

Radiation Health News

Prescribed Licensees

Radiation Safety Act 1999

On 1 July 2024, changes to the *Radiation Safety Regulation 2021* came into effect which affect the licensing arrangements for some student health practitioners.

Section 103K of the *Radiation Safety Act 1999* provides for certain persons to be prescribed in the Regulation as '**prescribed licensees**'. Prescribed licensees are persons who are taken to hold a use licence allowing the use of a particular type of radiation source to carry out a prescribed radiation practice under certain circumstances without them having to apply, and be granted, a licence to use the radiation sources.

Although prescribed licensees do not need to apply for a licence, they are still use licensees under the Act and are required to comply with all elements of the Act as is the case for all other use licensees.

On 1 July 2024, certain persons registered by Ahpra to practise as students were included in the list of prescribed licensees (Refer to section 73 of the *Radiation Safety Regulation 2021*).

Typically, all students undertaking training to become a health practitioner in an Australian tertiary institution will be registered as students by Ahpra as part of their enrolment processes. However, a student who is being trained in an overseas institution and who is seeking to undertake practical training in Australia will need to apply for, and receive, registration as a student by Ahpra before being allowed to practise as a student health practitioner in Australia. Further information about the registration of students with the relevant national board may be found on the Ahpra website.

An overview of the student health practitioners who are affected by the 1 July 2024 amendment to the Regulation is set out below – for further details, refer to the Regulation.

Student dental practitioners

Persons registered by Ahpra to practise as students in the dentist, oral health therapist, dental hygienist or dental therapist divisions may use intra-oral and extra-oral plain X-ray imaging apparatus for dental imaging but only if the person is undertaking supervised activities:

- a. as part of an approved program of study for the dental profession, or
- b. as part of clinical training in the dental profession.

Student diagnostic radiographers

Persons registered by Ahpra to practise as students in the diagnostic radiographer division of the medical radiation practice profession may use the following types of X-ray imaging apparatus:

- plain diagnostic imaging X-ray apparatus for plain diagnostic imaging
- fluoroscopic imaging X-ray apparatus for general procedures or interventional angiographic procedures
- computed tomography imaging X-ray apparatus for computed tomography
- dual energy X-ray absorptiometry apparatus for bone mineral densitometry
- mammographic imaging X-ray apparatus for mammographic imaging

but only if the person is undertaking supervised activities:

- a. as part of an approved program of study for the medical radiation practice profession, or
- b. as part of clinical training in the medical radiation practice profession.

Student radiation therapists

Persons registered by Ahpra to practise as students in the radiation therapist division of the medical radiation practice profession may use the following types of ionising radiation apparatus:

- plain diagnostic imaging X-ray apparatus for radiation therapy treatment planning
- computed tomography imaging X-ray apparatus for radiation therapy treatment planning
- kilovoltage energy or megavoltage energy X-ray or electron beam radiation therapy radiation apparatus for radiation therapy

but only if the person is undertaking supervised activities:

- a. as part of an approved program of study for the medical radiation practice profession, or
- b. as part of clinical training in the medical radiation practice profession.

Student nuclear medicine technologists

Persons registered by Ahpra to practise as students in the nuclear medicine technology division of the medical radiation practice profession may use the following types of radiation sources:

- computed tomography imaging X-ray apparatus for nuclear medicine diagnostic imaging
- unsealed radioactive substances in the form of a radiopharmaceutical for nuclear medicine diagnostic imaging
- dual energy X-ray absorptiometry apparatus for bone mineral densitometry
- sealed radioactive substances for nuclear medicine quality assurance

but only if the person is undertaking supervised activities:

- a. as part of an approved program of study for the medical radiation practice profession, or
- b. as part of clinical training in the medical radiation practice profession.

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