



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**
TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

A progress update on
preparation for the
implementation of changes to
the scopes of practice for the
medical laboratory science
profession as defined under the
Health Practitioners Competence
Assurance Act 2003

Scopes of Practice Review

September 2015

Contents

The Journey So Far	2
A Brief Recap of the Key Decisions.....	3
Qualification Requirements for the Scopes of Practice.....	4
Medical Laboratory Scientist	4
Medical Laboratory Technician	5
Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician	6
So What Has Changed?	7
Feedback on the Qualifications Framework.....	8
Some Key Events to Watch Out For	9



The Journey So Far

● December 2014

The Medical Sciences Council (the Council) published a consultation document seeking feedback on a number of proposals in respect of the scopes of practice defined for the medical laboratory science profession under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act).

● February 2015

Consultation feedback was received over an 8-week period with a close-off date in mid-February 2015.

● April 2015

A Council planning day was held in April 2015 to consider the outcomes of the consultation feedback to help with deciding the scopes of practice changes proposed for medical laboratory science practitioners. This included a discussion with the New Zealand Institute of Medical Laboratory Science in respect of qualification requirements Medical Laboratory Technicians and for a new Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician scope of practice.

● May 2015

The Council published its *Scopes of Practice Consultation Outcomes* document (on the Council's website at www.msccouncil.org.nz)

● September 2015

In this communique the Council outlines the qualifications framework for each of the revised scopes of practice and asks for your feedback on that. A schedule of upcoming key events is also presented for your information.



A Brief Recap of the Key Decisions

The Council has determined a number of changes in respect of the scopes of practice defined for the medical laboratory science profession:

- A revised definition of the profession of medical laboratory science

- Two streams of registration:
 - Provisional Registration
 - Full Registration

- The inclusion of descriptive definitions of the parameters of practice for each scope of practice

- Introduction of a new scope of practice – Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician (ML-PAT)



Qualification Requirements for the Scopes of Practice

In this progress update the Council presents an overview in respect of the qualifications practitioners will need to hold to be eligible to apply for registration in each of the defined scopes of practice.

Medical Laboratory Scientist

Scope of Practice	Registration Stream	Qualifications
Medical Laboratory Scientist	Provisional	<p>Must satisfy one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a medical laboratory science degree from a NZ university accredited by the Council; or • Hold a Graduate Diploma in Science issued by a NZ university accredited by the Council; or • Hold a NZ or overseas post-graduate degree in a relevant biological-related science as approved by the Council; or • Hold a degree in a relevant biological-related science issued by an overseas university that has been assessed by the Council as being substantially equivalent to the NZ standard
	Full	<p>Must have been registered in the Medical Laboratory Scientist (provisional registration) scope of practice and satisfied the conditions of the provisional scope of practice conditions. That is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to holding one of the qualifications prescribed by the Council for the purpose of provisional registration the Medical Laboratory Scientist must have completed a minimum of 3-months and up to a maximum of 24-months of working in an appropriately accredited NZ laboratory under the supervision of a registered health practitioner approved by the Council; and • Received a satisfactory supervision report certifying his/her competence to practise medical laboratory science unsupervised

Medical Laboratory Technician

Scope of Practice	Registration Stream	Qualifications
Medical Laboratory Technician	Provisional	<p>Must satisfy one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have passed an examination in medical laboratory science as set by the NZ Institute of Medical Laboratory Science; or • Hold a NZ university issued bachelor degree with a major in a relevant biological-related science approved by the Council; or • Hold a Level 6 NZ Certificate in Science in a relevant biological-related sciences; or • Hold a qualification in a relevant biological-related science issued by an overseas tertiary education provider that has been assessed by the Council as being substantially equivalent to the NZ standard
	Full	<p>Must have been registered in the Medical Laboratory Technician (provisional registration) scope of practice and satisfied the conditions of the provisional scope of practice conditions. That is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to holding one of the qualifications prescribed by the Council for the purpose of provisional registration the Medical Laboratory Technician must have completed a minimum of 3-months and up to a maximum of 24-months of working in an appropriately accredited NZ laboratory under the supervision of a registered health practitioner approved by the Council; and • Received a satisfactory supervision report certifying his/her competence to practise medical laboratory science under the direction of a registered health practitioner as set out in the Council's Working Under Direction policy¹

¹ Please note this policy is currently being reviewed. The revised policy document will be published towards the end of 2015 and prior to the roll-out of the changes to the medical laboratory science scopes of practice

Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician

Scope of Practice	Registration Stream	Qualifications
Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician	Provisional	<p>Must satisfy one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have passed an examination in pre-analytical medical laboratory science as set by the NZ Institute of Medical Laboratory Science; or • Hold a NZ university issued bachelor degree with a major in a relevant biological-related science approved by the Council; or • Hold a qualification in a relevant biological-related science issued by an overseas tertiary education provider that has been assessed by the Council as being substantially equivalent to the NZ standard; or • Hold registration as NZ Registered Nurse; or • Hold a bachelor of nursing degree issued by an overseas university that has been assessed by the Council as being substantially equivalent to the NZ standard; or • Have completed at least 3-years and up to 4-years in specimen services within the last 8-years. Registration through this pathway will be open for a finite period (still to be confirmed). At the expiry of this pathway all non-registered Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technicians will be required to provide evidence that they hold one of the other qualifications as stated above
	Full	<p>Must satisfy one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be currently registered as a Medical Laboratory Technician (with a condition of practice being limited to phlebotomy or donor technology); or • Must have been registered in the Medical Laboratory Technician (provisional registration) scope of practice and satisfied the conditions of the provisional scope of practice conditions. That is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In addition to holding one of the qualifications prescribed by the Council for the purpose of provisional registration the Medical Laboratory Technician must have completed a minimum of 3-months and up to a maximum of 24-months of working in an appropriately accredited NZ laboratory under the supervision of a registered health practitioner approved by the Council; and ○ Received a satisfactory supervision report certifying his/her competence to practise medical laboratory science under the direction of a registered health practitioner as set out in the Council's Working Under Direction policy; or • Have completed at least 4-years in specimen services within the last 8-years. Registration through this pathway will be open for a finite period (still to be confirmed). At the expiry of this pathway all non-registered Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technicians will be required to provide evidence that they hold one of the other qualifications as stated above. Provisional registration will apply until a total of 4-years' experience is amassed.



So What Has Changed?

Medical Laboratory Scientist

- ✿ The academic qualifications remain unchanged for provisional registration
- ✿ To be eligible for full registration practitioners will need to hold provisional registration which includes completing a period of supervised practice.

Medical Laboratory Technician

- ✿ Medical Laboratory Technicians must hold provisional registration at the point of having sat and passed one of the qualification examinations set by the NZ Institute of Medical Laboratory Science. A pre-requisite to sit the examination is that the practitioner must have been employed in a “trainee” position in a NZ laboratory for a minimum of 6-months. Conferment of the relevant certificate by the NZIMLS still requires the practitioner to complete 4,000-hours of laboratory experience. Provisional registration will remain in place until such time as the practitioner has received their certificate from the NZIMLS at which point they can apply for full registration.

Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician (ML-PAT)

- ✿ Medical Laboratory Technicians whose practise is currently restricted to “phlebotomy” or “donor technology” will have their registration as a ML-PAT automatically changed when they apply to renew their APC for 2016/2017 (i.e. during Feb – Mar 2016).
- ✿ ML-PATs must hold provisional registration at the point of having sat and passed one of the qualification examinations set by the NZ Institute of Medical Laboratory Science. The same pre-requisites will apply as for the Medical Laboratory Technician scope of practice.
- ✿ There is provision for some short-term transitional arrangements for practitioners who have significant experience of working in the area of specimen services but who hold no formal qualification. In these instances practitioners may be eligible for either provisional or full registration depending on the number of years they have worked in specimen services immediately prior to applying for registration.



Feedback on the Qualifications Framework

The Council would appreciate hearing from practitioners and stakeholders in response to the following question:

Are the qualifications for each scope of practice understandable and appropriate?

Please email your reply to:

mary.doyle@medsci.co.nz

By no later than:

**Friday 30th October
2015**



Some Key Events to Watch Out For

✔ November 2015



The Council will publish written guidelines for registration applicants and issuing of practising certificates.

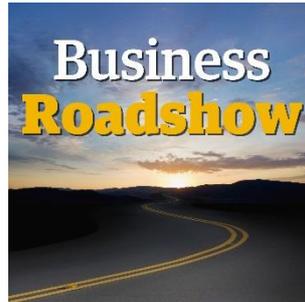
✔ December 2015



New Zealand Gazette notices published:

- ⊕ Scopes of Practice and Related Qualifications Prescribed by the Medical Sciences Council
- ⊕ Notice of Fees

✔ December 2015



The Council is planning to hold a number of meetings across New Zealand in early December to present its processes for applying for provisional and full registration, and registration in the new ML-PAT scope of practice.

A further communique will be published around mid-November advising of the dates, times and venues of those presentations.

We look forward to touching base with practitioners and having an opportunity to answer any questions you may have in preparation for the rollout of the reconfigured scopes of practice for the medical laboratory science profession.