



Policy on Standard conditions on scope of practice

Note: This policy was applied until 1 October 2020 when it was superseded by the requirements of the [Recertification programme: Induction and Orientation to practice in Aotearoa New Zealand](#). Practitioners who held standard conditions on their scope of practice prior to this date will continue under this policy.

Refer - Part 2 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003

Background

This policy relates to three categories of applicant for a practising certificate: namely

- Graduates from a New Zealand programme of Occupational Therapy
- Graduates from overseas programmes of Occupational Therapy
- Registered and previously registered occupational therapists who have not practised in New Zealand for three years or more

It outlines the conditions that may be placed on their scope of practice in order to minimise the risk of harm to the New Zealand public, and to maintain or improve the competence of these practitioners to practise within the [General Scope of Practice: Occupational Therapist](#).

The Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand (OTBNZ) assesses applications for a practising certificate on a case-by-case basis. The OTBNZ can impose any of the conditions set out in section 22(3) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act) to ensure competence to practise. As there are commonalities between the three main categories of applicant listed above, it has been possible to standardise conditions for these practitioners.

Graduates from a New Zealand programme of occupational therapy

Recent graduates, i.e. graduates who apply for registration within 3 years of graduating, are deemed to meet the competence requirements for entry into the profession.

Conditions on the scope of practice for new graduates

The scope of practice of new graduates will be endorsed with the 'New Graduate' condition and this will be noted on their practising certificate. An accompanying letter outlining the requirements and

conditions specific to their practice as a new graduate therapist is sent when the practising certificate is issued and must be shown to employers and supervisors.

New graduate practitioners must receive weekly supervision from a registered occupational therapist with no conditions or requirements on their practice for the first 12 months of practice in New Zealand. They must provide a supervisor's report and log to the OTBNZ which comments on competence in each of the five registration competence areas after this time. If the report is satisfactory, the condition will be removed from the scope of practice.

Graduates from overseas programmes of occupational therapy

Graduates from overseas programmes of occupational therapy applying for registration in Aotearoa New Zealand must meet the requirements for registration and competence.

Applicants who meet the requirements for registration but have not worked as an occupational therapist since graduation, will be eligible for a practising certificate in the General Scope of Practice: Occupational Therapist subject to the same requirements and conditions on practice as a graduate from a New Zealand occupational therapy programme described above.

Experienced overseas qualified applicants who have satisfactorily met the requirements for registration, will be eligible for a practising certificate in the General Scope of Practice: Occupational Therapist in the General Scope of Practice: Occupational Therapist subject to the 'Overseas Qualified Registrant' condition on their scope of practice. The OTBNZ may vary this condition depending on individual circumstances.

Condition on the scope of practice for Overseas Qualified Registrants

The scope of practice of overseas qualified practitioners will be endorsed with the 'Overseas Qualified Registrant' condition and this will be noted on their practising certificate. An accompanying letter outlining the requirements and conditions specific to their practice as an overseas qualified therapist is sent when the practising certificate is issued and must be shown to employers and supervisors.

Recently registered overseas qualified practitioners must receive fortnightly supervision from a registered occupational therapist with no conditions or requirements on their practice for the first six months of practice in New Zealand. They must provide a supervisor's report and log to the OTBNZ which comments on competence in each of the five competence areas after this time. If the report is satisfactory, the condition will be removed from the scope of practice.

Previously registered occupational therapists who have not practised Occupational Therapy in Aotearoa New Zealand in the last three years.

Occupational therapists applying for a practising certificate who have previously been registered in New Zealand and who have not worked as an occupational therapist in New Zealand in the last three years, must meet the standard of competence prior to receiving a practising certificate.

Condition on the scope of practice for practitioners returning to practice

The scope of practice of some returning practitioners will be endorsed with the 'Return to Practice in New Zealand' condition and this will be noted on their practising certificate. An accompanying letter outlining the requirements and conditions specific to their practice as a returning therapist is sent when the practising certificate is issued and must be shown to employers and supervisors. Practitioners returning to practice must receive fortnightly supervision from a registered

occupational therapist with no conditions or requirements on their practice for the first six months of practice in New Zealand. They must provide a supervisor's report and log to the OTBNZ which comments on competence in each of the five competence areas after this time. If the report is satisfactory, the condition will be removed from the scope of practice.

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| Effective From | June 2013 |
| Last Review | Feb 2021 |
| Next Review | Feb 2023 |
| Approved by | Andrew Charnock, Registrar |