



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL  
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

**MSC  
NEWS**

NEWSLETTER OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

## *Online Examination update*

The Council has made significant progress with the implementation of an online examination.

In July the Council held their first Examination Committee meeting to review the first set of questions submitted by content writers. The Council was delighted with the calibre of the questions submitted with 37% of questions approved for inclusion in the first exam, and a further 23% returned for fine-tuning.

A second Examination Committee meeting was held on the 2nd October, where 61% of the questions submitted were approved for inclusion in the first exam and a further 12% returned for fine-tuning

Watch this space for more information.

## *AT Working Outside Scope of Practice*

The Council recently received information regarding an Anaesthetic Technician working outside their scope of practice.

The Council would like to remind practitioners and employers that the Council's expectation is that all AT's are required to work within the parameters of the gazetted scope of practice and that anaesthetists providing direction to AT's must be aware of those parameters and endorse them.

Where there are practices outside the parameters of the gazetted AT scope of practice, there is an opportunity for the hospital to put a case to the Council for a particular practice to be included in the Council's expanded practice standards.

### **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**

*Once you are registered, you have a legal requirement to notify the Council of any changes to your residential, postal or work address within one month of the change. You can do this by logging into "My Profile" on the website.*

### **COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY**

*The primary responsibility of the Council is to protect the health and safety of the New Zealand public by ensuring practitioners registered in the professions of medical laboratory science, and anaesthetic technology are competent and fit to practice.*

## Accommodation

The Council's administration team (Medical Sciences Secretariat) have continued to work in temporary premises, and under challenging circumstances.

The first in respect of accommodation, which involved two physical moves within a six-month period as an aftermath of the 2016 Kaikoura earthquake.

Due to remediation work MSS were required to vacate their office premises. While that remediation work was completed at the end of 2017, an independent engineering report identified a separate issue in terms of a potential health and safety risk associated with the building's construction. The secretariat is settled in alternative temporary accommodation while negotiations continue in respect of a potential return to the accommodation we shared with a number of other regulatory authorities.



The situation with our accommodation has resulted in an extended period of additional costs in terms of lease obligations, however we expect to be able recoup at least a percentage of those costs through our business continuity insurance cover. At this point it is unknown as to when the situation with our shared accommodation will be resolved, however the collective regulatory authorities are taking a proactive approach to bring this to resolution as soon as possible.



A second challenge has been due to recent demolition work being carried out on the building next to the secretariat's current accommodation, resulting in relocation of a number of Council meetings and staff working remotely due to noise pollution.

Despite these challenges the secretariat manages the day-to-day business of the Council with minimal disruption.

## APC Payments

The Council would like to remind all practitioners and employers, that an annual practising certificate application is about checking eligibility of individual practitioners, therefore each practitioner is responsible for making payment of the APC fee. During the last APC renewal period, we received a large number of requests for group payments, which the Council will no longer accept.

## *AT Scope of Practice Review*

In April 2018 the Medical Sciences Council issued a communique outlining the outcomes of its consultation in respect of a review of the Anaesthetic Technician scope of practice. A number of Anaesthetic Technicians have subsequently contacted the Council to express their concern about the decision to retain the current definition of this scope of practice.

The Council has now had an opportunity to consider those additional communications and has published an updated communications document.

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## *Expanded Practice Activity (MSC)*

The publication Policy and Guidelines: Expanded Practice for Medical Laboratory Science Practitioners (February 2018) sets out the policy and procedures whereby a laboratory/healthcare facility can apply to the Council for an expanded practice activity to be approved.

The publication sets out how a suitably trained registered medical laboratory science practitioners can apply to the Council to have a condition for an expanded practice activity (that is on the Council's list of approved expanded practice activities) included on their practising certificate.

The Council is now accepting applications from laboratory/healthcare facilities wishing to gain approval to introduce an expanded practice activity. The application form is available in the publications section of the website.

To date, the Council has approved one expanded practice activity within which registered medical laboratory science practitioners can practise, namely, "IV Cannulation".

The standards which practitioners and the laboratory/healthcare facility must meet before the practitioner's APC is endorsed with the expanded practice activity are set out the policy document.