



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

**MSC
NEWS**

NEWSLETTER OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

FROM THE CHAIR

Tēnā koutou katoa,

I would like to begin by thanking our outgoing council member, Dr Andrew Warmington; Andrew has served on the Council for nine years, having been a member of the Anaesthetic Technicians Advisory Committee and later as a Council member and Chair. His energy and genuine curiosity in all matters, as well as his devotion to ensuring that all views were thoroughly explored will be greatly missed. In turn, we welcome Angela Dewhirst. Angela brings 16 years' experience as an Anaesthetic Technician to the role and has previously been involved with the Council as a member of the Registration committee and CPD Auditor.

With the increase in demand on laboratory services over the past 18 months, it is timely to remind employers they need to ensure that all potential employees are registered and hold an Annual Practising Certificate before commencing employment. All laboratory staff who are performing diagnostic (pre-analytical) medical laboratory science tasks must be registered.

On a different note, the Council is currently undergoing a performance review of their obligations and responsibilities under section 118 of the HPCA Act 2003, by an independent reviewer, BSI New Zealand. The results of the review will assist in strengthening the protection of the health and safety of the public and suggest any improvements in the overall performance of the Council as a regulatory authority.

Ngā mihi,

Brett Besley
MSC Chair

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Once you are registered, you have a legal requirement to notify the Council of any changes to your residential, postal or work address within one month of the change. You can do this by logging into "My Profile" on the website.

COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY

The primary responsibility of the Council is to protect the health and safety of the New Zealand public by ensuring practitioners registered in the professions of medical laboratory science, and anaesthetic technology are competent and fit to practise.

Registration and APC Requirements

As an employer you need to ensure that all potential employees are registered and hold an Annual Practising Certificate (APC) before commencing employment. While it is not inappropriate for an employer to consider an offer of employment prior to a practitioner gaining registration status, it must be clear that the offer is conditional on successful registration. Employers will also need to consider that imposition of a period of supervision as a condition of registration, may well be mandated by the Council.

On another note, the Council would like to remind employers that the title of Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician are inclusive of titles such as Phlebotomist, Specimen Services and Blood Donor Technician. All laboratory staff who are performing diagnostic (pre-analytical) medical laboratory science tasks must be registered. If employed as a trainee, they must work under supervision until such a time they gain registration. Trainee positions are not a long-term option and it is expected that these practitioners are working towards registration in one of the Council's gazetted scopes of practice.

AT Qualification update

At the time of writing, the Council is waiting to hear outcomes of the university process for the approval of the new anaesthetic technician degree programme. The Council and AUT will issue a separate communique once the outcomes are known.

Regulatory Authority Audit

A 2019 revision of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) mandated (section 122A) that all responsible authorities appointed under that Act will be subject to five-yearly performance reviews, with the first review having been completed by no later April 12th, 2022.

As such, the Medical Sciences Council is currently undergoing a performance review of their obligations and responsibilities under section 118 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. An independent reviewer (BSI New Zealand) has been appointed to conduct the review.