

Return to practice

Policy statement Te Kaunihera Manapou Paramedic Council (Te Kaunihera) is required under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act) to ensure every applicant for an annual practising certificate (APC) is competent and fit to practise their profession. Te Kaunihera has established the following policy under the HPCA Act to consider an application for an APC when a practitioner has been out of practice for more than 3 years.

Procedure **Not holding an APC within the past 3 years (section 27(1)(d) of the HPCA Act)**

If an applicant for an APC has not practised for 3–5 years since the date of their application, it will be individually considered, and they may be issued with an APC with a condition that, within 12 months, they complete one or more of:

- an orientation
- a competence assessment
- a number of hours of professional development.

If the applicant has been practising paramedicine at any time within the past 3 years but not in Aotearoa New Zealand, written evidence will be required from the applicant's overseas employer (and a certificate of good standing from the regulatory authority).

If the applicant has been practising in Aotearoa New Zealand without an APC, the case may be considered by the Registrar or may be referred to a Professional Conduct Committee.

Declining an application for an APC (section 28 of the HPCA Act)

An APC may be declined if the paramedic has not practised paramedicine in the last 5 years. They will be required to complete a competence assessment programme (CAP) before being issued an APC. A report including a completed competence assessment must be supplied from the school or organisation where the CAP was completed.

After the CAP course has been successfully completed, if there are competency concerns, the application may be declined or referred to the Registration Committee.

References Te Kaunihera minutes dated 11 June 2021 – decision on return to practice requirements.
