



AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SPORT AND EXERCISE PHYSICIANS

P032 - ACSEP RETURN TO PRACTICE POLICY

1 PURPOSE

This policy provides guidance to ACSEP CPD Program participants on the requirements for returning to practice following a prolonged absence from clinical practice in Sport and Exercise Medicine.

2 BACKGROUND

The ACSEP recognises that CPD Program participants may, for a variety of reasons, take an extended period away from clinical practice. Whilst a moderate period of absence from practice is unlikely to diminish clinical skills or competence, longer absences may do so, and this policy intends to provide guidance on the appropriate steps for return to practice.

As a general principle, ACSEP encourages CPD Program participants who are not engaged in clinical practice to continue their involvement in the ACSEP Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program as a method of maintaining up to date knowledge.

When a practitioner is considering a return to Sport and Exercise Medicine practice, they should apply to the ACSEP CPD Committee for an evaluation of their circumstances. The ACSEP CPD Committee will consider requests on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the applicant's participation in a CPD program, attendance at conferences and other education events, work and study undertaken during the absence from clinical practice and other relevant matters when evaluating such requests.

3 SCOPE

This policy applies to ACSEP CPD Program participants (Fellows and CPD Program members) who have taken more than 12 months of leave from clinical practice in Sport and Exercise Medicine for approved reasons.

4 POLICY STATEMENT

The Medical Board of Australia (MBA) currently requires that for periods less than 36 months, but greater than 12 months, the equivalent of one year's participation in CPD relevant to the practitioner's scope of practice be completed. For periods greater than 36 months, a plan for professional development and re-entry will need to be submitted for approval. The Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) requires an application for all circumstances where registration, where previously held, has lapsed. Any requirement relating to the restoration of registration will be determined by MCNZ.

The ACSEP strongly encourages compliance with the above recommendations from MBA in circumstances where a NZ CPD Program participant seeks a return to practice.



For absences from clinical practice of up to 36 months, ACSEP does not require CPD Program participants to undertake any specific retraining, mentoring or reaccreditation beyond participation in the above CPD requirement and any other requirements as dictated by the relevant registration authority.

For those absent from clinical practice in the scope of practice for Sport and Exercise Medicine for a period of 3-5 years, a modest compromise of clinical skills and knowledge may be expected. The returning practitioner will need to comply with MBA or MCNZ requirements as relevant, however, the ACSEP recommends that a plan for professional development be submitted for consideration by the ACSEP CPD Committee. Options for up-skilling for return to practice will include mentoring, CPD programs (possibly at a higher rate of hours accumulation than normal), supervised practice, specific courses such as emergency management and formative assessments such as Workplace Based Assessments may be required. This plan will require approval from MBA for Australian-based practitioners.

For those practitioners who have not maintained registration (as defined by the MBA or MCNZ) but have been actively working within the scope of SEM outside of Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, the CPD Committee shall take this into consideration when formulating any return to practice recommendations. It cannot, however, predetermine the decision of MBA nor MCNZ.

For those absent from clinical practice for greater than 5 years, there may be significant compromise in the practitioner's clinical skills and knowledge sets. In these circumstances, the ACSEP CPD Committee may request that the practitioner undertakes formal re-assessment prior to returning to clinical practice.

5 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Medical Board of Australia's "Registration Standard: Recency of Practice" for practitioners registered in Australia, noting that registration in Australia is dependent on recency of practice as defined by the Medical Board of Australia.

Practitioners in Aotearoa New Zealand should refer to the Medical Council of New Zealand's guidance on "Restoration to the register" and related advice.

The ACSEP endeavours to align with the policies above. Where there is discrepancy, the relevant national registration policy will stand.

6 KEY RELATED DOCUMENTS

ACSEP CPD Handbook
ACSEP CPD Program Guidelines



7 DEFINITIONS

CPD: Continuing Professional Development

SEM: Sport and Exercise Medicine

8 FEEDBACK

ACSEP staff, member or any other interested person may provide feedback about this document by emailing nationaloffice@acsep.org.au.

9 APPROVAL AND REVIEW DETAILS

Approval and Review	Details
Approval Authority	ACSEP CEO and ACSEP Board of Directors (Executive)
Advisor or Advisory Committee to Approval Authority	ACSEP CPD Committee and ACSEP Board
Policy Administrator	ACSEP Policy Officer
Next Review Date	August 2025

Approval and Amendment History	Version Number	Version Date	Details
	V3 – 11/08/2023		Ratified by ACSEP Board
	V3 – 20/07/2023		Redrafted and reviewed by SOO, reviewed by CEO and CPD Committee
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