

Position Statement

Subject: **Pathologist Recency of Practice**
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The NPAAC *Requirements for Supervision in the Clinical Governance of Medical Pathology Laboratories (Fifth Edition 2018)* state that every laboratory must be under the direction and control of a Designated Person who may delegate to another medical practitioner with a relevant Scope of Practice to personally supervise the rendering of pathology services in a Category GX, GY or related Category B laboratory.

The definition of Scope of Practice in the NPAAC document is “the discipline and/or areas of testing in which a person has been trained and successfully examined or assessed as competent by the relevant College, professional society, or credentialing body and in which they have met current Continuing Professional Development and recency of practice requirements”.

The RCPA requirements for recency of practice are modelled on those of AHPRA, for example:

- You have worked in this area for the equivalent of at least four weeks full-time over the past 12 months (if you work 0.5 FTE in this area, then you would be required to have completed the equivalent of at least eight weeks of half-time practice over the past 12 months); or
- You have worked in this area for the equivalent of at least twelve weeks full-time over the past three years. **Note:** The 3 (three) year period is defined as that between the end working date and date of recommencement in a suitable position.
- Other comparable experience in recent years

Therefore, Pathologists who have been trained and assessed as competent in a certain discipline but have not practiced in that discipline for the required period of time during the previous 3 years are not considered to have recency of practice. This includes General Pathologists whose practice has not included one or more disciplines they have trained in for the required time over the previous 3 years and Pathologists trained in more than one discipline who have not practiced in a discipline for the same period.

For restoration of a former scope of practice, applications may be made to the RCPA Board of Examinations and Assessment and will be assessed according to current RCPA and AHPRA policies and requirements. To maintain scope of practice, both compliance with the RCPA Continuing Professional Development requirements as well as recency of practice are mandatory. The document refers to discipline specific level not subdiscipline issues.