



## October 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 communiqué 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 has recently concluded its 2020 special COVID-19 monitoring of all its accredited and approved programs.

### Accreditation Committee meeting

The 54th meeting of the Committee was held on 22 October 2020 via videoconference, it was the Committee's last scheduled meeting for 2020. Some activities that were discussed at the Committee's October 2020 meeting are outlined 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 – this included postponing any accreditation assessments that had not yet commenced from 2020 to 2021 unless an accreditation decision was required in 2020.

At the October 2020 meeting the Committee discussed an updated approach to assessment and monitoring of medical radiation practice programs in 2021, including the implementation of a 'COVID-responsive' approach with a focus on the core regulatory purpose of confirming each program continues to provide students with learning that ensures they achieve the professional capabilities for safe and competent practice in Australia prior to graduation. The Committee has communicated to each education provider the respective requirements for transitioning to accreditation against the 2019 accreditation standards, including tentative full accreditation assessment dates against the 2019 accreditation standards.

The Committee's 'COVID-19 responsive' assessment activities against the 2019 accreditation standards commence from 2021.

## Monitoring approved programs of study

At the October 2020 meeting, the Committee considered monitoring responses from three education providers, including University of Sydney's Master of Diagnostic Radiography program, as reported in the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia's newsletter:

### Updates on approved qualifications for general registration

*Recently the Board received an accreditation and monitoring report from the Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee on the University of Sydney's Master of Diagnostic Radiography (MDR) program. Based on the report the Board approved the qualification for general registration.*

*Over the last few years the University of Sydney redesigned the MDR program to ensure it has learning and assessment that addresses the professional capabilities and clinical education required for general registration.*

*Those who are now graduating from the program are eligible for general registration. Previously, graduates of this program were eligible for provisional registration. Those who graduated before the program redesign and before November 2020 will have to complete the Supervised Practice Program in order to meet the requirements for general registration.*

## COVID-19 monitoring

The Committee recently concluded its 2020 special COVID-19 monitoring of all accredited and approved medical radiation practice programs of study. The Committee has considered all education provider COVID-19 reports and provided relevant advice to the Board. The Committee will continue its monitoring of approved programs on the downstream impacts of COVID-19 (the impacts on current first-, second and third-year students). The Committee is designing its framework for routine annual monitoring in 2021, which will include a range of reporting requirements for education providers on the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on their programs and students.

## 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 October 2020 meeting, the Committee met with representatives of the Australian and New Zealand Society for Nuclear Medicine (ANZSNM) regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on medical radiation practice programs of study and work integrated learning placements for nuclear medicine students. ANZSNM and the Committee will continue to engage on issues important to nuclear medicine education and medical radiation practice accreditation.

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

As outlined in the Committee's August communique, the [Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs](#) are now available. Education providers may find it useful to familiarise themselves with this document ahead of upcoming assessments against the 2019 accreditation standards.

## 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](mailto:program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au). For more information on medical radiation practice accreditation please visit the Committee's [accreditation](#) webpages.

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Ahpra and the Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee work in partnership to accredit education and training programs for medical radiation practice.