



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

Supervision of practitioners gaining full registration is an important area of activity and crucial to protect the health and safety of the public who use our services. It is an area where many practitioners are unsure of their role and exactly how it should work in the workplace. Currently the Council is consulting with the Medical Laboratory Science profession over proposed changes to the policy on supervision.

The key points I want to highlight are:

1. **Accountability** – As a practitioner providing supervision either as a named supervisor or someone delegated to supervise in the workplace you are accountable for the work performed by the practitioner. You must ensure that you are giving them the right level of supervision that aligns with their developing competency in the tasks they perform.
2. **Supervised practitioners get better** as their skills develop. The Council has proposed that the levels of supervision required should change as the practitioner being supervised gains skills and competency. This enables the practitioner to develop their confidence as they move towards becoming fully registered and will be more fit to take on the responsibilities of a fully registered practitioner once their registration is complete.
3. **Signing off of a practitioner is a key assessment** – again you are accountable for the full assessment and as the person providing signoff these are solemn responsibilities.

The Council is hoping that the proposed changes help to clarify what constitutes safe practice for those developing skills.

Don Mikkelsen
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 practice.

2019 AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

A reminder for Medical Laboratory Technicians and Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technicians who have been selected for this year's audit, documents are required to be submitted to the Council by Monday 1 July 2019 by email mscaudit@medsci.co.nz.

CPD activities must be relevant to the scope of practice and demonstration of how everyday practice has been enhanced. Practitioners are asked to submit the following documents:

1. CPD log recording the CDP activities undertaken in 2018.
2. Evidence of attendance for each of the CPD activities recorded in the log.

If the CPD activities included technical and work-related reading, it should show the supervisor/HOD's comments made referencing the readings. The supervisor can sign the CPD Logbook stating the journal articles have been sighted and are relevant to the scope of practice.

For further information, about the recertification requirements refer to the Council's website.

ADMENDMENTS TO THE HPCA ACT 2003

The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Amendment Act received Royal Assent on 12 April 2019. You can access the updated version of the Act from the New Zealand Legislation [website](#).

Key changes include:

Naming Policy – the Council is required to develop and publish a policy on naming health practitioners who have been subject to disciplinary action.

Periodic Reviews – The Council will be working with the Ministry of Health to develop a performance review framework which will measure the Council's performance against key indicators to measure how well the Council is carrying out its key functions. Once the framework is agreed the Council has until April 2022 to complete their first review. Thereafter reviews will be conducted every five years. The Council will publish the outcome of the reviews and report annually on issues raised in the review and how they are responding to these.

Data Collection – The Council is now required to collect additional data about health practitioners (including name, date of birth, gender, ethnicity, employer, place of employment and hours of work, their scope of practice and speciality) and share this with the Ministry of Health to inform workforce development and planning. The Council had already made changes to the APC renewal process for 2019/2020 so the data required by the MOH has begun to be collected.

Tribunal Running Costs – The Council will be required to contribute to the running costs of the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (the Tribunal). The Council has made provision for is in the 2019/2020 budget.

Cultural Competence Provisions – The Council is required have cultural competence provisions with specific mention of cultural competencies that will enable effective and respectful interaction with Māori. The Council's policy and guideline on cultural competence which as issued in 2018, addresses the new requirement.

Convictions – The Council now has the discretion to refer health practitioners convicted of some offences (such as drink driving) for treatment or counselling instead of referring them to a professional conduct committee.

Interdisciplinary collaboration and cooperation – All responsible authorities are required to promote and facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration and cooperation in the delivery of health services. The Council will need review if its competence standards need to be updated to include reference to interprofessional practice.

REVISION OF THE REGISTER

The Council is revising its register to ensure its accuracy and currency. This will involve removing the names of any practitioners who are no longer in practice. The Council is trying to contact registered practitioners for whom it does not hold current details and a list of those names are published on the website.

If your name is on the list, or if you know someone who is named on the list, please make contact with the Registrar as soon as possible and by no later than 22 July 2019 at msc@medsci.co.nz.

The Council reminds all registered practitioners of their legal obligation to promptly inform the Registrar of any changes in their contact details (s 140 Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003).

CONSULTATION: SUPERVISION AND DIRECTION OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PRACTITIONERS

Thank you for submitting your comments and questions for the Council's consultation on the Supervision and Direction of Medical Laboratory Science practitioners. The outcome of the consultation will be reviewed at the Council's meeting in August 2019.

ONLINE EXAMINATION UPDATE

The Council has made significant progress for the Anaesthetic Technician and Medical Laboratory Science online examinations over the past six months. The Council is aiming for the roll-out for the online examination in late 2020.