



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL  
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

# CONSULTATION: PRACTITIONER FEES REVIEW

OUTCOMES OF THE  
CONSULTATION PUBLISHED IN  
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## Background

A consultation document proposing to increase the practitioner fees payable to the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand (the Council) by 4% effective 1 February 2020 was published in November 2019. Feedback was sought from all medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technology practitioners and other key stakeholders.

This report summarises the key themes in respect to the feedback received and the final decision of the Council regarding the fees to be charged to practitioners.

## Consultation feedback

The consultation period spanned three weeks, and a total of 45 responses were received. All responses, except one, were from individual practitioners. The response rate was 1%.

There was a very low response to the consultation document, and the Council has viewed this as an overall acceptance of the proposed increases. Some respondents raised concerns about the impact on part-time practitioners and wanted more detailed information on the Council's overall expenditure. The Council noted that detailed financial information is published in its annual report. Other practitioners commented they were supportive of regular small incremental increases rather than a larger infrequent increase.

## Consideration of Consultation Feedback

The Council has carefully considered the feedback received in response to the proposal to increase practitioner fees by 4%. Themes raised by respondents were similar to the previous fees review issued by the Council in 2017. Themes included:

### APC fee paid by nurses is considerably less

It is not uncommon for practitioners to compare their APC fee with that of nurses. However, this needs to be considered within context. The very considerable difference in the numbers of issued APC's for nurses (> 53,000) and medical laboratory science practitioners (circa 3,667) and anaesthetic technicians (circa 800) does not allow for a reasonable comparison. Economies of scale can allow an authority to set fees at a lower level than authorities with smaller numbers.

### Wages have not increased/wages are relatively low

The Council understands that there are differences in the remuneration levels for various categories of practitioners and that there are many practitioners who work on a part-time basis, thereby receiving pro-rata wages. However, the Council is unable to directly align regulation-related fees to workplace remuneration levels and employment tenure.

The cost of regulation includes a range of core regulatory activities as mandated by legislation, and those costs cannot be linked to employment conditions for individuals. For example, the costs for the Council in respect of issuing an APC are the same for all practitioners irrespective of the wages they receive and the hours they work.

## Conclusion

The Council has resolved to increase fees charged to practitioners by 4%, effective from 1 February 2020. Under section 132 (2) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the revised fees will be published by way of a Gazette notice at least 28 days before the implementation date.

Council would like to take this opportunity to thank those individuals and groups who took the time to read and respond to the consultation document on the fees payable by practitioners to the Council.

## **Practitioner Fees for 2020/2020**

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020, the Council has resolved to apply a 4% increase to all fees charged to practitioners.

### *Fees Payable by Medical Laboratory Science Practitioners:*

<b>FEE CATEGORY</b>	<b>Fee GST inclusive</b>	<b>Fee GST exclusive</b>
<b>REGISTRATIONS</b>		
Registration Fee (NZ graduate)	\$370.00	\$321.74
Registration Fee (Overseas graduate)	\$580.00	\$504.35
Additional Scope	\$105.00	\$91.30
<b>ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC)</b>		
Renewal of an APC received by 31 March	\$274.00	\$238.26
Renewal of an APC received after 7 April	\$384.00	\$333.91
Application for an initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 April to 30 September*	\$274.00	\$238.26
Application for an initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 October to 31 January*	\$137.00	\$119.13
Application for an initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 February to 31 March*	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>SUPPLY OF DOCUMENTS</b>		
Registration certification/re-issue of registration certificate	\$61.00	\$53.04
Letter of good standing	\$61.00	\$53.04
Restoration to the register	\$61.00	\$53.04
Online Exam Fee	\$2,496.00	\$2,170.43
<b>ACCREDITATION AND MONITORING FEES</b>		
The Council does not set a standard fee for carrying out an accreditation review (including ongoing monitoring reviews) of a New Zealand education provider, training hospital, or examination provider, but will instead issue an itemised invoice for reimbursement of costs associated with the accreditation review. All such invoices are calculated on a cost-recovery basis only.		

\*An initial APC or RTW APC will be issued up until 31 March.

**Fees Payable by Anaesthetic Technicians:**

<b>FEE CATEGORY</b>	<b>Fee GST Inclusive</b>	<b>Fee GST Exclusive</b>
<b>REGISTRATIONS</b>		
Registration Fee (NZ graduate)	\$370.00	\$321.74
Registration Fee (Overseas graduate)	\$580.00	\$504.35
<b>ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC)</b>		
Renewal of an APC received by 31 March	\$364.00	\$316.52
Renewal of an APC received after 7 April	\$510.00	443.48
Application for an initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 April to 30 September*	\$364.00	\$316.52
Application for an initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 October to 31 January*	\$182.00	\$158.26
Application for an initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 February to 31 March*	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>SUPPLY OF DOCUMENTS</b>		
Registration certification/re-issue of registration certificate	\$61.00	\$53.04
Letter of good standing	\$61.00	\$53.04
Restoration to the register	\$61.00	\$53.04
Work Based Assessment	\$3,905.72	\$3,396.28
Online Exam Fee	\$2,496.00	\$2,170.43
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