



August 2020 Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee meeting

The Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee (the Committee) undertakes accreditation functions for medical radiation practice in the national scheme regulating health practitioners.

The communique provides information about the Committee's recent activities. The Committee publishes this communiqué on the Committee's [accreditation webpages](#). Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

Committee's response to COVID-19

The Committee and Ahpra continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential impacts on accredited and approved programs. The Committee has released statements outlining its plans for its accreditation activities for the remainder of 2020, on the 'News and updates' accreditation webpage. The Committee is currently undertaking special COVID-19 monitoring of all its accredited and approved programs.

Accreditation Committee meeting

The 53rd meeting of the Committee was held on 20 August 2020 via videoconference. The Committee has one remaining meeting scheduled in 2020.

Some activities that were discussed at the Committee's August 2020 meeting are outlined more thoroughly below.

Accreditation standards for medical radiation practice – transition from the 2013 to 2019 accreditation standards

The Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (the Board) confirmed approval of the [2019 Medical radiation practice accreditation standards](#) (2019 accreditation standards) in March 2019 with an effective date of 1 March 2020, the same effective date as the revised [professional capabilities for medical radiation practice](#).

The Committee is responsible for implementing the approved 2019 accreditation standards through monitoring and assessment of currently accredited programs and the education providers that offer those programs.

In May 2020, the Committee [revised its accreditation activities](#) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Education providers were advised about the revised accreditation activities through correspondence sent in June 2020.

As a result of continued impacts on education providers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee has evaluated the requirements for education providers to transition to accreditation and monitoring against the 2019 accreditation standards. In August 2020, the Committee agreed to its revised implementation schedule for education providers to transition to the 2019 accreditation standards. The Program Accreditation Team, on behalf of the Committee, will communicate transition requirements to each education provider later this year.

2019 accreditation standards for medical radiation practice - cultural safety and the safe and effective use of medicines

At its August 2020 meeting, the Committee considered two recent developments relevant to accreditation for medical radiation practice:

- a) the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme's (the National Scheme) definition of cultural safety, which was confirmed and released in February 2020, through the [National Scheme's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Cultural Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#), and

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- b) the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (the Forum)'s [Framework for accreditation requirements for the safe and effective use of medicines](#) which is due to be published later in 2020.

The Committee will continue to discuss these topics, and consider how these important areas might be reflected in the 2019 accreditation standards for medical radiation practice in line with the recently published revised [procedures for the development of accreditation standards](#).

Monitoring approved programs of study

Under section 50 of the National Law, the Committee has a statutory responsibility to monitor approved programs of study and the education providers offering them, to ensure the Committee continues to be satisfied the program and provider meet the approved accreditation standards.

As forecast in its [11 May 2020 statement](#), the Committee is now carrying out special COVID-19 monitoring of all accredited and approved medical radiation practice programs of study.

In August 2020, the Committee agreed on its framework to collect information from education providers about changes impacting the graduating cohort for late 2020 to mid-2021, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Program Accreditation Team has distributed the COVID-19 reporting template to education providers for completion by early September 2020. The Committee will consider all education provider COVID-19 reports in October and November 2020.

Stakeholder engagement

The Program Accreditation Team, on behalf of the Committee, continues to engage with education providers via the Committee's [accreditation webpages](#); through correspondence via email and phone contact, and communiques.

At the August meeting, the Committee met with representatives of the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT) regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on medical radiation practice programs of study and work integrated learning placements. ASMIRT and the Committee will continue to engage on issues important to medical radiation practice education and accreditation.

The Committee plans to meet with the Australian and New Zealand Society for Nuclear Medicine (ANZSNM) at the Committee's October 2020 meeting, to discuss important topics, including the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on nuclear medicine programs of study, and work integrated learning placements for nuclear medicine students.

Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs (revised accreditation process)

The Committee has recently concluded a project to review its accreditation process. The revised accreditation process, the [Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs](#) (guidelines) were recently published, and were developed in conjunction with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, Chinese Medicine, Paramedicine and Podiatry Accreditation Committees.

Contact information

For any queries related to medical radiation practice accreditation, please contact the Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee via the Program Accreditation Team at program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au.

For more information on medical radiation practice accreditation please visit the Committee's [accreditation webpages](#).

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