

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meetings during July 2017

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The Dental Council (Council) is the statutory body constituted under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) to maintain the health and safety of members of the public by providing mechanisms to ensure that health practitioners are competent and fit to practise. Council endeavours to keep its key stakeholders up to date with key decisions.

This document is a summary of Council's decisions from the meeting held on 3 July 2017.

Appointment – TMVI Panel

Dr Mark Thomas, Internal Medicine Specialist was appointed to the Transmissible Major Viral Infections (TMVI) Panel for a term of three years (effective 3 July 2017). Dr Thomas was appointed to replace Dr Arlo Upton, who stepped down in January 2017.

Oral medicine prescribed qualification

The DClinDent (oral medicine) was granted accreditation in 2013 as the dental component of the oral medicine prescribed qualification. Following accreditation, the Council consulted on the proposed gazetting of the DClinDent (oral medicine) plus a recognised medical degree as a prescribed qualification for the oral medicine scope of practice. In addition, an administrative amendment to the description of the recognised medical schools was proposed for the oral medicine and oral and maxillofacial surgery prescribed qualifications to reflect the contemporary medical school directory.

In the consultation feedback the need, or otherwise, for a medical degree as part of the prescribed qualification for the oral medicine scope of practice was raised by several stakeholders. At the time the Council deferred its decision on the consultation to allow for investigation on the medical component of the oral medicine prescribed qualifications.

A number of investigations have been completed and considered by the Council since. It is evident that internationally, there is a clear divide in opinion on this issue. The Council agreed that in principle an undergraduate medicine degree is not required for registration in the oral medicine scope of practice—if the dental postgraduate qualification can demonstrate that the appropriate medicine-related knowledge, skills and exposure can be achieved in the programme to ensure competent and safe practise within the oral medicine scope of practice in New Zealand.

At its July 2017 meeting, the Council decided that the investigation on the need, or otherwise, of a medical degree for the oral medicine scope of practice would be managed through the next postgraduate accreditation review, scheduled for 2018, if the Faculty of Dentistry wishes to propose any major change to the current oral medicine programme.

To conclude the earlier consultation on the accredited DClinDent (oral medicine) programme, the Council will gazette the following on Thursday, 13 July:

- the University of Otago DClinDent (oral medicine) programme plus a medical degree from a medical school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools as a prescribed qualification for the oral medicine scope of practice

- for the oral medicine and oral and maxillofacial surgery scopes of practice: replace all references to a medical degree from a medical school listed in the WHO World Directory of Medical Schools or ECFMG Faimer Directory with a medical degree from a medical school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools.

Professional Boundaries - Consultation outcome

Council considered the 14 submissions from the consultation (3 May – 28 June 2017), and the draft practice standard.

There was overall agreement on the draft practice standard, with only a few areas where concerns were raised or further clarification requested.

The main areas of concern related to:

- The guidance of standard 1 which proposed “Having a chairside assistant or a third person (support person or chaperone) present during patient contact time, wherever possible”.
- A misunderstanding that the practice standard prevented practitioners from treating family members or those related closely to them.
- A misunderstanding that it was considered a breach of sexual boundaries if practitioners treated someone with whom they had a pre-existing sexual relationship, for example, their spouse or partner.

As a result of submission feedback, some minor changes have been made to the practice standard. It is anticipated that the changes made to the practice standard will address submitters concerns, therefore the Council finalised the Professional boundaries practice standard at its July 2017 meeting.

The updated Professional boundaries practice standard will come into effect on **21 August 2017**, replacing the current Sexual Boundaries practice standard.

New recertification programme requirement for professions

The four-year cycle for the dentist group (dentists and dental specialists) ended on 31 December 2016.

Council considered the recertification programme to replace that which ended on 31 December 2016 for the dentist group.

