

Via Email 5/9/2011

Dear Medical Radiation Practice board of Australia

I wish to contribute to feedback on the proposed CPD requirements for national registration.

1.1 The advantages and disadvantages to the proposed requirements for a practitioner to undertake a specified amount of CPD hours versus a requirement for CPD points.

Hours has the advantages as it can be an objective measurement tool verses, point accrual which becomes subjective to someone's opinion to weighting the task undertaken. An example of this is the recent member feed back to the Australian Institute of Radiography CPD changes. Many members who I spoke too felt the changes favored academics and were difficult to complete for rural/remote radiographers. Many rural and remote health staff can not access the same CPD opportunities as our metropolitan colleagues.

1.2 The advantages and disadvantages to the proposed CPD hours

ADVANTAGES

1. objective measurement
2. same amount of hours accumulated by everyone regardless of the task
3. Allows rural radiographer to achieve CPD through task such as QA, Journal reading/Clubs etc without need to attend metropolitan or large regional area for conferences.

Disadvantages

1. Some CPD activities though may take less time may be more educational than those that take much longer periods of time to complete. Therefore a person undertaking a 1 hour activity may gain more CPD benefit than one undertaking a 4 hr CPD task

1.3 Whether or not a specified proportion of an individuals CPD should be dedicated to their current scope of practice.

1. Encouragement should be given for all health professionals to look beyond there scope of interest but not made compulsory
2. At Bega Hospital in our Journal club, articles which come from fields outside medical imaging have always been warmly received and helped enlighten us to other fields of medicine
3. However a radiographer undertaking 20 hours a year of herbal medicine may not be in his/her best interest as there sole CPD activities and some mandatory minimum amount of CPD dedicated to radiography should be considered

1.4 Situations where the Board should consider exempting a practitioner from the requirements of the registration standard.

- Semi-Retired part time working practitioners who have been previously registered on the condition they work for no more than 3-4 years.
- This would allow departments to utilise knowledge from more senior radiographers approaching retirement without the fear of losing those staff members who are put off by Registration requirements
- An example would be a senior radiographer who retires with 35 years experience in diagnostic radiography. He still works by covering sick leave and Annual leave an average of 6- 8 weeks a year. This health professional could provide invaluable cover for workforce issues without the need of full or any CPD for a limited number of years.

The type of CPD activities practitioners should be undertaking

- Journal clubs
- Journal reading
- Conference attendance
- University research
- University course i.e. Master degree, Diploma, PHD
- Single University subjects
- Journal or textbook publishing
- Quality assurance/ Continuous quality improvement task within work
- Student supervision
- NPDP position supervision
- Hospital / Department Mandatory education
- Oversea aid work in field of Medical Radiation Science
- Paper presentation at professional conference
- Presentation at work for staff
- Critical incident analysis
- Work related to a relevant professional body such as the Australian institute of Radiography

I thank the board for the opportunity for feedback...
I'm not concerned if you chose to publish my comments or not.

G. Bryant