



**Medical Radiation
Practice Board
Ahpra**

National exam guidelines

Effective from: 26 April 2022

Introduction

The Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (the Board) has established the national exam for medical radiation practice (the exam) in accordance with its powers and functions described in the [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory](#) (the National Law).

The exam is based on the [Professional capabilities for medical radiation practice](#) in combination with professional obligations prescribed by the Board which are updated as required to reflect contemporary professional practice.

These guidelines describe the Board's expectations for performance and conduct in connection with the exam and provide helpful information for candidates as they prepare to attempt the exam.

Application of these guidelines

These guidelines apply to any registered medical radiation practitioner who has been directed to sit the exam. These guidelines also apply to any person attempting the exam as part of meeting eligibility requirements for registration as a medical radiation practitioner. All candidates agree to be bound by these guidelines when they register to sit the exam.

Purpose of the exam

The purpose of the exam is to help the Board in making regulatory decisions. The Board uses the exam as a consistent and objective measure of a candidate's ability to meet the minimum threshold requirements for safe and effective practice.

The purpose of the exam is to assess a candidate's:

- ability to review critically, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge
- ability to differentiate theoretical concepts, to exercise critical thinking and judgement in identifying and solving problems
- initiative and judgement in planning, problem solving and decision-making in professional practice
- capacity to analyse a range of circumstances encountered in clinical practice, and evaluate options to maximise patient care
- capacity to provide safe, patient-centred, culturally safe care
- capacity to adapt knowledge and skills in diverse contexts, and
- accountability for professional practice and inter-professional practice.

When the Board may require an exam

The Board may use an exam:

- before deciding an application for registration
 - where a candidate is not qualified for general registration
 - where a candidate is returning to practice after an extended break from practice, and/or
- where there are concerns about a practitioner's capacity to practise safely.

Ordinarily, recent graduates from an approved program of study, or applications made under Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition, are exempt from sitting the exam.

Standard of the exam

The *Professional capabilities for medical radiation practice* identify the minimum knowledge, skills and professional attributes necessary for safe, independent practice in diagnostic radiography, nuclear medicine technology and radiation therapy.

To be successful in the exam a candidate must apply their knowledge holistically to a clinical problem or to appropriately manage the clinical environment. The exam typically requires a candidate to draw upon and integrate a range of key capabilities and enabling components from the *Professional capabilities* to successfully answer any question.

Pass mark

The exam operates as a pass or fail exam.

The pass mark for the exam is derived from calibration data and ensures successful candidates have sufficient knowledge skills and attributes to support safe practice in the profession.

The exam pass mark is published on the [national exam for medical radiation practice page of the Board's website](#).

Limit on attempts

Candidates will be allowed a maximum of three (3) attempts at the exam.

If a candidate has attempted and failed the exam three times they will not be allowed to attempt or register for the exam again. Candidates must not attempt the exam within three months of their last attempt.

Options after three failed attempts at the exam

Approved program of study

For those candidates who have failed the exam three times but still wish to be registered as a medical radiation practitioner, the Board's preference is that they complete an approved program of study.

However, the Board will consider a request to sit the exam a fourth and final time where:

- there has been at least 12 months since the last exam attempt
- the candidate's best exam score is within 5% of the pass mark
- the candidate can demonstrate that they have engaged in learning and/or development for the purpose of improving their professional capabilities in medical radiation practice, and
- in the view of the Board the learning and/or development positively contributes to the candidate's chances of passing the exam

By agreeing to a candidate's request to attempt the exam a fourth time, the Board does not warrant or otherwise provide a surety that the candidate will perform better or pass the exam.

Exam rules

All formal exams have rules for the conduct of the exam. A breach of exam rules can have significant consequences for candidates.

Before sitting the exam, candidates will be required to agree to a set of terms and conditions about the exam, including keeping the content of the exam and questions confidential.

- Candidates are not allowed to take any reference material (electronic or hard copy) into the exam venue or to use during the exam.
- Mobile phones and other equipment must not be taken into the exam.
- Access to the internet is not allowed (other than for the purpose of accessing the exam platform) during the exam, in exam rooms or in the exam waiting areas.

Meeting the requirements

The exam is hosted by a contracted exam provider. In addition to the exam rules set out in these guidelines, candidates sitting the exam must comply with all instructions given to them by the exam provider.

Exam conduct

Candidates sitting an exam are subject to the usual rules of ethical and professional conduct, these include rules against cheating, or attempting to gain unfair advantage for the purpose of passing the exam.

Failure to comply with the rules of an exam or any instruction of the exam proctor may be regarded as a breach of professional conduct.

