



Statutory Health Practitioner Registration Policy

1. Background

Statutory registration of health practitioners in Western Australia is governed by the [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(WA\) Act 2010](#), referred to hereafter as the 'National Law'.

It is unlawful for an employer to lead another person to believe that a third person is registered in a health profession listed in the National Law. Significant penalties apply to both the individual and to the employer if the law is breached.

In order to comply with the National Law, an employer must ensure all relevant employees and contractors are registered with the appropriate National Board.

Sonographers are not included under the [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(WA\) Act 2010](#) and are required to have membership with the relevant accrediting body.

2. Policy Statement

All health practitioners employed or contracted by the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) are required to demonstrate that they possess a license to practice, having satisfied the requirements of the relevant National Board. Health practitioners who must comply are identified in [Appendix 1](#).

Sonographers and Medical Radiation Practitioners employed or engaged by WACHS must also be able to demonstrate they have current membership with the Australian Sonography Accreditation Registry (ASAR) or licenced with the Radiological Council of WA in the relevant field.

Where a National Board is empowered to grant professional registration the essential selection criteria or appointment factors must cite the registration requirement rather than any particular formal qualification.

For WACHS employed staff, the selection panel chairperson must confirm registration requirements are met, as per [WA Health Mandatory Policy MP 0033/16 - Recruitment Selection and Appointment Policy and Procedure](#)

Health practitioners must:

- be employed or engaged in the legal name in which they appear on the Register of practitioners, unless the person has written permission from the relevant National Board to do otherwise; and comply with any conditions imposed by the National Board

- be registered with the appropriate 'Registration Type'. The primary registration type is 'general' or 'specialist'. Registration with any other type of registration (including 'limited', 'provisional' and 'non-practicing') must correlate with their role and be approved by the appropriate profession executive member accountable within 2.1 of this policy
- maintain the terms and conditions of their employment/engagement by
- maintaining their registration/membership currency with the relevant National Board or accrediting body including during periods of:
 - temporary secondment or deployment, including fixed term contract appointments
 - receipt of weekly compensation payments
 - paid or unpaid leave.

1.1 Reporting

It is an offence for a person to practice or use the title of a registered health practitioner unless the person is registered with the relevant National Board. It is also an offence to employ or engage a person to practice as a registered health practitioner unless that person is registered with the relevant National Board or has membership with the relevant body.

Alleged breach of this policy is to be reported to the relevant line manager with escalation to the appropriate position with governance responsibility for the relevant health practitioner(s).

Any breach of the National Law is to be reported to the relevant National Board following consultation with the relevant WACHS staff as per Table 1

Table 1

Governance Accountability	Governance Responsibility	Health Practitioner Group
Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery	Regional Director Nursing and Midwifery ↑ Line Manager	Registered Nurse* Enrolled Nurse* Nurse Practitioner* Midwife*
Executive Director Medical Services	Regional Medical Director ↑ Line Manager Area Chief Medical Imaging Technologist ↑ Line Manager	Medical and Dental Practitioners, including contractors Medical Radiation Practitioners# and Sonographers***

Chief Operating Officer	Relevant Regional Manager/ Director ↑ Line Manager	Health Scientists and Allied Health Practitioners, including contractors**
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Table 1 – Governance accountability and responsibility for occupational groups

* NurseWest has governance accountability for all NurseWest and agency nurses and midwives employed through their system; however the line manager has responsibility to confirm registration on the [APRHA online register](#) and check that the individual’s registration is current for the duration of their contract. If this is not the case then NurseWest and the above nursing reporting system is to be actioned.

**For contracted Health Practitioners, the contracted agency has governance accountability for Health Professional registration; however the line manager/contracted manager has responsibility to confirm registration on the [APRHA online register](#) and check that the individual’s registration is current for the duration of the contract.

***Sonographers are required to have membership with the Australian Sonography Accreditation Registry (ASAR) in the relevant field

#Medical Radiation Practitioners are required to be licenced with the Radiological Council of WA in the relevant field.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 Health Practitioner

The Health Practitioner (inclusive of employees, contractors or consultants) is responsible for:

- a. maintaining their registration/membership/licence without restrictions or conditions to practice with the appropriate National Board or accrediting body and comply with any codes, standards or guidelines as required
- b. notifying their line manager of any restrictions or conditions on their registration or a change to registration status that may impact upon their scope or ability to practice
- c. not undertaking duties that are restricted by statutory registration on lapse of their registration and notifying as soon as practicable, when restrictions or the health practitioner registration has expired to their line manager
- d. ensuring they are familiar with (and comply with) the requirements of the National Law, Section 141 and 142 which outlines their responsibilities relating to notifiable conduct and mandatory reporting, These are outlined: [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - Mandatory notifications: What you need to know](#)

3.2 Line Manager

The Line Manager is responsible for:

- a. confirming that the health practitioner is registered with the appropriate National board or accrediting/licencing body for professional practice, under the legal name that they are intending to be/ or actually are employed as
- b. confirming that the health practitioner maintains their registration(s) or membership
- c. advising the Regional Executive Officer (i.e. Regional Director of Nursing and Midwifery for nurses and midwives, the Regional Medical Director - for medical and dental practitioners, or the Relevant Regional Tier 4 Line Manager / Director -for allied health and medical imaging staff) of all health practitioners either unregistered or where limitations have been applied to their registration status, as soon as practicable
- d. implementing the management plan identified in 3.3a.as required
- e. ensuring that the health practitioner does not work while unregistered
- f. liaise with the line manager, regional human resources and the executive officer with governance accountability (as identified in 2.1) for the specific clinical governance group.

