

# RACGP Standards for general practices

## Frequently asked questions for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) requirements in general practices

### Background

The RACGP provides detail on how to meet the relevant CPR indicators in the *Standards for general practices* (5th edition). These FAQs will help practices better understand the requirements for CPR training in relation to the Standards. The RACGP's [continuing professional development \(CPD\)](#) team also provides [advice](#) on how GPs can meet their CPR requirement each triennium.

### How often am I required to complete CPR training?

GPs must complete CPR training every three years. This is the minimum requirement of both CPD and the Standards.

### Why do I need to complete CPR training every three years?

The CPR requirement aims to ensure all GPs maintain their skills and competency to perform CPR procedures on a patient or member of the community when required. The RACGP recognises that CPR skills are used infrequently and may diminish over time.

Evidence suggests the most important determinant of survival of sudden cardiac arrest is the presence of a trained rescuer who is ready and able to act.

GPs have a duty to respond to sudden cardiac arrest and are expected to perform CPR procedures in accordance with current [Australian Resuscitation Council](#) (ARC) guidelines and techniques, without the assistance of specialist emergency services or equipment if required to do so.

### What are the CPD requirements for CPR training?

CPR training needs to meet the following requirements for CPD:

- GPs must complete a CPR course that meets ARC guidelines.
- Courses must be a minimum of one hour in duration.
- Courses can be either a Category 2 activity or form part of a Category 1 accredited activity.
- Advanced life support (ALS) courses must meet the RACGP CPR requirements.
- Training courses are required to assess CPR competence – learners must be able to physically demonstrate CPR on a mannequin on the floor upon completion of the course.

### CPR training completed solely online does not meet either the training or accreditation requirement.

GPs must provide a certificate of completion for accreditation.

### What if I am physically unable to perform CPR?

GPs who cannot physically perform CPR may apply for [exemptions](#), which are valid for the current triennium only. These GPs are required to:

- provide a medical certificate or declaration stating they have a disability or medical condition that prevents them from being physically able to perform CPR
- inform the RACGP in writing about measures taken in their practice to ensure the GP and the practice are prepared for a situation that requires CPR.

GPs with a current CPR/ALS instructor certificate are also exempt.



### The ARC guidelines recommend CPR updates be completed annually – does this apply to GPs?

GPs are **not** required to complete CPR training annually for either the CPD or accreditation requirements. However, the ARC recommends CPR updates be completed at least annually.

Although the specifics of who can provide CPR training and what the training involves are set by the ARC, the period in which the training needs to be completed is set by professional bodies – for GPs, this is the RACGP. Confusion can arise because though the ARC guidelines recommend at least annual CPR updates, the RACGP requires GPs to complete the training **at least every three years**.

Although not mandated by the RACGP, many general practice professionals believe CPR training should be conducted on a more frequent basis, preferably annually.

### What happens if my practice's accreditation cycle does not align with the triennium for CPD?

The RACGP acknowledges that for GPs, the CPD triennium may not align with the practice's accreditation cycle. If a GP has met their CPR requirement for CPD but it falls outside their practice's three-year accreditation cycle, that GP needs to ensure their CPR training is refreshed every three years at a minimum. This ensures their practice meets Indicator [GP3.1▶A](#).

Non-GP clinical staff – for example, allied health providers and specialists – may have minimum CPR requirements that differ to those in the Standards. Non-GP clinical staff should ask their professional body about their CPR requirements. However, as members of the practice clinical team, all non-GP clinical staff are expected to complete CPR training at least every three years to meet the requirements of the Standards.

### Do administrative/non-clinical staff at my practice require CPR training?

CPR training for non-clinical staff at least every three years is a requirement for general practice accreditation.

Administrative staff have a vital role in the provision of safe and quality care and therefore require training appropriate to their role. A practice that supports education and training of non-clinical staff fosters continuous improvement and risk management.

CPR training for administrative staff is ideally conducted by an accredited training provider, or by members of the clinical team, if appropriate. These clinical team members must have a current CPR instructor's certificate that complies with ARC guidelines on instructor competencies.

## What Indicators in the Standards require CPR training?

The following Indicators relate to CPR training and are mandatory for accreditation under the Standards.

### C8.1▶B Our non-clinical staff CPR training at least every three years

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| You must:  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>provide evidence that non-clinical staff complete CPR training every three years.</li></ul>  |
| You could: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>keep training logs that record training that non-clinical team members have completed</li><li>keep a training calendar listing opportunities for professional development and training completed</li><li>plan annual performance reviews</li><li>store documents that record training needs and training completed</li></ul> |

### GP3.1▶A Members of our clinical team have undertaken training in CPR, in accordance with the recommendations of their professional organisation, or at least every three years

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| You must:  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>keep records of each practitioner's CPR training.</li></ul>  |
| You could: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>keep training logs that record training that practitioners have completed</li><li>keep a calendar that lists opportunities for training and professional development</li><li>conduct annual performance reviews that identify learning and development goals</li><li>store documents that record training needs and completed training of each member of the practice team</li></ul> |

## Who can I contact for more information?

### RACGP CPD teams

National  
[cpd.national@racgp.org.au](mailto:cpd.national@racgp.org.au)

NSW and ACT  
[nswact.cpd@racgp.org.au](mailto:nswact.cpd@racgp.org.au)

Queensland  
[gld.cpd@racgp.org.au](mailto:gld.cpd@racgp.org.au)

South Australia and  
Northern Territory  
[sant.cpd@racgp.org.au](mailto:sant.cpd@racgp.org.au)

Tasmania  
[tas.cpd@racgp.org.au](mailto:tas.cpd@racgp.org.au)

Victoria  
[vic.cpd@racgp.org.au](mailto:vic.cpd@racgp.org.au)

Western Australia  
[wa.cpd@racgp.org.au](mailto:wa.cpd@racgp.org.au)

### RACGP Standards

[standards@racgp.org.au](mailto:standards@racgp.org.au)