Practical Competency Assessment Echocardiography – Information Sheet for applicants

Your registration with CPRB was granted with conditions on your practice of supervision until a practical competency assessment (PCA) occurs.

This condition is likely to have been imposed, as your professional training and qualifications are not directly equivalent or comparable to those of echocardiographers trained in New Zealand. There are a wide variety of training and qualification programs worldwide. The purpose of the PCA is to check that your practice is at the same level expected of a New Zealand trained echocardiographer, in order to ensure the safety of the New Zealand public when accessing healthcare. It should occur within the first 6 months of beginning employment as an echocardiographer in New Zealand.

Outcomes

The outcome of the assessment may be as follows:

1. You pass the assessment, and conditions of supervision will then be removed from your APC.
2. You are advised to address some areas of your practice and resit the assessment, typically within a 3 month period – there is no additional cost to resitting.
3. You fail the assessment and are advised to undertake further post-graduate study and training, and the condition of supervised practice will remain on your APC until this has occurred.

In outcomes 2 and 3, every effort is made to support your learning and development as an echocardiographer, and CPRB will work closely with you and your supervisor to find ways to bring your practice to the required level.

The assessment

2 assessors – highly experienced Echocardiographers, attend your place of work for a half day, and observe you undertake 3 scans. They will also interview you after each scan and ask questions. They will then prepare a detailed report and advise you of the outcome within approximately 2 weeks.

It can be difficult to co-ordinate 2 assessors to attend your workplace on a day that suits the clinic in which you are employed, depending on which part of New Zealand you are working. Therefore it is essential that you discuss the PCA with your supervisor before it occurs, as you will need their cooperation and support to arrange the assessment and subjects for the scan. You should also discuss with them the outcome of your assessment once you receive the result, particularly if you need to re-sit or undertake further training.

Cost

The cost of a PCA is $1500.00 and must be paid before the assessment is arranged. Once you advise CPRB that you need to sit a PCA, an invoice will be sent to you.

To apply for a PCA, email the registrar at admin@cprb.org.nz