine (ORS C2 2019) 2 The Code of Practice for the Security of Radioactive Material (ORS C5 2020) 3 Code of Practice for the safe transport of radioactive materials (ORS C6 2019) 4 The Radiation Safety Act 2016	ADDITION Inclusion of relevant legislative references
<i>Domain 6: Radiation Therapy practice</i>			
20	NEW	6.3.5 Use infection control measures to protect the safety of the patient, self, and others in the work environment.	ADDITION Inclusion of infection control.

Domain 7: Sonography practice- inclusion of general, cardiac and vascular sonography

21	7.4.7	7.4.7 Apply knowledge of anatomy to identify and support sonographic information and interpretation	ADDITION
22	Page 44 information <i>pertaining</i> to the patient. Practitioners must ensure still images/cine loops accurately represent any pathology present. In accordance with their duty of care responsibilities and <i>statutory requirements</i> , they need to be able to identify and respond to a patient's deteriorating condition or <i>inability</i> to undergo a sonographic procedure.	Page 46 ...information <i>relating</i> to the patient. Practitioners must ensure still images/cine loops accurately represent any pathology present. In accordance with their duty of care responsibilities and <i>procedure protocols</i> , they need to be able to identify and respond to a patient's deteriorating condition or <i>ability</i> to undergo a sonographic procedure.	EDIT Text edited for clarification