

18 February 2020

## Update on recertification – final design

Having developed and tested its preliminary thinking in [focus groups](#) late last year, the Council has finalised the design for the new recertification programme and how it will work in practice.

A [summary of the key features](#) is available on [our website](#).

The key features of the new recertification programme are:

- flexibility for practitioners to take ownership and actively plan and reflect on their professional development, and undertake professional development activities (PDAs) that meet their own needs. This flexibility will remove previous requirements to meet mandatory hours of activities or for those activities to be verified.
- increased focus on professional peer relationships including a new requirement for professional peers to confirm that programme requirements have been met.

The Council has asked the Secretariat to do more work with the New Zealand Association of Optometrists (NZAO) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) and other researchers in this field before finalising the requirements for eye health.

### Future requirements

The design document covers the first five core recertification requirements – professional development plans (PDPs), PDAs, peer interactions, reflection and peer confirmation. The Council will also introduce assessment as the sixth core requirement in a subsequent phase.

The Council will further develop its approach to mentoring for new registrants, addressing health-related competence decline and recurring non-compliant practitioner behaviours in the future.

### Transition from existing CPD requirements

The Council is planning to formally set the new recertification programme in the next few months to allow practitioners time to prepare. You will receive a formal notice from the Registrar once the new programme has been set.

As was advised in the [notice of extended recertification programme](#) issued in August last year, the existing continuing professional development (CPD)

requirements will continue, and practitioners should carry on meeting their current CPD requirements until 31 December 2020.

### Start of the new programme

The first steps for practitioners to meet the new recertification requirements are as follows:

- **Dentists and dental specialists** will need to find and nominate their professional peer online **by 1 October 2020**.
- For **all other oral health practitioners** – oral health therapists, dental therapists, dental hygienists, orthodontic auxiliaries, dental technicians and clinical dental technicians – the equivalent date for finding and nominating their professional peer is **1 April 2021**.
- In the months following these initial dates, practitioners will be expected to prepare their PDP and start participating in planned PDAs.

Instructions on how to nominate a professional peer online will be available leading up to these initial dates.

The new recertification programme will align with APC cycles. Practitioners will need to declare they have completed their PDPs, PDAs and written reflection, and their professional peer will need to provide confirmation online by:

- **1 October 2021** for dentists and dental specialists
- **1 April 2021** for all other practitioners.

### March focus groups

The Council wants to ensure practitioners are given plenty of time and support to prepare for the new programme. A second round of focus group meetings from March 2020 will check with practitioners and stakeholders that the guidance resources (including templates and examples) being developed clearly describe the new requirements and are easy to use and understand.

The Council will continue to update information about the new recertification programme on [our website](#). You can send any questions to [recertification@dcnz.org.nz](mailto:recertification@dcnz.org.nz).

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