



The Society of Cardiopulmonary Technology (NZ) Ltd

c/o Cardiac Physiology, Level3, Auckland City Hospital, Private Bag 92024, Auckland 1142, New Zealand. www.sct.org.nz
Telephone (09) 307-4949 extn. 24323. Email: education.sct@gmail.com

Guide for Recruitment of Cardiac Technicians and Cardiac Physiologists

The Society of Cardiopulmonary Technology (NZ) Inc or SCT, is the professional body which sets the standards of practice and minimum qualifications and experience for working as a cardiac physiology technician or cardiac physiologist in NZ. The two roles have different training pathways and scopes of practice.

This is a guide for charge physiologists, managers and the human resource department/people and capability service, to assist in the recruitment of suitable applicants to the cardiac physiology profession. If you require more information, advice or to request support during interviews please contact SCT.

Website: <https://www.sct.org.nz>

Email: info@sct.org.nz

The Clinical Physiologist Registration Board (CPRB) manages the registration and annual practicing certificates (APC) for this profession (along with respiratory, sleep, neurophysiology, renal, exercise physiologists). The APC renewal date for the profession is the 1st May.

Website: <https://cprb.org.nz>

Section 1: Training and Employment within New Zealand

Cardiac Physiology Technician

A cardiac physiology technician typically performs 12 lead ECG recording, ambulatory monitor (Holter/event/blood pressure) fitting, removal/downloading and exercise tolerance testing (technician role). They may also perform non cardiac tasks in their daily work but the cardiac component of their role should be >70%.

Entry requirements: A minimum of NCEA Level 2 (60 credits at level 2, plus 20 credits at any level, plus literacy and numeracy credit requirements at level 1), including a pass in one of the following: Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Science.

Employment Requirements: The trainee is required to be employed with a job title that reflects the technical nature of the role (i.e. trainee cardiac or physiology technician). The employing hospital must have sufficient qualified cardiac physiology technicians or physiologists available to carry out the training plus access to the required procedures. An agreement may be made with a nearby larger centre to provide support for those training at remote or smaller hospitals.

Qualification: The Certificate of Physiological Measurement (CPM) is a one-year qualification offered by SCT, which is delivered by online learning and covers the theory and practical aspects of this role. The CPM course may be started at any time throughout the year and requires a clinical supervisor who is employed in a technical role, is a member of SCT and is competent to perform the practical training. Remote or smaller hospitals may appoint a clinical supervisor from a nearby larger hospital to oversee the training. The CPM qualification is awarded once the CPM course has been completed and the trainee has attained one year of full-time equivalent work experience.

Course Cost: \$1500 plus an annual SCT membership fee of \$150

Additional Skills: Spirometry testing may be performed within the cardiac physiology technician role. SCT offers a Spirometry Certification course which is available via online learning and requires a supervisor who is competent to perform the spirometry practical training and assessment. The cost for this course is \$250.



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Advanced Scope of Practice: Qualified cardiac physiology technicians may progress to perform specific advanced practice skills, which are determined by SCT. Examples of such skills include: Exercise tolerance testing supervision or ambulatory ECG monitor analysis. The technician is required to undertake the same training as is required for a cardiac physiologist performing the procedure.

Cardiac Physiologist

A cardiac physiologist typically performs the following roles:

- Ambulatory ECG monitor analysis and reporting (Holter/event)
- Cardiac catheterisation procedures: setup, monitoring, measurements, analysis and reporting of results during coronary angiograms, percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI), right heart studies, interventional procedures (i.e. TAVI, ASD closure)
- Pacemaker, implantable loop recorder (ILR) and implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) implantation technical support: device selection and programming, patient setup and monitoring, lead testing and documentation.
- Pacemaker, ILR and ICD patient follow-up care: outpatient clinics, remote follow-up, inpatient support
- Electrophysiology studies and ablation - technical role
- Exercise tolerance testing – supervision role
- May also perform cardiac technician duties as required by the place of employment

Entry requirements: minimum of a BSc in physiology (preferred) or other relevant science major (i.e. exercise physiology). Applicants with other qualifications may be accepted but this is at the discretion of Otago University.

Employment Requirements: the trainee is required to be employed with a job title that reflects the technical nature of the role (i.e. trainee cardiac physiologist). The employing hospital must have current accreditation as a training hospital which is issued by SCT. Where a hospital does not meet the accreditation requirements, joint accreditation may be issued with a nearby larger centre to provide support for training.

Qualifications:

The following Otago university qualifications are offered by distance learning (plus block weekends) and courses commence at the start of the university year.

Post Graduate Certificate in Medical Technology* – year 1

Post Graduate Diploma in Medical Technology – year 2

*This qualification may be obtained prior to employment as a trainee cardiac physiologist.

Certification of Cardiac Physiologists (CCP): This two-year qualification is offered by SCT and is completed concurrently with the Otago university qualifications. CCP is delivered by online learning and includes the CPM qualification (see cardiac technicians). The CCP course may be started at any time throughout the year and requires a clinical supervisor who is employed in a technical role, is a member of SCT and is competent to perform the practical training. CCP is awarded on completion of the CCP course requirements and attainment of 2 years full-time equivalent work experience.

To qualify as a cardiac physiologist requires attainment of the Post Graduate Diploma in Medical Technology plus CCP.

CCP Course Cost: \$3000 plus an annual SCT membership fee of \$150



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Section 2: International Cardiac Physiologist Applicants (overseas qualified)

Advertising

The advertisement should include advice that international applicants should apply to SCT for membership via the SCT website.

Assessment of international applicants

Prior to interviewing the applicant, check the CPRB register: <https://cprb.org.nz/view-the-register/>

- If they are not registered – advise the applicant to apply to SCT for membership (if not done already)
- If they are registered with conditions – advise the applicant to apply to SCT to sit the international CCP exam
- If they are registered with no conditions – The applicant may be suitable for the role - check whether they are registered as a technician or physiologist by selecting their name on the register.

Accepted by SCT

If SCT deem that the applicant's qualification is equivalent to the SCT qualification standards, SCT will award them with Affiliate membership.

They should then apply to the CPRB for registration.

Please note: affiliate membership is awarded to both cardiac technicians and cardiac physiologists. It is important to check with the CPRB register to ensure you are not employing a cardiac technician into a cardiac physiologist position.

Not Accepted by SCT

If SCT deem that the applicant's qualification is NOT equivalent to the SCT qualification standards, the applicant is informed that they may sit the international certification exam.

If they pass this exam, they are awarded Affiliate membership with SCT and should then apply to the CPRB for registration.

International Certification Exam

The Certification of Cardiac Physiologists (CCP) International Exam is a 3.5hour online exam. The exam may be completed at any time that is suitable for the applicant and results are typically available within 2 weeks of sitting the exam.

The applicant is eligible to re-sit the exam if they fail an attempt with a maximum of three attempts. A gap of 3 months is required between each re-sit. If they fail the exam after 3 attempts their application for SCT membership is declined.

Cost: \$500 per exam.