

FAQ on revised ROP standard commencing 1 December 2016

2 February 2016

How will the new minimum hours requirements affect me?

Most practitioners will meet the required minimum hours of practice, however as the changes will affect some practitioners the Board decided on a commencement date (1 December 2016) that provides practitioners with lots of time to prepare for the new standard.

In summary -

- If you currently work more than the minimum hours and continue to work in the same scope of practice, you will continue to meet the standard and the changes will not affect you
- If you are currently practising but have had a recent absence from practice, or you are practising infrequently, the introduction of minimum hours for recency of practice may affect whether you meet the revised standard. You may need to start planning to increase your hours of practice to ensure you meet the standard in the next registration period (ie. from 1 December 2016 – 30 November 2017).
- If you are not currently registered and intend to return to work as a health practitioner, depending on the length of time you have been absent from practice, the addition of minimum hours may impact whether you meet the revised standard when you submit your application for registration.

The revised standard will not apply to renewal declarations made in 2016. Practitioners will be asked in their 2017 renewal application to declare whether they have met the revised standard in the last registration period (ie. from 1 December 2016 – 30 November 2017).

What happens if I don't meet the new requirements?

If you don't meet the minimum hours requirement in the revised standard, this will not necessarily prevent you from continuing to practise or returning to practice as a health practitioner. The Board will consider your past experience and length of absence from practice, among other considerations, and determine if any additional information, examination, assessment or period of supervised practice is required to ensure that you are safe to practice.

The Board's guidelines provide more information about options for physiotherapists returning to practice.

Why has the Board introduced minimum hours for recency of practice?

The review of the Board's recency of practice registration standard included extensive public consultation and a review of relevant research, as well the Board's experience with its current standard. The majority of professions regulated under the National Scheme currently require minimum hours of practice as part of their recency of practice requirements. Their experience is that a minimum number of hours provides more guidance to registrants about whether they meet the requirements, and also provide more assurance to Boards that a practitioner's skills have been maintained.

The Board considered all these factors in determining that a requirement for minimum hours of practice would strengthen its recency of practice requirements and provide greater clarity for practitioners and the public.