

23 September 2019

Update on new recertification programme

The Dental Council's primary purpose under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 is to protect public health and safety. Recertification is one of the key mechanisms we use to ensure that oral health practitioners are competent and fit to practise safely each year, and throughout their professional lives.

The Council has received and considered feedback on proposals to improve our approach to recertification through two phases of stakeholder consultation. The [outcomes document](#) issued in March 2019 outlines Council's decision to implement changes to recertification requirements for all practitioners.

Work is well underway on the detailed design of the new recertification programme and planning for putting it in place. We are now able to share some features of the design and test our thinking with a broad cross-section of practitioners about how the new system will work in practice.

Progress to date

To date, the recertification project team has:

- reviewed existing policies relevant to recertification and completed first drafts of new policies, or amendments to existing policies, where required
- drafted a series of new processes required to put the new system into practice, including what practitioners need to do, when and how, to meet the new recertification requirements
- analysed the differences in our practitioner groups to ensure they will each have the flexibility they require for their recertification programme
- worked through proposed changes we need to make to our IT system to make it easy for practitioners to provide information
- developed an indicative timeline and list of key actions for implementing the new recertification programme
- prepared first drafts of templates and guidance materials.

Practitioner input and focus groups

Council wants to understand the full range of practitioner perspectives before confirming the detailed design.

Council will run a series of small practitioner focus groups in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch in November 2019 and again in March 2020. These will be used to test our thinking and confirm that the new recertification programme will be realistic and practical for practitioners.

The terms of reference and additional information about the focus groups are available on the [recertification page](#) on our website. We have identified a list of practitioners representing the various professions, practice types, and geographical locations (including people in provincial and rural centres) to invite to the upcoming focus group workshops.

What will happen next?

We will share the outcomes of the November focus groups before Christmas and depending on how much information we need from subsequent focus groups we anticipate finalising the detailed design in early 2020.

At this stage it is likely that our processes and IT systems will be ready for implementation in the second half of 2020 to allow time for testing. We will continue to keep you updated on progress and ensure you have plenty of time to understand and get ready for the new requirements.

As advised, Council has [extended the current recertification programmes](#) for all practitioners to 31 December 2020 pending implementation of the new recertification programme. Practitioners are advised to carry on meeting their existing continuing professional development (CPD) requirements as set by the Council.

If you have any questions about recertification please [email us](#). Background information about the recertification review and stakeholder consultations are available on [our website](#).

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