

On call practices – Rural and remote medical imaging radiographers

Policy Number: B63 (QH-POL-182)

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Purpose: To outline the minimum standards for on call practice in rural and remote health services that provide medical imaging services by qualified diagnostic medical imaging radiographers.

Application: This policy applies to radiographers, licensed operators and relevant line managers in the rural, remote and other locations specified in the policy, working for Queensland Health.

This policy does not apply to employees of Queensland Ambulance Service. Instead, Queensland Ambulance Service employees are to refer to their local policy/procedure.

Delegation: The 'delegate' is as listed in the relevant Department of Health Human Resource (HR) Delegations Manual, or Hospital and Health Services Human Resource (HR) Delegations Manual, as amended from time to time.

Legislative or other authority:

- Health Practitioners and Dental Officers (Queensland Health) Award – State 2015
- Health Practitioners and Dental Officers (Queensland Health) Certified Agreement (No.2) 2015

Related policy or documents:

- Financial Management Practice Manual (FMPM)

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1 Policy statement

The health services and locations considered as rural and remote for the purposes of this policy are listed in Attachment One.

1.1 On call roster and days off all forms of call

The on call roster:

- is to be finalised at least 14 days in advance
- requires 14 days' notice and agreement by both the radiographer and line manager for any changes to the finalised roster.

A radiographer is to be off all forms of call:

- for a minimum of six days per four week period, including two days on a weekend
- on accrued days off.

In a four week period, the minimum six days off call includes:

- one weekend when not required to work
- an accrued day off
- three days when the radiographer is either rostered off or has worked ordinary hours, e.g. weekday or weekend.

The minimum time off entitlements are not cumulative and are to be taken regularly. A radiographer can voluntarily forfeit time off call. Managers are to consider the radiographer's personal and family responsibilities when negotiating time off call.

1.2 Radiographer response time

Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) are to contact the radiographer as soon as possible after triage has occurred and provide information to the radiographer regarding the urgency of the referral.

Sole radiographers are not required to remain on Queensland Health premises when on call.

1.3 On call relief

Weekend and weekday relief is to be provided by a registered radiographer when possible. If a qualified relief radiographer is unavailable, licensed operators can be used to provide a limited service as per their licence restrictions.

Organisation of professional relief for on call is the responsibility of the line manager, with advice provided by the radiographer.

In sole practitioner roles, access to a registered radiographer is to be available for consultation by the licensed operator as per their licence requirements. This may be via an arrangement with another medical imaging service.

HHSs are responsible for implementing an appropriate and sustainable system of consultation for the licensed operator as per their licence requirements.

1.4 Referral system for on call

Radiographers are to be called in on the basis of a medical referral only.

If a registered radiographer is available on call, they are to be used rather than a licensed operator.

1.5 Transport for on call radiographers

Rural and remote HHSs are to provide a subsidised mode of transport to radiographers on call when possible. This is to include access to a motor vehicle, or provision of taxi vouchers or a mileage allowance in accordance with clause 18.10 of the Health Practitioners and Dental Officers (Queensland Health) Award – State 2015.

1.6 Access to telecommunication devices for on call purposes

Rural and remote health services are encouraged to provide a pool mobile phone or other appropriate telecommunications device to radiographers on call (if requested and when possible).

The radiographer may choose to use a personal mobile phone for the purpose of the on call arrangement. The radiographer is to be reimbursed the cost of telephone calls in accordance with the relevant Financial Management Practice Manual (FMPM).

Radiographers are to be contactable at all times when on call.

History:

June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – formatted as part of the HR Policy review – application amended as a result of changes to the Hospital and Health Boards (Changes to Prescribed Services) Amendment Regulation 2019.
March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – formatted as part of the HR Policy review – amended to update references, naming conventions and locations.
April 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy reviewed as part of the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) HR Policy Integration project. • Policy not applicable to QAS employees.
March 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy formatted as part of the HR Policy Simplification project. • Policy amended to update references, naming conventions and locations.
March 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed as a result of the HR policy consolidation project.
Previous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRM 2.5-26 On Call Practices – Rural and Remote Medical Imaging Radiographers.

Attachment One – Hospital and Health Services and locations considered rural and remote

Hospital and Health Service	Location
Cairns and Hinterland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atherton • Chillagoe • Croydon • Dimbulah • Forsayth • Georgetown • Herberton • Innisfail • Malanda • Mareeba • Millaa Millaa • Mossman • Mount Garnet • Ravenshoe
Central Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baralaba • Biloela • Blackwater • Capella • Cracow • Dingo • Emerald • Gemfields • Moura • Springsure • Theodore
Central West	All locations
Darling Downs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherbourg • Chinchilla • Dalby • Glenmorgan • Goondiwindi • Inglewood • Jandowae • Kingaroy • Meandarra • Miles • Millmerran • Moonie • Murgon • Nanango • Stanthorpe • Tara

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taroom • Texas • Wandoan • Warwick • Wondai
Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowen • Proserpine • Moranbah
North West	All locations
South West	All locations
Wide Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biggenden • Eidsvold • Gayndah • Monto • Mundubbera
Torres and Cape	All locations
Townsville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ayr • Charters Towers • Ingham

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