



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

CONSULTATION OUTCOMES: CPD PROVIDERS

In December 2019 the Medical Sciences Council sought feedback from Continuing Professional Development providers and potential Continuing Professional Development providers on the “CPD Providers Accreditation” policy document.

This report summarises the feedback received by the Council and their subsequent decisions as to the standards for approval of CPD providers for MLS practitioners.

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Introduction

The Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand (the Council) thanks the Continuing Professional Development providers who provided feedback on the “CPD Providers Accreditation” policy.

Council Decision

Having given due consideration to the feedback received from providers the Council made the following decisions.

Timing of the Changes to the CPD Standards

The Council agreed to delay the implementation of the *CPD for Recertification of Medical Science Practitioner* policy published in July 2019 until 2021. Practitioners and providers were notified of this decision in early January 2020. This delay will allow time for providers to apply for approved providers status before 2021 and enable employers and practitioners to finalise agreements relating to meeting the costs of continuing professional development.

The *CPD for Recertification of Medical Science Practitioner* policy will be updated with the new dates and republished on the Council’s website. The CPD requirements for 2020 are those currently published on the website.

Providers of CPD programmes to be based in New Zealand

The Council resolved that its CPD standards will be revised to include a requirement that CPD programme providers seeking Council approval for recognition of their programme, will be based in New Zealand. Overseas providers who operate a New Zealand branch which has its own governance structure will be treated as a New Zealand based provider.

Reporting Requirements

The Council reviewed the reporting requirements and are satisfied they will provide sufficient information to enable monitoring of CPD providers. There is provision in the policy for the Council to seek further information from providers if it has concerns about the programmes offered.

Approval of CPD activities provided by other organisations

The Council confirmed approved CPD providers are responsible for evaluating and approving applications for an activity to be approved for CPD hours for their members. At the time of applying for approved provider status CPD providers must provide the Council with details of the policies and procedures for considering applications from course providers.

Accreditation Costs

The Council confirmed there will be no charge for applying for approved CPD provider status. However, if the Council accredits a provider with conditions, any additional costs incurred by the Council in monitoring the compliance with these conditions will be recoverable from the provider.

Auditing

The Council confirmed that it is the responsibility of approved CPD providers to determine if they (providers) will use an auditing process or other mechanisms for ensuring member compliance with their CPD programme requirements. A new standard (2.4) has been added to the policy document setting out this requirement.

The Council will continue to audit 20% of all practitioners annually in accordance with their responsibilities under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

Feedback on CPD requirements for practitioners

The Council considered feedback from providers on the *CPD for Recertification of Medical Science Practitioner* policy and resolved to that no changes will be made to that policy.