



## Australian and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine Limited

ABN: 35 133 630 029

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### RE: Draft Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Standard

On behalf of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine (ANZSNM) we wish to provide comment and feedback on the Draft Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Standard.

Regards

Liz Bailey  
President  
ANZSNM

Regards

Nicholas Farnham  
Chair  
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Ms Sharon Mosley (ACT)  
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**Submission on behalf of the Australian  
and New Zealand Society of Nuclear  
Medicine  
(ANZSNM)**

**Draft medical radiation practice accreditation  
standards of the Accreditation Committee of  
the Medical Radiation Practice Board of  
Australia (MRPBA)**



## **Introduction:**

The ANZSNM is the national professional organization representing professionals from all disciplines involved in the field of Nuclear Medicine. It is the current professional body for Nuclear Medicine Technologists/Scientists in Australia, with approximately 80% of working practitioners being members, and these form the ANZSNMT.

The ANZSNM, prior to the implementation of national registration had an Accreditation Board that was responsible for approving university courses of study for nuclear medicine technologists. In addition to this role, they accredited Nuclear Medicine departments for training of professional development year (PDY) technologists and ran a very successful PDY program, which has provided a set of minimum standards to qualify as a fully accredited technologist. The ANZSNM continue to run the PDY program as contracted by the MRPB. Our knowledge and experience in these key Accreditation areas provides us with a unique position to critically comment on the document. With this in mind, the ANZSNM would be happy to work with the MRPBA to continue to develop medical radiation practice accreditation standards and processes that suit future developments and meet the requirements of the National Board.

### **1. These standards are intended to be outcomes focussed do you think that they achieve this?**

We think that this purpose of the document is achieved. The document looks at the final goal of a continuing course that provides graduates with the minimum requirements outlined in the Professional capabilities for Medical Radiation Practice Document.

### **2. Are the criteria clear in the draft standards clear.**

Overall the Criteria are clear.

However, we feel that Standard 2.1 Education Provider Standards and Standard 3.4 Teaching and learning are of High Quality cover effectively the same information. We would also like clarification on the ways the universities can prove that external stakeholders provide consistency of academic and clinical education.

### **3. The set of standards will be used to assess whether a program of study and education provider provides students who complete that program with knowledge, skills and professional attributes to practice the profession.**

#### **3.1. Is the set of standards adequate for this purpose?**

There is a lot of weight placed on the Professional capabilities for Medical Radiation Practice Document. As this document has not been finalised, it does pose several questions on how we can say that the standards are adequate. We need to know the final make up of that document to see if the accreditation standards need to be more specific.

#### **3.2. Are the relevant issues covered in the draft standards?**

If there are the relevant changes to the Professional capabilities for Medical Radiation Practice Document, the relevant issues are covered.

#### **3.3. Does any content need to be changed, deleted or added?**

Standard 1.6 – the requirement for the University to properly inform the students of the MRPBA requirements, needs to be done at a higher standard. Generally the students learn more about this from clinical placements.

Standard 1.8 -Criteria to assess clinical sites needs to be outlined. Currently the ANZSNM uses Department Accreditation as a minimum. Also there has not been a mention of ratio of students to full registered Medical Radiations Practitioners.

Standard 3- the website needs to be corrected to [www.aqf.edu.au](http://www.aqf.edu.au).

Standard 5.1.2,- “fitness to practice” needs a precise definition.

In Standard 5.5, Practice in medical radiation sciences, specific mention is required on Digital Imaging and working in a digital environment, specifically RIS and PACS.

In Standard 5.7 “Medical radiation practice in nuclear medicine technology”- specific mention of education on CT, MRI and Ultrasound is required. With current and emerging technology Nuclear Medicine Technologists will need mandatory education at undergraduate level in these areas. This education needs to be at the same minimum level as Diagnostic Radiography.

Standard 5.7.1 needs to include both SPECT/CT and SPECT imaging.

Standard 5.7.5 needs to be changed to read “including but not limited to procedures listed in the current MBS”.

More emphasis need to be placed on image processing, which can be adapted from standard 5.6.7 inserting SPECT in place of CT.

The standards contained in 5.7 seem to really suggest a watered down version of what a Nuclear Medicine Technology Student needs to be taught to reach acceptable graduate entry. We hope that the guidance document will be more thorough and highlight the unique skill sets required to be a Nuclear Medicine Technologist.

Please read what we feel is necessary to add to the guidance document, and we would be happy to provide input in this document if requested.

**4. What specific guidance relevant to the standard and criteria in Field 5 should be included in the guidance document to accompany the standards, particularly in relation to any content and or skills you expect an education provider should include in their curriculum?**

Section topics that need to be expanded, which should be the minimum Information for Guidance Document for Nuclear Medicine Syllabus:

- Medical Sciences
  - Anatomy
  - Physiology
- Radiopharmacy
  - Standard Warm and Hot Laboratory Procedures
  - Current blood labelling
  - Current Haematology Procedures (only a handful of departments in Australia would use Cr51 to perform GFR)
- Nuclear Medicine Therapy
  - Standard Therapies I-131 Low and High Dose, I-131 MIBG, In111 Octreotide, Y90 Sirspheres, Lu177 Octreotate.
- Equipment
  - Gamma Camera
  - SPECT/CT
  - PET/CT
  - PET/MRI
  - Laboratory Equipment

- Patient Scanning
  - Planar
  - SPECT
  - SPECT/CT
  - PET/CT
- Image Processing
  - 2D/3D/4D Reconstruction, working with digital images.
- Associated Imaging Modalities
  - CT at a level of Diagnostic Radiography
  - MRI at a level of Diagnostic Radiography
  - U/S at a level of Diagnostic Radiography
- Digital Environment
  - Understanding Digital Imaging fundamentals
  - Working with Digital Images
  - Working with Radiology Information Systems
  - Working with Picture Archive Communication Systems
- Medico legal requirements and issues/situations.

## **5. Do you have any other comments on the draft standards.**

This submission has been made difficult by the supply of an interim document in the Professional capabilities for Medical Radiation Practice Document. It would be appreciated to be able to comment further on this document after that has been finalised.