

Communiqué

April 2020

March 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 Committee publishes this communiqué on the Board's [accreditation webpage](#). Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

Committee's response to COVID-19

The Committee and Ahpra are closely monitoring the COVID-19 emergency and its potential impacts on accredited and approved programs. The Committee has released a statement on the '[News and updates](#)' accreditation webpage of the Board's website. This will be updated if the Committee's approach to the situation needs to change.

Subsequent to the Committee's March 2020 meeting, the COVID-19 pandemic escalated. In light of this, the Committee is currently reviewing its workplan and assessment and monitoring activities for the remainder of 2020. It will be able to communicate more with respect to these decisions in due course.

Accreditation Committee meetings

The 50th meeting of the Committee was held on 6 March 2020 in Melbourne. The Committee has scheduled three further meetings in 2020.

At its March 2020 meeting the Committee agreed to meet three times in 2021.

2020 Accreditation Committee activities

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

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

The Committee is responsible for developing, reviewing and applying the accreditation standards against which education providers' implementation of their medical radiation practice programs of study are assessed when applying for accreditation under the National Law. The Board is responsible for approving those accreditation standards.

The revised 2019 accreditation standards were published on the Board's [accreditation webpage](#) in April 2019. These took effect on 1 March 2020.

Most education providers currently accredited against the 2013 accreditation standards will be required to transition to accreditation against the 2019 accreditation standards. The Committee is currently reviewing its planned approach to implementation of the 2019 accreditation standards, including timeframes for full assessments of accredited programs against the 2019 accreditation standards.

Monitoring approved programs of study

The Committee will continue to monitor accredited medical radiation practice programs of study throughout 2020, however it is currently reviewing its approach to all monitoring activities, including routine annual monitoring, in 2020. It will be able to communicate to education providers its ongoing plans for monitoring in 2020, in the coming weeks.

Development of accreditation processes for medical radiation practice

In October 2019 a project commenced to develop a common accreditation process across the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, Chinese Medicine, Medical Radiation Practice, Podiatry and Paramedicine professions (the five professions). The common process document entitled *Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs* (draft guidelines) for the five professions underwent a targeted consultation between December 2019 and February 2020.

The draft guidelines will increase consistency of processes across the five professions and is due for publication in mid-2020.

Profession-specific guidance (such as assessment team composition and assessment site visit requirements) will be developed and published as required.

Stakeholder engagement

In December 2019, the Program Accreditation Team, on behalf of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, Chinese Medicine, Medical Radiation Practice, Paramedicine and Podiatry Accreditation Committees (the five Committees), commenced a project to develop a common accreditation stakeholder engagement framework (the framework). The framework aims to support the five Committees to plan and engage strategically with stakeholders at key points during accreditation projects.

The Chairs of the five Accreditation Committees considered a first draft of the framework at their meeting in February 2020. The project will continue throughout 2020.

The Committee (via the Program Accreditation Team) will continue to engage closely with education providers and key stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

New arrangements for reporting to the Board and Ahpra

In November 2019, Ahpra's Agency Management Committee (AManC) finalised the initial reporting model for the current accreditation agreements and terms of reference, due dates for reports during the period of the current agreements and terms of reference, and initial report templates. The Committee submitted its first report against the new requirements. The reporting obligations are outlined in Attachment F (Reporting and Documentation) and Attachment G (Key Performance Indicators) of the Committee's [Terms of Reference](#).

Contact information

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

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

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