



## NAMP Certification Policy

### 1. Purpose

---

The primary purpose of certification for health care professions is to protect the public from harm due to issues linked to professional practice.

Medical Physicists as yet are not a registered profession under the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health and Social Services.

As the recognised professional body representing Medical Physicists in Nigeria, the NAMP is establishing robust processes to evaluate the professional competence of Medical Physicists.

NAMP will maintain a publicly accessible register of individuals who have demonstrated competency to practise safely and independently in their chosen specialty in Nigeria and who are continuing to maintain those skills by demonstrating sufficient commitment to continuing professional development. These individuals are NAMP Certified Medical Physicists (NCMPs).

The purpose of NAMP's Training Education and Assessment Program (TEAP) Certification is to equip graduates with broad expertise in their area of specialty while the purpose of the NAMP Register of Certified Medical Physicists is to ensure that any person on the register is a safe and competent practitioner.

This document specifies the mechanisms for attaining NAMP certification as a Medical Physicist and the requirements for maintaining that registration.

### 2. Definitions

---

#### **Definition of a Medical Physicist**

The primary role of the NCMP in clinical practice is to optimize, or advise other health care professionals to optimize, the use of radiation in ensuring the safety and quality of diagnostic or therapeutic procedures. NCMPs play a key role in the selection, installation, and commissioning of new medical equipment, and implementation of new diagnostic or treatment techniques. They are responsible for developing and implementing the physical and technical aspects of the quality assurance (QA) programmes in diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

#### **ROMP**

Radiation Oncology Medical Physicist.

#### **DIMP**

Diagnostic Imaging Medical Physicist, an umbrella term for nuclear medicine medical physicists and diagnostic radiology medical physicists used for the purpose of describing the integrated curriculum in TEAP. This policy uses both the collective term DIMP and the specific terms radiology and nuclear medicine, as applicable.



### 3. Domains of Expertise

---

Medical Physicists have expertise across the following domains: (taken from CanMEDS framework <https://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/canmeds/canmeds-framework-e>) (**Appendix 1**)

**i. The Medical-Scientific Expert in the field of Medical Physics**

Medical Physicists integrate scientific approach, clinical knowledge and skills, and professional values in provision of high-quality and safe patient-centred care. The Medical-Scientific Expert is the central role in the expert domains framework.

**ii. The Communicator**

As Communicators, Medical Physicists form relationships with other health care professionals, patients and their families that facilitate the gathering and sharing of essential information for effective health care.

**iii. The Collaborator**

As Collaborators, Medical Physicists work effectively with other health care professionals to provide safe, evidence based, high-quality, patient-centred care.

**iv. The Leader**

Medical Physicists engage with others to contribute to a vision of a high-quality, evidence based, health care system and take responsibility for the delivery of excellent patient care through their activities as scientists, administrators, scholars, or teachers.

**v. The Health Advocate**

As Health Advocates, Medical Physicists contribute their expertise and influence as they work with communities or patient populations to improve health. Medical Physicists work with those they serve to determine and understand needs, speak on behalf of others when required, and support the mobilisation of resources to effect change.

**vi. The Scholar**

As Scholars, Medical Physicists demonstrate a lifelong commitment to excellence in practice through continuous learning, by teaching and supporting others, evaluating evidence, and contributing to scholarship.

**vii. The Professional**

Medical Physicists are committed to the health and well-being of individual patients and society through ethical practice, high personal standards of behaviour, accountability to the profession and society, profession-led regulation, and maintenance of personal health.

### 4. Admission to the Register

---

- i.** The primary route to the NAMP Register is by Certification through completion of the NAMP TEAP. Details of NAMP TEAP requirements for certification can be found in the NAMP TEAP Admission and Completion Policy. Certification through the NAMP TEAP leads automatically to admission on the NAMP Register of Certified Medical Physicists.



- ii. Candidates may also join the NAMP Register of Certified Medical Physicists through assessment of competence as an experienced candidate.

## 5. Principles applying to experienced candidates

---

### 5.1 Essential and desirable scientific knowledge and clinical skills

It is recognised that experienced candidates will not necessarily be competent in every area of scientific knowledge and clinical skills that are required for completion of the NAMP TEAP but will bring with them skills and competence reflecting their own training and experience.

However, there are certain areas of scientific knowledge and clinical skills that a Medical Physicist must have competence in to practice safely. These are defined as **essential** competencies.

For the purposes of certification and admission to the NAMP Register for experienced candidates, competencies of the NAMP TEAP Curriculum have been identified as falling into one of two categories:

- Essential competencies or requirements: Experienced candidates must be able to demonstrate sufficient skills and experience in these areas.
- Desirable competencies or requirements: Experienced candidates should ideally be able to demonstrate skills and experience in these areas, but they are not mandatory for certification as an experienced Medical Physicist.

