
Level 11
Kordia House
109-125 Willis Street
Wellington 6011
New Zealand

PO Box 10-448
Wellington 6143
New Zealand

Tel: +64 4 499 4820
Fax: +64 4 499 1668
inquiries@dcnz.org.nz

www.dcnz.org.nz

20 December 2017

Dear practitioner,

[Consultation on the draft patient records and privacy of health information practice standard](#)

The Dental Council (the 'Council') has consulted with its stakeholders on a draft patient records and privacy of health information practice standard during the August to October 2017 period.

A total of 7 formal submissions were received and the Council thanks these stakeholders for sharing their concerns, expertise, and for their time commitment.

There was overall agreement on the draft practice standard, with only a few minor refinements proposed—related to the guidance provided in the draft practice standard. The majority of these suggested changes were incorporated.

The most significant clarification required related to models that form part of the patient record. The draft wording proposed in the consultation document referred to: *study models (not working models)*. Two submitters pointed out that “in some situations, working models constitute important diagnostic, planning and treatment records that should be retained.” The Council agreed that models can form an integral part of the patient records.

However, in light of the diverse use of models across the different oral health professions and different situations within a course of care, the Council considered it more appropriate for practitioners to use clinical judgement on which models to retain as part of the patient record. This could be influenced by the complexity of the case, other available information on the patient record etc.

Accordingly, the Council reworded the associated statements to read: *Radiographic images, clinical photographs and models*.

The final patient records and privacy of health information practice standard is available as Attachment 1.

[Implementation](#)

The Council considered that no major changes would be required within practitioners' current practice to enable compliance with the updated patient records and privacy of health information practice standard. As a result, a short implementation period, following the holiday period, was considered appropriate.

The updated patient records and privacy of health information practice standard will come into effect on **1 February 2018**, replacing the current record keeping practice standards. Please familiarise yourself with the updated document before the implementation date.

If you have any further comments or questions, please do not hesitate to email us at inquiries@dcnz.org.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie Warner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marie Warner

Chief Executive