

Gastrointestinal endoscopy – licensing requirements

Following significant consultation and public display, the *Private Health Facilities Act 2007* and the *Private Health Facilities Regulation 2010* commenced on 1 March 2010. The Regulation makes a number of improvements in licensing for safe care of patients setting out the licensing standards for 18 classes of facilities in addition to the general licensing standards. There are 4 new classes not previously required to be licensed: Anaesthesia class, Interventional Neuroradiology class, Radiotherapy class, and Rapid Opioid Detoxification class. Other classes have changed significantly, such as the Gastrointestinal Endoscopy class.

The Regulation now provides for licensing of all gastrointestinal endoscopy from 1 March 2010. This is defined as “the use of a flexible endoscope with an internal lumen for the passage of an instrument to examine the upper or lower gastrointestinal tract” (*Private Health Facilities Regulation 2010* clause 5(t)) with premises required to be licensed irrespective of the type of sedation being administered to patients.

Clinicians should familiarise themselves with the new legislation and review their practice in light of the changed legislation to determine whether their premises are appropriately licensed. Further information and assistance can be found at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/hospitals/phc/index> asp or by contacting

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