



CONSULTATION: PRACTITIONER FEES

Issue Date: 16th November 2021

Submissions Due: 10th December 2021

Proposal

The Medical Sciences Council (the Council) is proposing to increase practitioner fees effective for the 2022/2023 practising year. A 5% increase has been applied to all fees – this is in sync with the current rate of inflation.

While fees were kept the same over the last two practising years (in recognition of the financial impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic), the proposed fee increases are necessary for the Council to meet the ongoing costs of delivering their regulatory functions and responsibilities.

This would see the annual practising certificate (APC) fee increase from the current \$274.00 to \$288.00 (inclusive of GST) which is a \$14-\$18 increase over a 3-year period.

Medical Laboratory Science Practitioners		
Fee Type	Current (GST inclusive)	Proposed (GST inclusive)
Registration Fee		
NZ graduate	\$370.00	\$388.00
Overseas graduate	\$580.00	\$609.00
Additional scope	\$105.00	\$110.00
Annual Practising Certificate (APC)		
Renewal of APC received by 31 March	\$274.00	\$288.00
Renewal of APC received after 7 April	\$384.00	\$403.00
Application for an initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 April to 30 September	\$274.00	\$288.00
Application for initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 October to 31 March	\$137.00	\$144.00
Application for initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 February to 31 March	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supply of Documents		
Registration certification/re-issue of registration certificate	\$61.00	\$64.00
Letter of good standing	\$61.00	\$64.00
Restoration to the register	\$61.00	\$64.00
Online Examination	\$2,496.00	\$2,621.00

Anaesthetic Technicians		
Fee Type	Current (GST inclusive)	Proposed (GST inclusive)
Registration Fee		
NZ graduate	\$370.00	\$388.00
Overseas graduate	\$580.00	\$609.00
Annual Practising Certificate (APC)		
Renewal of APC received by 31 March	\$364.00	\$382.00
Renewal of APC received after 7 April	\$510.00	\$535.00
Application for an initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 April to 30 September	\$364.00	\$382.00
Application for initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 October to 31 March	\$182.00	\$191.00
Application for initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 February to 31 March	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supply of Documents		
Registration certification/re-issue of registration certificate	\$61.00	\$64.00
Letter of good standing	\$61.00	\$64.00
Restoration to the register	\$61.00	\$64.00
Online Examination	\$2,496.00	\$2,621.00

Why is there a difference in the APC fee for medical laboratory science practitioners and anaesthetic technicians?

The APC fee for anaesthetic technicians is higher than for medical laboratory science practitioners due to the smaller number of anaesthetic technicians and the Council's obligation to ensure when setting fees there is no cross-profession subsidisation.

What will the increased fees be used for?

The proposed fee increases are necessary for the Council to meet the full operational and capital expenditure costs to deliver the functions and responsibilities required of them under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act).

There have been gradual increases in costs across all Council activities since the last fees review. Our biggest costs are for our operations and our strategic-focused projects such as strengthening our regulatory work within the context of the Treaty of Waitangi, scopes of practice reviews, and the frameworks for ongoing recertification mechanisms.

The cumulative effect of the fee increases will not cover all forecasted costs and the Council expects to have an annual operational deficit of circa \$248k for the 2022/2023 financial year. However, the Council is committed to keeping fee increases at an affordable level for practitioners, and the expected annual deficit is manageable due to the Council having a reasonable level of reserve funds.

What does the Council do to minimise costs?

The Council continually reviews its operations within best-value-for-money principles and in alignment with best practice guidelines promulgated by the Office of the Auditor General and Treasury. A core strategy that has enabled us to keep fees at significantly lower levels when compared to other similar sized regulatory authorities is our partnership arrangement with the Medical Radiation Technologists Board, whereby we share secretariat services. This allows us to realise benefits such as more efficient staffing resources and the sharing of office accommodation and a common IT infrastructure. Many of our professional development activities for Council members are also managed as joint events with our colleagues from the Board which means we not only achieve cost savings but also a flow-on effect to achieving consistency in the regulatory standards across the three different professions we (the Council and the Board) are responsible for regulating. As we have become more experienced in working in a world impacted by the Covid pandemic, we have streamlined many of our operational processes with a positive flow-on to our financials.

Why does the Council have reserve funds?

Having a reasonable level of reserves is essential for the Council's financial viability. Under the HPCA Act the Council must fund its operations through a cost recovery model as we receive no government funding. Through prudent financial management over successive years the Council has managed to accumulate a reasonable level of reserves to ensure our regulatory functions are financially sustainable and future proofed.


Are there any developmental initiatives the Council needs to fund?

The Council has a number of important development initiatives planned for 2022/2023. These include meeting our obligations to contributing to the national drive for demonstrable and sustainable improvements to health equity and culturally safe health services. We have a number of significant review programmes in the pipeline, including a revision of the medical laboratory science scopes of practice and the associated competence standards and a revision of the CPD framework. Improving our engagement with stakeholders is also a key developmental initiative for the upcoming year.

Consultation Process

Please provide any feedback you have in respect of the proposed fee increases to the Council by no later than 4.00 pm on Friday 10th December 2021 to the following email address: melissa.buist@medsci.co.nz and put **MSC Fees Proposal** in the subject line.

Ngā mihi



Mary Doyle
Chief Executive