



## 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

As you may be aware, AUT University has announced that after 2020 it will no longer offer the AT diploma qualification. The Council has issued a communique regarding the future of the profession this week.

There have been some changes to the Council membership, with five new members being welcomed onto the Council in June 2019. The Council welcomes Natasha Packer (MLS), Brett Besley (AT), Erolia Rooney (MLS), Varsha Desai (MLT) Ruth Beeston (MLS). Although there has been change to the membership of Council, I am very confident in our ability to work together for the best outcomes for the medical laboratory science practitioners and anaesthetic technicians. The Council is waiting on further communication from the Ministry of Health in regard to the appointment of a layperson.

I would like to thank the retiring members of the Council and the Chair, Don Mikkelsen for their hard work and commitment to the Council. When stepping down as Chair, Don provided the Council with a detailed report outlining the importance of the purpose of the HPCA Act 2003, the cornerstones of safe practice and the requirements to practice. We have added these main points into the newsletter. Please take some time to read it.

The Council is consulting on the Naming Practitioners policy. I hope you all have had a chance to look at this and submit your feedback.

Please take note of the dates the MSC office will be closed over the Christmas break.

We wish you all a safe holiday season and hope you are all able to enjoy some time with family and friends for those of you fortunate enough to have leave over that time.

**Dr Andrew Warmington**  
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.*

## OFFICE CLOSURE HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

Please note the Council's office will be closed from Friday 20 December, and will reopen on Monday 6 January 2020. The Council wishes you all a happy and safe holiday.

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## NEED TO BE REGISTERED AND HOLDING AN APC BEFORE CHRISTMAS?

If you need to be registered and holding your practising certificate (APC) before Christmas, the Council will need to have received your completed registration application by **16 December 2019**. There are no guarantees applications received after this date will be processed before the Christmas break.

The last date for APC applications is **18 December 2019**. Any APC application received after this date cannot be guaranteed to be issued before the office closure period.

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## OUTGOING CHAIR REPORT

In Don's outgoing Chair's report, he highlighted the below points, which the Council would like to share with the profession.

### The Purpose of the HPCA:

Protect the health and safety of members of the public  
Ensure that health practitioners are competent and fit to practise

- consistent accountability regime
- determine a scope of practice for each practitioner to practise competently within
- systems to ensure no practitioners practise outside of their scope of practice

### Requirements to Practice:

No medical laboratory science or anaesthetic technology practitioner may practise in New Zealand unless they are registered under the HPCA Act within a scope of practice defined by the Council **and** hold a current annual practising certificate.

### The Cornerstones of Safe Practice:

#### 1. Competency

Possessing the required knowledge and skills to effectively undertake the role of an anaesthetic technician, a medical laboratory scientist, a medical laboratory technician, or a medical laboratory pre-analytical technician. Being competent to practise means the practitioner:

- holds a recognised qualification
- has completed sufficient hours of practice in the relevant scope of practice
- has appropriate English language competency
- has been signed off by a registered health practitioner

When there is a question about competency:

- a competency review is undertaken by a peer(s) who are independent from the Council
- the aim is to restore competence

## 2. Health

Physical and mental health can affect practice. Practitioners, colleagues or others may register concerns about fitness to practise related to health:

- an independent health assessment is undertaken
- a confidential report is provided
- support programmes are implemented and monitored

## 3. Behaviour

Attitude to work and positive behaviours are essential to safe practice. Reflective practice and ongoing learning are important career habits, positive behaviour in the community is also a factor.

Assessment of character:

- must be of good standing
- referees from the profession must attest to character
- criminal records must be declared

An alleged breach of standards is investigated by an independent committee (PCC). Censure or legal proceedings can result and registration status may be revoked plus other penalties.

Common breaches reported to the Council have been:

- failing to hold an APC
- committing a criminal offence
- unauthorised accessing of clinical records
- drug and alcohol issues

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## **FEEDBACK FROM 2019 ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIAN AUDIT**

Please organise your documents and evidence into a specific year; and  
Please present your evidence in chronological order.

