

INTRODUCTION

The Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board) under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) is the responsible authority that governs the practice of medical imaging and radiation therapy in New Zealand. The principle purpose of the Act is to protect the health and safety of members of the public by providing mechanisms to ensure health practitioners are competent and fit to practise their professions. The Board sets and monitors standards in the interests of the public and the profession. The Board's primary concern is public safety. This Code outlines the standards of ethical conduct set by the Board under section 118(i) of the Act.

This Code complements the legal obligations that medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners have under the Act, the Health and Disability Commissioner (Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights) Regulations 1996, the Health Information Privacy Code 1994 and the Radiation Safety Regulations.

The Act and Code of Rights can be found at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz>.

The Radiation Safety Regulations can be found at <http://www.health.govt.nz>.

The Code of Ethics for medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners is a set of standards defined by the Board describing the behaviour or conduct that registered medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners are expected to uphold. Failure to uphold these standards of behaviour could lead to a disciplinary investigation.

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI/THE TREATY OF WAITANGI

The Code acknowledges Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand, and recognises and respects the specific importance of health services for Māori as the indigenous people of Aotearoa New Zealand.

DISCLAIMER

The principles expressed in this document reflect the values considered fundamental to the practice of medical imaging and radiation therapy in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The aim of the Code is to cover areas of ethical concern experienced by practitioners. It is not intended to address all ethical concerns, nor provide solutions to all ethical problems.

Practitioners are expected to exercise their ethical judgement and balance ethical values.

CODE OF ETHICS (OR PRINCIPLES)

Medical Radiation Technology Practitioners will:

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| <i>1. Relationship with the New Zealand public:</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1 Act in such a manner to justify public trust and confidence.1.2 Demonstrate commitment to the provision of the best possible service to patients.1.3 Demonstrate commitment to keeping the radiation dose as low as reasonably achievable to produce diagnostic results or for treatment needs.1.4 Provide services in such a manner as to show respect for each individual.1.5 Protect the patient's right to privacy and keep all patient information in the strictest confidence. |
| <i>2. Relationship with colleagues and the profession</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">2.1 Continually strive to improve their knowledge and skills of their profession.2.2 Be respectful of fellow workers and work in a professional and co-operative manner with other health care workers.2.3 Be responsible for reporting any unethical conduct, unsafe practise, or illegal professional activities to the appropriate bodies.2.4 Be accountable for their clinical decision making. |
| <i>3. Cultural Competence</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">3.1 Practise with due care and respect for an individual patient's/client's culture, needs, values, worldviews and beliefs, including the needs, values and beliefs of Māori. |

HOW THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED

| 1. Relationship with the New Zealand public | |
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| Principle | How this will be achieved |
| 1.1 Act in such a manner to justify public trust and confidence. | 1.1.1 This will be achieved through high standards of professional competency as well as through professional conduct and appearance. |
| 1.2 Demonstrate commitment to the provision of the best possible service to patients | 1.2.1 Maintain a working knowledge of all legislation pertinent to their practise and operate within such legislation. |
| | 1.2.2 Ensure they operate within their scope of practice, delivering only those services for which they are registered and competent to do so. |
| 1.3 Demonstrate commitment to keeping the radiation dose as low as reasonably achievable to produce diagnostic results or for treatment needs. | 1.3.1 The practitioner should make sound professional judgements within their scope of practice and level of expertise and be accountable for their professional activities. |
| 1.4 Provide services in such a manner as to show respect for each individual. | 1.4.1 Act in the best interests of each patient and will maintain their standards of practice for all patients |
| | 1.4.2 Have regard for a patient's religious and political beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, nationality, social or economic status, and the nature of the person's health problems |
| 1.5 Protect the patient's right to privacy and keep all patient information in the strictest confidence. | 1.5.1 The practitioner should hold all patient/client information in confidence. |
| | 1.5.2 The practitioner should not disclose identifiable health information about a patient/client without the patient's/ client's permission, unless disclosure is required or permitted by law. |

| 2. Relationship with colleagues and the profession | |
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| Principle | How this will be achieved |
| 2.1 <i>Continually strive to improve their knowledge and skills of their profession.</i> | 2.1.1 Commit to ongoing learning and the maintenance and development of clinical and professional skills |
| 2.2 <i>Be respectful of fellow workers and work in a professional and co-operative manner with other health care workers.</i> | 2.2.1 Engage in effective communication and cooperate with colleagues, other health professionals and agencies to achieve optimal outcomes for the patient/client. 2.2.2 Behave respectfully in communication to and about colleagues or other health professionals. |
| 2.3 <i>Be responsible for reporting any unethical conduct, unsafe practise, or illegal professional activities to the appropriate bodies.</i> | 2.3.1 The practitioner should bring unsafe or unethical behaviour by another medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioner or other health professional to the attention of the appropriate authority wherever legally required. 2.3.2 The practitioner should take particular care to uphold the values within this code when using electronic communication and social networking sites. |
| 2.4 <i>Be accountable for their clinical decision making.</i> | 2.4.1 Make sound professional judgements within their scope of practice and level of expertise and be accountable for their professional activities. 2.4.2 Provide health services that are clinically justifiable |
| 3. Cultural Competence | |
| Principle | How this will be achieved |
| 3.1 <i>practise with due care and respect for an individual patient's/client's culture, needs, values, worldviews and beliefs, including the needs, values and beliefs of Māori.</i> | 3.1.1 The practitioner should acknowledge that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand has a culturally diverse population • each patient has cultural needs specific to him/her • a positive outcome for both the practitioner and the patient is achieved when they have mutual respect and understanding. |