



**RANZCO**

The Royal Australian  
and New Zealand  
College of Ophthalmologists

## CPD Policy: Extension of Practice

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**Approved by:** CEO

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THE MEDICAL EYE SPECIALISTS

## 1. Purpose and scope

This policy outlines Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements of the Medical Board of Australia and the Medical Council of New Zealand, and RANZCO recommendations for ophthalmologists who are extending their practice.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Medical Board of Australia Recency of Practice Registration Standard.
- Medical Board of Australia registration information.
- Medical Council of New Zealand information on applying for a practising certificate.

## 2. Definitions

**Practice** (MBA definition) means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession. Practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge in a direct nonclinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.

**Extension of practice** is a 'normal extension or variation' (MBA definition) within the field of ophthalmology.

**Change of practice** is to a field of practice not within the usual scope of ophthalmology practice as determined by peer opinion.

**Continuing professional development** (RANZCO definition) is the means by which ophthalmologists maintain and extend expertise both in ophthalmology, and in the wide range of skills, knowledge, attitudes and attributes that are part of being a medical professional.

## 3. Medical Board of Australia Requirements for Extension of Practice

Quotations from the Recency of Practice Registration Standard are *italicised*.

- *If the change is to a subset of current practice, there are no requirements. An example is ceasing operating.*

- *If the change is an extension of practice that the practitioner's peers might reasonably expect from a practitioner in that field, the practitioner is required to undertake any training that peers would expect before taking up the new area of practice.* An example of extension of practice is learning a new procedure such as selective laser trabeculoplasty. The Medical Board of Australia does not require plans for extension of practice to be submitted to it, however may audit training undertaken by ophthalmologists when they extend their practice.
- *If the change is to a different field of practice, the practitioner 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 of the Medical Board of Australia.* Whether the proposed practice is an extension of practice within the field of ophthalmology or a change to a new field is determined by peer opinion. An example of changing to a different field of practice is an ophthalmologist changing to Dermatology.

#### **4. Medical Council of New Zealand Requirements for Extension of Practice**

- If you are registered within a provisional (general or vocational) scope of practice or a special purpose scope AND your employment, supervision, position or location changes then you must apply for an amendment or variation to your scope of practice. You will be issued with a new practising certificate.

#### **5. RANZCO CPD Policy on Extension of Practice**

The Medical Board of Australia and the Medical Council of New Zealand do not require RANZCO oversight of ophthalmologists extending their practice.

For ophthalmologists extending practice RANZCO CPD policy is to offer assistance to Fellows, when requested, to determine what training their peers would expect. Fellows are recommended to undertake their annual audit requirement on an aspect of their practice extension.

For ophthalmologists resuming operating after a break, RANZCO CPD policy is to offer assistance to Fellows, when requested, to determine what training their peers would expect.

Fellows are recommended to undertake their annual audit requirement on an aspect of their surgery outcomes or processes.

For ophthalmologists changing to a different field of practice, RANZCO CPD policy is to offer assistance to Fellows when requested, on development of their professional

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development plan as it relates to ophthalmology. Fellows then liaise with the other specialist college(s) relevant to the new field before presenting the plan to the Medical Board of Australia or the Medical Council of New Zealand.

## 6. Record of amendments to this document

Page	Details of amendment	Date approved
		DD/MM/YY (GM/CEO/Board)