



New Zealand
Medical Radiation
Technologists Board
Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke

Interim statement

Artificial intelligence for medical imaging and radiation therapy

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Interim statement

1. Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke | The Medical Radiation Technologists Board (MRTB/the Board) is responsible for protecting the health and safety of New Zealanders by ensuring practitioners registered in the profession of medical imaging and radiation therapy are competent and fit to practise.
2. The availability and use of artificial intelligence (AI) is increasing in all parts of life, including in medical imaging and radiation therapy. AI offers many opportunities for creating efficiency and new ways of working, but comes with risks which must be understood and managed by health practitioners using AI tools.
3. The purpose of this statement is to provide interim guidance to practitioners on the safe, secure, and responsible use of AI tools within medical imaging and radiation therapy. Due to the evolving nature of AI technology and its risks and impacts, this is an interim statement while the Board considers the use of AI in a wider context. This includes potential impacts on competence, education, and ethical standards.
4. **Artificial intelligence** includes the creation and use of machines, programmes, and other tools to complete tasks in a more efficient and effective way than humans. AI systems use **machine learning** to collect and understand information to make decisions or predictions about certain topics or activities. More specialised programmes use **deep learning** to process complex data and make decisions based on learned information.¹
5. Practitioners work in a dynamic environment that requires the adaptation of new technologies and processes to ensure the most effective healthcare is provided to the public. AI is an important aspect of this, and practitioners are encouraged to develop their education and experience in its use.
6. Practitioners remain accountable for their practise when using AI tools. Practitioners using AI tools are expected to operate within the current Scope of Practice, Competence Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Practice and Code of Ethical Conduct.
7. When considering AI tools practitioners should use their professional judgement when assessing risks. These may include:
 - 7.1. How public and practitioner safety is protected.
 - 7.2. How data protection is achieved, including protection of patient personal information.
 - 7.3. Potential for bias and/or reinforcement of existing unequal health outcomes.
 - 7.4. The level of human oversight required, especially where decision making is involved.

¹ **Bolded** definitions provided by the [NZ Government Interim Generative AI guidance for the public service](#).

- 7.5. Governance, including how Māori data governance may apply.
 - 7.6. Employment policies and procedures on the use of AI.
 - 7.7. Equipment procurement and appropriate training.
 - 7.8. Implications of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
 - 7.9. Implications for informed consent.
8. The Board encourages practitioners to develop their knowledge and understanding of responsible practice in AI and its emerging role in medical imaging and radiation therapy.

Resources

Resources are available to aid practitioners when considering the use of AI:

- [Office of the Privacy Commissioner- Artificial intelligence and the information privacy principles](#)
- [Algorithm charter for Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
- [Medical Radiation Practice Board Australia- Statement on Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists- Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [Digital government- Interim Generative AI guidance for the public service](#)
- [AI Forum New Zealand](#)
- [Te Mana Raraunga Māori Data Sovereignty Network](#)