



NZAO

Association of Orthodontists

Marie Warner
Dental Council of New Zealand
PO Box 10-448
Wellington 6143
New Zealand



13th February 2018,

Dear Marie,

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed changes to the Informed Consent practice standard.

The draft document has been read and reviewed by our Executive Committee. We have a number of concerns, and additions, regarding the document:

1. The document does not appear to mention the importance, especially from a medico-legal perspective, of documenting the informed consent procedure.
2. With regards specifically to Standard 3 we request the addition of:
 - i. You must inform the patient of your training, experience and competency regarding the proposed area of treatment.
 - ii. You must provide the patient with:
 - a. Information regarding appropriate specialist care if treatment is complex, or takes a long time, e.g. orthodontic care.
 - b. Explanation why they are not being referred for specialist care (excluding costs).
 - c. Explanation who is providing care, particularly overseas orthodontic treatment planning, and who is liable if the treatment outcome is not up to the patient's expectations, or a treatment injury occurs.
 - d. Explanation when proposed treatment is not an acknowledged contemporary evidenced-based procedure.
3. With regards specifically to standard 7 we request the addition of:
 - i. You must have written consent when:
 - a. The patient has a significant risk of adverse effects, or treatment injury.
 - b. Treatment/procedure is not an acknowledged contemporary evidenced-based procedure.



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NZAO does not have any further comments on the proposed Informed Consent Practice Standard and thanks the Dental Council for the opportunity to consider this important aspect of dental practice.

Please don't hesitate to contact us should you need any further clarification.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lydia Meredith', is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark that contains the text 'NZAIO'.

Dr Lydia Meredith
NZAIO Hon Secretary
New Zealand Association of Orthodontists