



## 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 we continue to adjust to current events, and construct new meaning of the term business as usual, it is relatively effortless for important details not immediately relevant to the situation to slip our minds. Therefore, I would like to remind you all of the following points:

- The Council is attempting to locate registered practitioners it does not hold address or other contact information for, and who have not been in touch with the Council for some time. The Council wishes to revise its register to remove the names of any practitioners who are no longer in practice, there is a list available through the Council website here – please check to see whether you are named and if so, please contact the Council's staff.
- The Online Registration examination for overseas applicants will be introduced from mid-2021 and validity testing will begin in late 2020. If you are a recently registered MLS, MLPAT or AT New Zealand qualified practitioner and wish to participate in the testing, please contact the Council's staff. As a reminder, the Online Registration Examination will be for overseas-trained practitioners whose qualification has been assessed as being non-equivalent. In some instances an online examination may be used as a return-to-pathway for registered practitioners who have not practised for an extensive period of time.
- And finally, with the holiday season fast approaching, the Council's office will be closed from 25 December 2020 till 10 January 2021. The last day for registration applications is 18 December 2020 from New Zealand graduates wishing to be registered and issued with an Annual Practising Certificate before the Christmas break. 21 December 2020 is last day for APC applications from newly registered practitioner requiring an Annual Practising Certificate before 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.

**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.*

## ***New CPD Requirements – Medical Laboratory Science Practitioners***

The new CPD requirements for Medical Laboratory Practitioners will apply from 1 January 2021.

### **MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS**

- 40-hours of CPD within each two-year cycle (biennium).
- At least 15 hours of CPD each year of the relevant biennium.
- 24-hours CPD must relate to activities classified as substantive CPD each biennium.

### **MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS AND PRE-ANALYTICAL TECHNICIANS**

- 24-hours of CPD within each two-year cycle (biennium).
- At least 9-hours of CPD each-year of the relevant biennium.
- 14 hours of CPD must relate to activities classified as substantive CPD each biennium.

The first audit under the new requirements will occur in 2022. There will be no audit in 2021.

## ***CPD Requirements – Anaesthetic Technicians***

The new CPD requirements for Anaesthetic Technicians applied from 1 January 2020.

The minimum requirements are:

- 40-hours of CPD within each two-year cycle (biennium).
- at least 15 hours of CPD each year of the relevant biennium.
- 24-hours CPD must relate to activities classified as substantive CPD each biennium.

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## ***2020 Audit***

### **MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PRACTITIONERS:**

The Council has agreed that CPD providers for Medical Laboratory Scientist are not required to undertake a CPD audit for 2020. The Council recognises that throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, practitioners are likely to have had difficulties accessing the usual channels and methods to undertake learning and development activities to meet their CPD requirements.

For Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technicians and Medical Laboratory Technicians, the Council has agreed not to undertake a CPD audit for 2020. However, practitioners are encouraged to continue to take opportunities to undertake CPD activities when they are available.

### **ATS:**

For Anaesthetic Technicians the Council has agreed not to undertake a CPD audit for 2020. However, practitioners are encouraged to continue to take opportunities to undertake CPD activities when they are available.

## ***Registration and APC Requirements***

The Council reminds supervisors that soon as a trainee receives the QMLT certificate, they must apply for registration and a practising certificate. If a practitioner is registered and is working as a medical laboratory practitioner, they must hold a practising certificate. This requirement applies to practitioners with provisional and full registration.

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## ***Revision of the Register***

As mentioned above in the Chair's report, the Council is attempting to locate registered practitioners it does not hold address or other contact information for, and who have not been in touch with the Council for some time. The Council wishes to revise its register to remove the names of any practitioners who are no longer in practice. If your name, if you know someone who appears on the list, please make contact with the Council at [msc@medsci.co.nz](mailto:msc@medsci.co.nz).

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## ***MOH Report: COVID 19 in health care and support workers in NZ***

The report from the Ministry of Health (see the report [here](#)) outlines the number of COVID 19 cases in health care and support workers in Aotearoa NZ and summaries the basic descriptive epidemiology of COVID 19 among this group.

Some of the key findings were:

- As at 12 June 2020 there had been 167 cases of COVID-19 in health care and support workers, which represents 11% of total cases.
  - Ninety-six health care and support workers with COVID-19 were likely to have been infected in the workplace. This total represents 6.4% of total cases as at 12 June 2020.
  - Nine health care and support workers required hospitalisation as a result of COVID-19, with two receiving intensive care. None of the workers died.
  - More health care assistants/caregivers in aged residential care were affected compared with other health care and support worker groups.
  - Most transmissions between health care and support workers and patients or residents happened in the aged residential care setting.
  - The majority of health care and support worker cases were part of a cluster.
  - There were very few instances of transmission in community health care settings.
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## ***MOH: Free Mobile App Āwhina***

What is Āwhina?

Āwhina is a free mobile app that lets health workers access the latest information from the Ministry of Health and other trusted sources. The information in the app is a single source of information about COVID-19 from the Ministry of Health and other trusted sources. The app pushes notifications about updates or new content, and allows users to save content in the app for quick access later on.

User feedback on Āwhina:

“For this accurate up to date info, it is a superbly easy way to ensure you are acting in the safest and best possible way for staff and patients.”

Āwhina – latest (September) release features:

- Ability for users to indicate whether articles were useful and the ability to provide feedback on how we can improve these from within the app.
- Updated menu items, including a new resource for pressure injuries.
- Displaying an app icon badge on all devices (typically a red circle indicating the number of unread updates).
- Improvements to the Notifications list – notifications display in order of most recent first, and the notification bell count updates when articles are viewed in Latest Information feed.

More information and details of how to download the app are on the Health website: [health.govt.nz/awhina](https://health.govt.nz/awhina)

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## ***Christmas Office Closure***

The Office will be closed from 25 December 2020 to 10 January 2021. 18 December is last day for registrations applications from New Zealand graduates wishing to be registered and issued with an Annual Practising Certificate before the Christmas break. 21 December is last day for APC applications from newly registered practitioner requiring an Annual Practising Certificate before the Christmas break.

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