The Board regards misconduct during an exam as a serious matter. Falsifying results, as well as fraudulent or dishonest conduct in connection with an exam has the potential for candidates who are not qualified or not otherwise competent and safe to practise, to be improperly registered. This type of conduct is inconsistent with the requirements of good professional practice.

Before being registered, where an applicant has cheated or has otherwise engaged in fraud, misconduct or unprofessional conduct in connection with the exam the Board may:

- cancel or void the candidate's exam results
- refuse to allow a candidate to attempt the exam
- refuse an application for registration.

Where a registered practitioner has engaged in fraud, misconduct or unprofessional misconduct in connection with an exam the Board may refer the matter to a responsible tribunal. If a tribunal finds a complaint is sustained, it may make a range of orders including cancellation of registration and/or disqualifying a person from applying for registration for a specified period.

Meeting identification requirements

Candidates will be required to prove their identity as part of being admitted to the exam.

To satisfy the identification requirements an exam proctor may ask a candidate to produce additional photographic identification.

Candidates should be able to produce more than one form of photographic identification to establish their identification.

Identification source documents must be government issued, or from a similarly reputable and secure source.

Where an exam proctor has a reasonable concern about a candidate's ability to properly establish their identity and/or there is a concern that identity documents are being misused, the candidate will be refused access to the exam.

Fraudulent use of identity documents is a serious matter and may be referred to law enforcement authorities.

Online proctored exams

The Board may permit a candidate to attempt an exam using an approved online proctored platform.

Online proctored exams allow candidates to sit the exam in their own environment. To ensure the exam is conducted with appropriate oversight candidates and their computers are monitored by the exam provider.

Candidates must make themselves aware of the strict conditions that exist when sitting online exams. Failure to observe or comply with exam conditions may result in removal from the exam. A candidate's removal from an online exam will still count as an attempt of the exam.

Before, during and after the exam the candidate must comply with instructions for sitting the exam and any instructions of the online proctor. The candidate must also ensure that they enable internet access conditions required by the exam provider. It is a breach of exam rules for the candidate to take steps to limit or defeat monitoring arrangements or other exam integrity arrangements.

For online proctored exams the candidate must provide their own computer or laptop. Candidates must ensure that their computer is in good working order and must provide the hardware and software that meets the technical requirements of the exam platform.

Forfeit of fees

Where a candidate fails to attend an exam without reasonable cause, or the candidate has been refused access or continued access to the exam due to a breach of exam rules, the candidate will forfeit the fees paid to sit the exam.

Exam results

Exam results will be provided approximately four weeks after candidates have sat the exam.

Preparing to sit the exam

Previous exam papers

Previous exams are not available.

Practice exam

A practice exam is available for candidates who have registered and paid to sit an exam. The practice exam is a sample set of questions that provides candidates with a sense of the 'look and feel' of the exam environment, the presentation of questions, and how exam time will need to be managed.

Additional needs

Candidates with additional needs can request support to enable them to sit the exam. Such requests need to be made to the National Exam Coordinator by email to: mrpexam@ahpra.gov.au, at least 30 days in advance of a scheduled exam.

Special consideration

Special consideration may be available to candidates who are unable to attempt or complete an exam due to exceptional circumstances that are beyond the control of the candidate. Candidates may be given an opportunity to re-sit the exam at the next available date without incurring additional exam fees.

Applications for special consideration:

- will only be accepted from eligible candidates
- will not be approved unless, in the view of the National Exam Committee, there are exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the candidate, and
- must be supported by sufficient evidence that satisfies the National Exam Committee.

A request for special consideration that is based on the content of the exam will not be considered.

Special consideration will not lower the pass mark and will not improve a candidate's overall score. A successful application for special consideration will only allow a candidate to attempt a future exam without incurring additional exam fees.

Board may refuse to grant or renew registration

The exam occurs:

- as part of an application for registration, or
- in the context of a registered practitioner's current registration.

Where a candidate has failed the exam, the Board may rely on the exam result to refuse an application for registration or an application to renew registration.

Before making a final decision, the Board will give written notice and invite a submission if it is proposing to refuse to:

- register the applicant
- register the applicant subject to a condition, or
- renew a practitioner's registration.

Definitions

Approved program of study means a program of study that has been accredited by the Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee and leads to a qualification approved by the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia and is published on the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency website.

Recent graduate means a person applying for registration having completed an approved program of study that was awarded not more than two years before the date of their application for registration.

National Law means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state or territory

Review

These guidelines will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every five years.

These guidelines replace the previous guidelines dated 1 December 2015.