## 6. Requirements for experienced candidates

---

### 6.1 Experienced candidates must demonstrate the following:

#### 6.1.1 Degree(s)

##### Medical Physicists

- Hold an appropriate undergraduate degree (usually called Bachelor) equivalent to a Nigerian degree majoring in Physics or Engineering.
- A relevant postgraduate degree (usually called Master or PhD) specifically relevant to Medical Physics and including a significant research component.

Degree requirements for Medical Physicists may be modified if the candidate is able to demonstrate extensive work experience and meet all other requirements.

#### 6.1.2. Experience

Candidates must have a minimum of 6 years' full time equivalent recent experience practicing as a clinical Medical Physicist, excluding university studies and excluding clinical training.

#### 6.1.3. Demonstration of competence in Domains of Expertise

##### i. Medical-Scientific Expert

Candidates must demonstrate evidence of competency in the essential areas (defined within the Certification Application). Evidence of competence in desirable areas is beneficial but not mandatory to the application.



This competence should include evidence across the entire range of domains of expertise (listed in Section 3), but with emphasis on the medical-scientific expert. Evidence in other domains is described below.

**ii.to v. The Communicator, The Collaborator, The Leader, The Health Advocate**

Specific evidence to these domains should be provided via candidates own self-reflection and feedback from two referees.

**vi. The Scholar**

Evidence of research capabilities through such things as publications in peer reviewed scientific journals, presentations at national or international scientific conferences, or major reports on original work.

Demonstration of on-going commitment to CPD in their current context.

**vii. The Professional**

Specific evidence to this domain should be provided via the candidates own self-reflection and feedback from two referees.

## **7. Maintenance of Registration**

---

**7.1** Entry to the NAMP Register of Certified Medical Physics constitutes a binding agreement that the individual will:

1. Practice safely and in accordance with the professional standards of their specialty to deliver the best possible outcomes for patients.
2. Abide by the NAMP Code of Ethics (whether a member or not).
3. Agree for the registrant's name, specialty and principal place of practice and expiry date (if relevant), to be publicly available and published on the Register and for this Register to be made available by the NAMP through various means including on the NAMP website.
4. Provide permission for the NAMP to state whether the registrant is on the Register to employers or government regulators.
5. Maintain Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in accordance with NAMP requirements.
6. Maintain currency of practice in accordance with the standard required by the NAMP. This requires the registrant to practice as a Medical Physicist for at least 450 hours in any three-year period.

The Conditions of Registration may be varied by the NAMP from time to time.

## **8. Removal from the Register**

---

### **8.1 Maintenance requirements of registration not fulfilled**

The Chair of the NAMP Clinical Training and Certification Board (NCCB) has authority to immediately suspend a Registrant.

The NCCB Chair may recommend removal of a registrant from the Register to the NCCB if requirements to maintain certification (including CPD requirements) are not met.



## 8.2 Disciplinary matters, professional misconduct and complaints

Registrants may be removed from the Register by the NAMP Executive Committee on the recommendation of the NCCB. Removal from the Register in these circumstances may be on the grounds of:

- Failure to comply with the NAMP Code of ethics.
- Professional misconduct that fails to meet the standards expected in medical environments in Nigeria.
- Upholding of complaints from the public, patients, employers, colleagues, or other members.
- Conduct likely to bring disrepute to the professions or the NAMP, including behaviour not related directly to professional responsibilities.

In cases with potential to compromise the safety of the public, potential serious professional misconduct, and disciplinary matters likely to lead to public disrepute, the NCCB Chair may make an interim recommendation to the NAMP Executive Committee, and the NAMP Executive Committee may immediately remove the registrant from the Register or suspend a registrant, pending the further investigation and adjudication of the matter. Where such an interim decision is made, the NAMP will make every effort to advise the registrant of the interim decision and publish the interim decision, noting that further investigations and adjudication will take place.

The NCCB may approve any process to investigate and adjudicate these matters, either in a standard policy or to deal with specific cases, if required, including:

- The appointment of any panel to conduct an investigation or hearing.
- The use of external bodies or professionals to conduct an investigation or hearing; and
- The receipt of any report of proceedings, investigations or hearings from any other body for their own consideration.

## 9. Appeals

---

Any decision relating to the Admission to the Register or Removal from the Register may be appealed, according to the relevant policy, which may include one or more of the following:

- 1) Grievance Handling and Appeals Policy (to be completed)
- 2) Membership Policy (to be completed)

Advice of an admission to or removal from the Register will always include notification of the applicable Appeals policies.

<b>Authorized by</b>	NAMP Clinical Training and Certification Board
<b>Authorized on</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
<b>Review date</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<b>Responsible officer</b>	NCCB Chair
<b>Version</b>	1.0

### Document History

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Reason</b>
1.0	27/05/24	NCCB	



**APPENDIX 1: Adapted CanMEDS framework**

---

