



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL  
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

# POLICY AND GUIDELINES: PRACTISING IN MORTUARY SERVICES

OCTOBER 1, 2018

Policy Title	
<b>Reference Number</b>	2018-Oct-V1-MSc Mortuary Practice
<b>Scope</b>	This policy applies to medical laboratory science practitioners practising in mortuary services

Associated Policy Documents	
Document Title	Reference Number

Revision Schedule			
Version Number	Version Date	Approved By	Next Review
One	October 2018	Medical Sciences Council	2020

## Contents

Policy Overview .....	3
Mortuary Practice .....	3
Medical Laboratory Scientists .....	3
Medical Laboratory Technicians .....	3

## Policy Overview

Under section 12 of the Health practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the Medical Sciences Council (the Council) requires practitioners to hold a qualification that has been prescribed for the purpose of registration in the relevant scope of practice.

This policy sets out the qualification requirements for medical laboratory science practitioners practising in mortuary services.

## Mortuary Practice

Medical laboratory science practitioners working in mortuary services assist the pathologist during the post-mortem procedure and manage operational requirements of the mortuary facility and the post-mortem suite.

The practitioner must hold a relevant qualification that as a minimum includes:

- Basic knowledge of human anatomy and physiology
- Application of appropriate techniques including photography in post-mortem examinations
- Identification and management of potential hazards within the mortuary environment
- Application of New Zealand legislation and codes of practice relating to the mortuary and the dead
- Application of administrative procedures and management of visitors to the mortuary and post-mortem suite

## Medical Laboratory Scientists

The prescribed qualification (Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science) for New Zealand trained medical laboratory scientists does not include specific learning on mortuary practice. Registered medical laboratory scientists practising in mortuary must hold a relevant qualification in mortuary, gained either as a New Zealand qualification through post-graduate study or as an overseas qualification.

A practitioner who has an overseas qualification that is specific to mortuary services may be subject to a limitation of their registration status (that is, able to practise in mortuary only).

Medical laboratory scientists wanting to practise in mortuary must contact the Council to have their qualification assessed.

## Medical Laboratory Technicians

New Zealand trained medical laboratory technicians practising in mortuary must hold the Qualified Medical Laboratory Technician Certificate in Mortuary (QMLT Mortuary) as issued by the New Zealand Institute of Medical Laboratory Science (NZIMLS).