3.3 Regional Executive Officer

The Regional Executive Officer with governance responsibility (as per Table 1) is responsible for:

- a. ensuring that an appropriate management plan has been developed to manage limitations on professional practice that may impact on service delivery. Note: this management plan is internal to WACHS and separate from any specified plan required by AHPRA to manage and monitor a registrant's registration restrictions.

4. Monitoring

For Medical and Dental Practitioner Credentialing monitoring, refer to [WACHS Medical Credentialing and Compliance Requirement Guideline](#)

For Nurse Practitioner and Eligible Midwife Credentialing monitoring, refer to WACHS [Credentialing for Nurse Practitioners and Eligible Midwives Policy](#).

For Nursing, Midwifery, Allied Health and Medical Radiation Practitioner registration monitoring, refer to [WACHS Statutory Registration Monitoring Procedure](#).

5. Compliance

Failure to comply with this policy may constitute a breach of the WA Health Code of Conduct (Code). The Code is part of the [Integrity Policy Framework](#) issued pursuant to section 26 of the [Health Services Act 2016](#) (WA) and is binding on all WACHS staff which for this purpose includes trainees, students, volunteers, researchers, contractors for service (including all visiting health professionals and agency staff) and persons delivering training or education within WACHS. WACHS staff are reminded that compliance with all policies is mandatory.

6. Evaluation

All health practitioners identified in HRIS hold current registration with the relevant National Board or accrediting body and it is documented/recorded in their personal file.

7. Standards

National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards: 1.7(c), 1.23 & 1.24

8. Legislation

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010

9. References

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. (2020). Guidelines for Mandatory Notifications. <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Notifications/mandatorynotifications/Mandatory-notifications.aspx>

Australian Sonography Accreditation Registry (ASAR) <https://www.asar.com.au/>

Government of Western Australia. (2010). Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010. Perth: State Law Publisher

Radiological Council of WA <http://www.radiologicalcouncil.wa.gov.au/>

The Commissioner for Public Sector Standards, (2011) Public Sector Standards, Commissioner's Instruction – Employment Standard Perth: Public Sector Commission.

10. Related Policy Documents

WACHS Statutory Registration Monitoring Procedure

11. Related WA Health Policies

MP 0033/16 Recruitment Selection and Appointment Policy

12. WA Health Policy Framework

Employment Policy Framework

13. Appendix

Appendix 1: Statutory Registration – Summary of Registration Requirements

**This document can be made available in alternative formats
on request for a person with a disability**

Contact:	Nurse Manager, Workforce		
Directorate:	Nursing and Midwifery Services	TRIM Record #	ED-CO-15-18465
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HEALTH PROFESSION	GOVERNANCE	REGULATION	RENEWAL DETAILS
Dental Practitioner	Registered as a Dental Practitioner in the appropriate division with the Dental Board of Australia www.dentalboard.gov.au	<i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010</i>	Annual registration renewal on 30 November
Medical Radiation Practitioner	Registered as a Medical Radiation Practitioner in the appropriate division with the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au and licensing with the Radiological Council of WA www.radiologicalcouncil.wa.gov.au	<i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010 and Radiation Safety Act 1975 (26)(1)(a), Regulation 4</i>	Annual registration renewal on 30 November and Radiation licence renewal every 3 years
Medical Practitioner	Registration as a Medical Practitioner with the Medical Board of Australia www.medicalboard.gov.au	<i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010</i>	Annual registration renewal 30 September
Midwife	Registration as a Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au	<i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010</i>	Annual registration renewal on 31 May
Nurse (Enrolled)	Registration as a Nurse – Enrolled Nurse (Division 2) with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au	<i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010</i>	Annual registration renewal on 31 May
Nurse (Practitioner)	Registration as a Nurse - Registered Nurse (Division 1) with endorsement as qualified to practice as a ‘Nurse Practitioner’ with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au	<i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010</i>	Annual registration renewal on 31 May

WACHS Statutory Health Professional Registration Policy – Appendix 1 continued

HEALTH PROFESSION	GOVERNANCE	REGULATION	RENEWAL DETAILS
Nurse (Registered)	Registration as a Nurse – Registered Nurse (Division 1) with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au	<i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010</i>	Annual registration renewal on 31 May
Occupational Therapist	Registration as an Occupational Therapist with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au	<i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010</i>	Annual registration renewal on 30 November
Pharmacist	Registered as a Pharmacist with the Pharmacy Board of Australia www.pharmacyboard.gov.au	<i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010</i>	Annual registration renewal on 30 November
Physiotherapist	Registration as a Physiotherapist with the Physiotherapy Board of Australia www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au	<i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010</i>	Annual registration renewal on 30 November
Podiatrist	Registration as a Podiatrist with the Podiatry Board of Australia www.podiatryboard.gov.au	<i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010</i>	Annual registration renewal on 30 November
Psychologist	Full registration as a Psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia www.psychologyboard.gov.au	<i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010</i>	Annual registration renewal on 30 November
Sonographer	Membership with the Australian Sonography Accreditation Registry (ASAR) in the relevant field www.asar.com.au	<i>Medicare Benefits Schedule</i>	Annual subscription renewal on 1 January