

REGULATION

Portfolio	Fellowship and Engagement	Ref. No.	REG-3034
Department	Professional Standards		
Title	Continuing Professional Development Program		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) includes the determination and maintenance of professional standards for the practice of surgery in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Clause 1 of the RACS Constitution outlines a purpose of the College being to encourage and support Fellows to undertake continuous professional development.

Clause 6 of the RACS Constitution gives the Council power to make regulations as it deems necessary or desirable for the proper conduct and management of the RACS, the regulation of its affairs and the furtherance of its objectives.

Clause 14 of the RACS Constitution gives the Council power to delegate all or any of its functions, powers, or discretions to committees comprising such persons as the Council determines, and that the Council can determine the powers and duties of each sub-committee.

The Council has delegated powers and duties associated with participation and compliance with continuing professional development obligations to the Professional Standards and Advocacy Committee (PSAC).

This regulation establishes the RACS Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program.

This regulation does not apply to Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMG) CPD requirements which are addressed via a separate regulation.

2. KEYWORDS

Continuing Professional Development (CPD), compliance

3. BODY OF REGULATION

All RACS Fellows in active practice must participate in a program of CPD.

3.1. Aims

The aims of the RACS CPD Program are:

- 3.1.1. To advance the individual surgeon's knowledge, skills, competence and behavioural awareness for the benefit of patients
- 3.1.2. To encourage a culture of life-long learning that promotes collaboration, peer review and reflective practice
- 3.1.3. To ensure compliance with regulatory authority standards

3.2. Program Requirements and Categories

The RACS CPD Program requirements aligns with regulatory standards set by the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) and the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ). All Fellows must comply with all requirements each year unless exempted from participation (see CPD Policy - Exemptions).

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3.2.1. CPD and Area of Practice

Fellows should participate in CPD that is reflective of their Area of Practice (AoP). At least 50% of a Fellow's annual CPD must be relevant to their AoP.

3.2.2. CPD Minimum Requirements

Fellows must meet the following minimum annual CPD requirements:

CATEGORY	STANDARD	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
Learning Plan	Complete a Learning Plan	One (1) per annum
Audit	Audit of self/own practice Audit of Surgical Mortality (ANZASM)	One (1) per annum As required Minimum 10 hours per annum
Performance Review	a) Performance of Self b) Performance of Others	At least one (1) activity At least one (1) activity Minimum 15 hours per annum
Education Activities	At least two (2) activities - minimum 40 hours per annum	

Table 1: RACS CPD Categories - 2021

3.2.3. CPD Categories

The minimum standards for each CPD category are outlined in the CPD Program Category Standards.

3.3. Participation and Compliance

Fellows must participate in, and satisfactorily complete, CPD for each calendar year – 1 January to 31 December. Fellows who are selected to verify their annual CPD must also provide additional documentation to support their participation.

3.4. Reporting CPD Participation

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Fellows must report their CPD participation by no later than 28 February of the following year (i.e. for the 2022 CPD year, CPD must be reported by no later than 28 February 2023).

3.5. Fellows participating in other approved CPD Programs

RACS recognises other approved CPD programs that are comparable to the RACS CPD Program. Fellows participating in these programs are not required to participate in the RACS Program.

3.6. Fellows residing overseas

Fellows of RACS in active practice who reside overseas are required to participate in either the RACS CPD Program or the equivalent CPD Program in the country in which they reside.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Guide
 Policy – CPD Participation and Compliance
 Policy - CPD Verification
 Policy - CPD Exemptions
 CPD Standard - Audit and Peer Review
 CPD Standard - Education Activity
 CPD Standard - Learning Plan
 RACS Code of Conduct
 RACS Surgical Competence and Performance Guide
 RACS Surgical Audit and Peer Review Guide
 Regulation - Professional Conduct Committee – Terms of Reference
 Regulation - Professional Standards and Advocacy Committee
 Policy - Professional Standards Committee – Terms of Reference
 Policy - Locum Evaluation and Peer Review Committee
 Policy – Recognition of CPD Activities
 Position Paper – Interactions with the Medical Industry