At the July 2017 meeting, Council agreed to the following:

- Defer making a decision on the actions to be taken for the practitioners who had not met their CPD requirements for the cycle ended 31 December 2016 (approx. 20%) until it had a clearer picture of the actual numbers and levels of non-compliance. The matter was to be brought back to Council's August 2017 meeting.
- The Secretariat will collate the numbers of non-compliant dentist group practitioners from as at 21 July 2017 and categorise the practitioners into four groups, as follows:
 - Self-declared – completed required CPD hours
 - Self-declared – completed some CPD hours but below required number
 - Self-declared – no CPD hours
 - No self-declaration returned (with or without an explanation); and

For those practitioners falling short of their CPD requirements, their outcome from the two previous CPD cycles is to be recorded.

- Pending the completion of the current review of its recertification framework and until further notice, it would extend its waiver of the policy requirement for individual CPD activity verification for:
 - the OHP group current cycle, ending 31 December 2017;

- the CPD cycle for the dentist group, commencing 01 January 2017; and
- the cycle for the OHP group, commencing 01 January 2018.

- d) Agree to continue the current verification waiver process for all practitioners, as follows:
- a) request a self-declaration from each practitioner that they have completed the minimum prescribed number of CPD hours and peer contact activities for their profession
 - b) not require a detailed CPD activities schedule or log to be submitted to the Council at the end of the cycle by the practitioner, but practitioners would be recommended to maintain one for their records and in preparation for a possible audit following the end of their CPD cycle; and
 - c) perform random CPD audits (sample of 10 per cent of practitioners, excluding those practitioners with the required CPD verified by NZDA, NZAO or NZDOHTA) after the conclusion of the CPD cycle, and require those practitioners selected for audit to submit their schedules together with evidence of activity completion or course attendance.

All OHP group practitioners would be notified of the change made to the terms of their current recertification programme ending 31 December 2017.

New recertification programmes

In relation to new recertification programmes, Council agreed to:

- a) Set a new recertification programme for all dentists and dental specialists, pursuant to section 41 of the Act, as follows:
 - i. the recertification programme is to commence on 1 January 2017 and end on 31 December 2019
 - ii. each registered dentist and dental specialist is to undertake and complete fifty (50) hours of verifiable continuing professional development and seven (7) peer contact activities by 31 December 2019
 - iii. in all material respects, the recertification programme is to be in accordance with Council's policies and on the same terms and conditions as the recertification programme concluding on 31 December 2016 (including the waiver of the policy requirement that CPD must be verified), excepting the number of CPD and peer contact activities which have been pro-rated on the basis of a shortened cycle and late notice to practitioners.
 - iv. in accordance with section 41(6) of the Act, the Registrar is to notify all registered dentists and dental specialists accordingly.
- b) Set a recertification programme for all dental therapists, dental hygienists, oral health therapists, orthodontic auxiliaries, clinical dental technicians and dental technicians, pursuant to section 41 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act), as follows:
 - i. the recertification programme is to commence on 1 January 2018 and end on 31 December 2019
 - ii. each registered dental therapist, dental hygienist and oral health therapist is to undertake and complete thirty (30) hours of verifiable continuing professional development and four (4) peer contact activities by 31 December 2019
 - iii. each registered orthodontic auxiliary is to undertake and complete fifteen (15) hours of verifiable continuing professional development and three (3) peer contact activities by 31 December 2019
 - iv. each registered dental technician is to undertake and complete twenty (20) hours of verifiable continuing professional development activities by 31 December 2019
 - v. each registered clinical dental technician is to undertake and complete thirty (30) hours of verifiable continuing professional development activities by 31 December 2019

- vi. in all material respects, the recertification programme is to be in accordance with Council's policies and on the same terms and conditions as the recertification programme concluding on 31 December 2017 (including the waiver of the policy requirement that CPD must be verified), excepting the number of CPD and peer contact activities which have been pro-rated on the basis of the shortened cycle
- vii. in accordance with section 41(6) of the Act, the Registrar is to notify all registered dental therapists, dental hygienists, orthodontic auxiliaries, clinical dental technicians and dental technicians accordingly.

All the relevant professional associations would be notified of the new recertification programmes.