



RANZCO

The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Ophthalmologists

CPD Policy: Returning to Practice

Approved by: CEO

Approval date: 31 October 2014

Next review: 31 October 2017

Version: 1.0

1. Purpose and scope

This policy outlines the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements for ophthalmologists who are returning to practice.

Some of these Fellows will also be applying for readmission to Fellowship of RANZCO.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Medical Board of Australia (MBA) continuing professional development registration standard.
- MBA recency of practice registration standard.
- MBA information on returning to practice.
- MBA template plan for professional development and re-entry to practice.
- Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) registration standards for medical practitioners.
- MCNZ Policy on doctors returning to medical practice after an absence from practice for three or more years.
- MCNZ Policy on returning to practise after working overseas.
- RANZCO Readmission to Fellowship Board Policy.

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.

Returning to practice or Recommencement of practice is returning to practice in ophthalmology, using the MBA definition of practice above. Fellows recommencing practice typically have maintained RANZCO Fellowship and medical registration as a specialist ophthalmologist. Recommencement of practice in Australia is regulated by the MBA and in New Zealand is regulated by the MCNZ. These bodies may seek advice from RANZCO.

Readmission to Fellowship (RANZCO definition) is the process where the Board of RANZCO may re-admit to Fellowship a Fellow who has previously had the right to use the post-nominal FRANZCO withdrawn by the RANZCO Board. Note that ophthalmologists may have specialist status recognised by Medical Board of Australia or Medical Council of New Zealand without holding FRANZCO. Ophthalmologists applying for readmission to Fellowship may or may not be simultaneously recommencing practice.

Readmission to Fellowship is controlled by RANZCO Council.

Recency of practice means that an ophthalmologist has maintained an adequate connection with and practice of the profession since being awarded FRANZCO.

Registration as a specialist ophthalmologist in Australia is regulated by the Medical Board of Australia. Registration as a medical practitioner in New Zealand is regulated by the Medical Council of New Zealand.

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.

CPD point - one CPD point is the equivalent of one hour educational time.

3. Medical Board of Australia Requirements for Returning to Practice

Ophthalmologists returning to practice within their previous field, after an absence of less than one year have no specific requirements to be met before recommencing practice.

Ophthalmologists returning to practice within their previous field, after an absence of between one and three years must complete a minimum of one year's pro-rata CPD activities relevant to the intended scope of practice prior to commencement designed to maintain and update knowledge and clinical judgment (MBA definition).

Ophthalmologists returning to practice within their previous field, after an absence of three years, must submit to the Medical Board of Australia a plan for professional development and re-entry to practice.

4. Medical Council of New Zealand Requirements for Returning to Practice

Doctors who are registered in a vocational scope of practice must provide evidence that they are enrolled and actively participating in a MCNZ accredited recertification programme relevant to the vocational scope of practice in which they are registered. Doctors must also provide evidence that they are in good standing with their branch advisory body. These requirements must be met when applying for re-registration (irrespective of time of absence).

Ophthalmologists with an expired practising certificate need to request a practising certificate application form from MCNZ (after a job offer).

Ophthalmologists that haven't practised medicine in the last 3 years, need to satisfy additional requirements detailed in the MCNZ Policy on doctors returning to medical practice after an absence from practice for three or more years.

Ophthalmologists that have practised overseas for less than 3 years since their last practising certificate was issued must request a certificate of good standing for each country or board that they were registered (or licensed) with during this time.

Ophthalmologists that have practised overseas for more than 3 years should refer to the MCNZ Policy on returning to practise after working overseas.

5. RANZCO CPD Policy on Returning to Practice

The Medical Board of Australia does not require RANZCO approval of CPD plans for professional development and re-entry to practice.

5.1 Providing guidance for fellows in completing one year pro rata CPD activities

The standard RANZCO recommends is undertaking CPD to the level required for RANZCO Fellows on the Specialist register.

Ophthalmologists can apply to the CPD Committee via the CPD Secretariat for consideration if there are valid reasons why it is not possible to meet the level of CPD required for RANZCO Fellows on the Specialist register.

Preparing a personal development plan prior to commencing CPD activities and undertaking reflective level 2 activities are strongly encouraged but not required.

5.2 Providing Certificates of Participation in RANZCO CPD

This requires Fellows to have maintained records of CPD undertaken using either the RANZCO online CPD recording diary or maintained paper records of their activities which the CPD Secretariat is able to audit. Certificates of Participation will not be issued without review of CPD records by the CPD Secretariat.

5.3 Providing guidance in completing plan for professional development and re-entry to practice

The standard RANZCO recommends for CPD undertaken after re-entry to practice is undertaking CPD to the level required for RANZCO Fellows on the Specialist register.

There are no exceptions granted in CPD participation for limited scope of practice, medical ophthalmology practice, part-time, or rural practice.

Fellows re-entering practice are expected to plan a clinical audit for the first year of recommenced practice. RANZCO CPD committee can give guidance in planning the required audit.

5.4 Auditing CPD undertaken after re-entry to practice

Fellows that re-enter practice will have their CPD records audited after 12 months of practice and thereafter will be audited randomly as is the case for all Fellows. This will include the compulsory audit outcomes of one of their surgical, medical or laser procedures.

6. RANZCO CPD Policy after return to practice

Fellows who have returned to practice

- Will have their CPD records, including patient audits, subject to verification audit by RANZOC CPD for the first 12 months after re-entry to practice
- Will be expected to supply reports from their supervisors at the end of the first year of return to practice.
- Will be expected to supply RANZCO with copies of all reports supplied to Medical Board of Australia.

7. Record of amendments to this document

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