

## Communiqué

---

11 February 2014

### Update from the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia

#### New professional standards for practitioners

The Board will be publishing a new policy and revised codes and guidelines in February. They are the:

- revised *Advertising guidelines*
- a *Social media policy*
- revised *Mandatory reporting guidelines*, and
- revised *Code of conduct*.

These documents will come in to effect in March 2014, and all registered health practitioners will need to meet these new standards. Additional information will also be published in February, explaining the similarities and differences between the current and new standards.

The Board consulted widely last year on the draft versions of these documents (and continues to consult on other important documents, see the [Consultations](#) page on the Board website).

More information that will help registered practitioners to understand their obligations in relation to the Board's expectations will be published on the Board's website in coming weeks.

#### New policy on CPD and recency of practice for practice in ultrasound

The Board has published its [policy](#) in relation to those registered practitioners whose primary area of practice is ultrasound.

The Board recognises that ultrasound examinations and procedures are an area of practice for medical radiation practitioners as well as a number of other registered health professions, and some unregulated practitioners.

Learning and development activities relating to ultrasound may contribute towards meeting the Board's [Continuing Professional Development \(CPD\) registration standard](#). Additionally, individuals who are eligible for registration or apply to renew their registration, and whose primary practice is in the area of ultrasound, may meet the requirements of the [Recency of practice registration standard](#).

The Board's [Code of Conduct](#) applies all registered medical radiation practitioners. Practitioners have a duty to make the care of patients or clients their first concern and to practise safely and effectively. Maintaining a high level of professional competence and conduct is essential for good care. It's important that registered medical radiation practitioners ensure that they have the appropriate qualifications, contemporary skills and experience to provide safe and effective care.

#### Information for practitioners, education providers and employers about student registration

In January the Board provided information to practitioners, education providers and employers about students undertaking clinical training.

All students enrolled in an **approved program of study** or who are **undertaking a period of clinical training** in medical radiation practice must be registered as a student with the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia. Student details are kept on a student register which is different and separate from the [national register of practitioners](#).

All [approved programs of study](#) for medical radiation practice include clinical education or clinical training. However, the provision of clinical training is not confined to approved programs of study.

The National Law<sup>1</sup> does not provide a definition for the term 'clinical training'. Under the obligations imposed by section 91 of the National Law it has been taken to mean any form of clinical experience (also known as clinical placements, rotations etc.) in a health profession that does not form part of an approved program of study AND where the person does not hold registration in the health profession.

Clinical training and the requirement for a student to be registered may occur, for example:

- a. when an overseas student arranges a clinical placement as part of the course requirements set out by the education provider in their home country
- b. when an education provider is running a course that is accredited by the Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee but has not yet been approved by the National Board, or
- c. when an education provider is running a course that has not yet been accredited by the accreditation committee **or** approved by the National Board.

For more information see the *Student Registration* page on the Board's website [www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/Registration/Student-Registration.aspx](http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/Registration/Student-Registration.aspx)

### Next meeting of the Board

The Board's next meeting will be in Melbourne on 25 February 2014.

Neil Hicks  
Chair  
**Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia**

#### *For more information:*

- For all media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200
- Visit [www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/](http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/)
- Practitioners with registration enquiries can call 1300 419 495 (from within Australia), or +61 3 8708 9001 (from overseas)

---

<sup>1</sup> The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)