

## FAQ: Recency of practice

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2 February 2016

### **Who does the revised recency of practice registration standard apply to?**

This registration standard applies to all registered medical practitioners, except those with non-practising registration.

It does not apply to registered students or to recent graduates applying for registration for the first time.

### **How many hours will I need to practise per year to meet the revised recency of practice registration standard?**

To meet the revised standard, you must practise within your scope of practice at any time for a minimum total of:

- four weeks full-time equivalent in one registration period, which is a total of 152 hours, or
- 12 weeks full-time equivalent over three consecutive registration periods, which is a total of 456 hours.

Full-time equivalent is 38 hours per week. The maximum number of hours that can be counted per week is 38 hours.

### **When do I need to meet the revised recency of practice registration standard?**

The standard comes into effect on 1 October 2016. Registered medical practitioners must ensure they comply with the revised recency of practice standard from 1 October 2016.

New applicants for registration after 1 October 2016 (except recent graduates) must meet the standard when they make their application for registration. This includes practitioners who are applying for new or additional types of registration, such as changing from non-practising to general registration or applying for an endorsement on registration.

Registered medical practitioners must declare whether they have met the standard when they apply to renew their registration after 1 October 2016.

For example, a medical practitioner with general and/or specialist registration will make their first declaration against the revised standard about the registration period 1 October 2016 – 30 September 2017 when they submit their renewal in August or September 2017.

### **I currently work full time – will I meet the revised standard?**

If you currently work more than the minimum hours and continue to work in the same scope of practice, you will continue to meet the standard and the changes will not affect you.

### **I work part-time – do I need to meet the same number of minimum hours as medical practitioners who work full-time?**

Medical practitioners who work part-time must practise the same minimum number of hours of practice – these hours can be completed on a part-time basis.

### **I work less than the minimum hours required – what options do I have?**

The revised standard requires all registered medical practitioners to practise a minimum number of hours to demonstrate recency.

The standard allows for practise over a three year period, so you may still be able to meet the standard – you don't need to work a set number of hours per week or every year.

You should review the requirements in the revised standard and if you don't currently work the minimum hours, you should start planning now to increase your hours of practice to ensure you meet the standard when it comes into effect on 1 October 2016.

#### **I worked overtime – can I count those extra hours?**

Full-time equivalent is 38 hours per week. The maximum number of hours that can be counted per week is 38 hours.

#### **I am currently registered but on leave – what do I need to do when I want to return to practice?**

If you return to practice before the 30 September 2016, you must meet the current recency of practice standard. If you return after the 1 October 2016, you must meet the revised standard.

The revised standard allows for practice over a three year period, so you may still be able to meet the standard having had a period of leave.

If you have been on leave and can't meet the standard, this will not necessarily prevent you from returning to practice as a medical practitioner.

When you submit your application for renewal of registration after the revised standard comes into effect on 1 October 2016, you will be required to make a declaration as to whether you met the standard.

If you don't meet this standard, you will need to provide information to help the Board decide whether you are able to continue to practice.

#### **I am NOT currently registered or I have non-practising registration and will be returning to practice - what do I need to do?**

If you return to practice before the 30 September 2016, you must meet the current recency of practice standard. If you return after the 1 October 2016, you must meet the revised standard.

If you have let your registration lapse or have non-practising registration and can't meet the standard, this will not necessarily prevent you from returning to practice as a medical practitioner.

When you submit your application for registration you must provide supporting documentation including information about how long you have been absent and a CV of your practice history.

Depending on how long you have been absent from practice, you may need to attach evidence of having completed CPD or a plan for professional development and re-entry to practice for the Board's consideration and approval.

A fact sheet on returning to practice has been published to assist medical practitioners.

#### **I will soon be going on extended leave – what do I need to do?**

The new standard comes into effect on 1 October 2016. You should review the requirements in the revised standard if you are planning to take leave after it comes into effect.

The standard allows for practice over a three year period, so you may be able to have a period of leave and still be able to meet the standard if you practise within a three year period.

If you can't meet the standard when you wish to return to practice, this will not necessarily prevent you from returning to practice as a medical practitioner. Depending on how long you are absent from practice, you may need to complete some CPD or submit a plan for professional development and re-entry to practice for the Board's consideration and approval.

A fact sheet on returning to practice has been published to assist medical practitioners.

### **I intend to change my scope of practice – what do I need to do?**

If you are changing your field or scope of practice, you may be required to undergo additional training to ensure you are competent in the new field or scope of practice.

The requirements vary depending on what the change entails.

If you are narrowing your scope of practice, there are no additional requirements.

If you are extending your scope of practice to an area that your peers might reasonably expect from a practitioner in your field, you are required to undertake any training that peers would expect before taking up the new area of practice.

If you are changing to a different field of practice, you will be required to consult with the relevant specialist college and develop a professional development plan for entering the new field of practice for the consideration and approval of the Board.