For each year include:

- Professional development plan (which should have been completed the year before in preparation for the following year).
- Your Logbook (including short reflections).
- Your certification, certificates, education records, work logs, letters of acknowledgement/ emails etc (clearly showing hours claimed for).
- Make sure the hours you are claiming are recorded on the certificate or sign in sheet etc
- Identify the learning category for each activity
- Ensure you have a spread of learning activities across the 4 categories
- Complete a minimum of 10 CPD hours each year with a total of 60 hours over three years.
- Reduce the stress of being audited by keeping your CPD records up to date

## EXPANDED PRACTICE

- A hospital/healthcare facility wanting to utilise the expertise, skills and knowledge of anaesthetic technicians or medical laboratory scientist to perform an expanded practice activity that is not on the Council's list of approved activities can apply to the Council to have the activity added to the list.
- Once the Council has approved an expanded practice activity this will set the standard for other hospital/healthcare facilities
- Council will consider applications for other expanded practice activities within the perioperative environment providing they meet the following principles:
  - Expanded practice must be focused on meeting patients' needs and improving health outcomes.
  - Expansion of an anaesthetic technician's practice must meet an identified gap(s) in health services
  - Practitioner working in an expanded role must have the required knowledge and skills and have the necessary supports to continue in that role.

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## NEW CPD REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE AND ANAESTHETIC TECHNOLOGY PRACTITIONERS COMES INTO EFFECT FROM 2020

- 2-year cycle (biennium) starting 1 January 2020
- 60 % (substantive CPD in each biennium)
- Maintain detailed and verifiable records for all CPD activities for at least 3-years
- Two-tiered approach for classifying CPD activities:
  - Substantive CPD activities; and
  - General CPD activities
- Audit documents are to be provided electronically
- Practitioner will submit a sample of their CPD information including:
  - Recertification (CPD) Declaration
  - Logbook covering period of audit
  - In-depth Reflective Statements
  - Supporting Documents

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## NEW GRADUATES FOR 2019

As the end of the year is fast approaching, it is timely for the Council to remind graduates and employers of their obligations to ensure all newly employed medical laboratory science practitioners and anaesthetic technicians are registered and hold a current practising certificate.

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## NEW FEES EFFECTIVE FROM 1 FEBRUARY 2020

The Council is currently consulting on the proposal to increase practitioner fees by 4% from 1 February 2020. The schedule below sets out the proposed fees:

### MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PRACTITIONERS

Fee Category	Proposed Fee GST Rate 15%	Proposed Fee GST Rate 0%
	NZ Resident or activity carried out in NZ (i.e. NZ online exam centre)	Overseas Resident or activity carried out outside NZ (online exam centre)
<b>REGISTRATIONS</b>		
Registration Fee (NZ graduate)	\$370.00	\$321.74
Registration Fee (Overseas graduate)	\$580.00	\$504.35
Additional Scope	\$105.00	\$91.30
<b>ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC)</b>		
Renewal of an APC received by 31 March	\$274.00	\$238.26
Renewal of an APC received after 7 April	\$384.00	\$333.91
Application for an initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 October to 31 January	\$137.00	\$119.13
Application for an initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 February to 31 March	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>SUPPLY OF DOCUMENTS</b>		
Registration certification/Re-issue of reg cert	\$61.00	\$53.04
Letter of good standing	\$61.00	\$53.04
Restoration to the register	\$61.00	\$53.04
Online Exam Fee	\$2,496.00	\$2,170.43

## ANAESTHETIC TECHNOLOGY PRACTITIONERS

Fee Category	Proposed Fee GST Rate 15%	Proposed Fee GST Rate 0%
	NZ Resident or activity carried out in NZ (i.e. NZ online exam centre)	Overseas Resident or activity carried out outside NZ (online exam centre)
<b>REGISTRATIONS</b>		
Registration Fee (NZ graduate)	\$370.00	\$321.74
Registration Fee (Overseas graduate)	\$580.00	\$504.35
<b>ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC)</b>		
Renewal of an APC received by 31 March	\$364.00	\$316.52
Renewal of an APC received after 7 April	\$510.00	\$443.48
Application for an initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 October to 31 January	\$182.00	\$158.26
Application for an initial or Return to Work APC received between 1 February to 31 March	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>SUPPLY OF DOCUMENTS</b>		
Registration certification/Re-issue of reg cert	\$61.00	\$53.04
Letter of good standing	\$61.00	\$53.04
Restoration to the register	\$61.00	\$53.04
WBA	\$3,905.72	n/a
Online Exam Fee	\$2,496.00	\$2,170.43