



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

PRACTITIONER FEES REVIEW

17 DECEMBER 2018

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Background

In September 2018 the Medical Sciences Council (the Council) published a consultation document in respect of the fees it charges practitioners. The consultation contained two key proposals:

1. Application of a general 2% increase to all existing categories of practitioner fees, effective from 1st February 2019.
2. Introduction of a new practitioner fee category that is an examination fee which may be used in some circumstances as a pathway to registration for overseas-trained practitioners. This fee would also come into effect from 1st February 2019.

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

Consultation Feedback

The consultation period spanned a period of 5-weeks and a total of 21 responses, all from individual practitioners, were received. At 0.47% of the total number of medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technology practitioners currently practising, the response rate was relatively small.

43% of respondents advised that they considered the proposed fees increases to be reasonable, and another 43% of respondents expressed concerns about the increases. The remaining 14% of respondents did not provide any clear indication as to their position regarding the proposed fees increases.

Consideration of Consultation Feedback

The Council appreciates the feedback received on the proposed changes to practitioner fees and would like to take this opportunity to clarify some common themes raised by respondents.

APC fee paid by nurses is considerably less

It is not uncommon for practitioners to compare their particular 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 3,622) and anaesthetic technicians (circa 772) does not allow for a reasonable comparison. Economies of scale can allow for 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/or employment tenure.

The cost of regulation includes a range of core regulatory activities as mandated by legislation, and those costs cannot be linked to particular 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.

The examination fee seems very high

The Council has agreed to undertake a further review of the fee it will set for an online examination. As the examination is not expected to be ready to be launched until late 2019/early 2020, that review will be scheduled for the latter part of 2019. The review will re-look at whether there is an opportunity for the fee to be set at a lower level.

Conclusion

The Council revised the level of the general increase to be applied to all classes of practitioner fees, and has reduced this from the proposed 2% to 1.5%. Therefore, effective from 1st February 2019, practitioner fees set by the Medical Sciences Council will increase by 1.5% for both the professions of anaesthetic technology and medical laboratory science.

The proposal to introduce a fee for an online examination has been put on hold pending a further review planned for later in 2019.

The attached schedules set out the fees for 2019/2020 that will be payable by medical laboratory science practitioners, and anaesthetic technicians.

Practitioner Fees for 2019/2020

Effective from 1st February 2019, the Council has resolved to apply a 1.5% increase to all fees it charges to practitioners.

Fees Payable by Medical Laboratory Science Practitioners:

A. REGISTRATION FEES	GST exclusive	GST inclusive
Application for registration from a New Zealand trained practitioner	\$308.92	\$355.25
Application for registration from an overseas trained practitioner	\$485.43	\$558.25
Application to add a scope of practice	\$88.26	\$101.50
B. ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC) FEES		
Renewal of an APC received by 31 March	\$229.38	\$263.90
Renewal of an APC received after 7 April	\$321.27	\$369.46
Application for an initial APC received between 1 April to 30 September	\$229.38	\$263.90
Application for an initial APC received between 1 October to 31 January	\$114.74	\$131.95
Application for an initial APC received between 1 February to 31 March	Nil	Nil
C. SUPPLY OF DOCUMENTS FEES		
Issue of a certificate of registration (additional to initial confirmation of registration)	\$50.75	\$58.36
Any other document certifying registration status or standing	\$50.75	\$58.36
Restoration to the register	Nil	Nil

D. ACCREDITATION FEES

The Council does not set a standard fee for carrying out an accreditation review 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.

Fees Payable by Anaesthetic Technicians

A. REGISTRATION FEES	GST excl.	GST incl.
Application for registration from a New Zealand trained practitioner	\$308.92	\$355.25
Application for registration from an overseas trained practitioner	\$485.43	\$558.25
B. ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC) FEES		
Renewal of an APC received by 31 March	\$304.50	\$350.18
Renewal of an APC received after 7 April	\$426.30	\$490.25
Application for an initial APC received between 1 April to 30 September	\$304.50	\$350.18
Application for an initial APC received between 1 October to 31 January	\$151.81	\$174.58
Application for an initial APC received between 1 February to 31 March	Nil	
C. WORK-BASED ASSESSMENT		
Sitting a work-based assessment for the purpose of registration and/or issue of an APC	\$3,265.65	\$3,755.50
D. SUPPLY OF DOCUMENT FEES		
Issue of a certificate of registration (additional to initial confirmation of registration)	\$50.75	\$58.36
Issue of a replacement and/or duplicate annual practising certificate	\$50.75	\$58.36
Any other document certifying registration status or standing	\$50.75	\$58.36
Restoration to the register	Nil	

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