



**New Zealand
Dental Assoc.**

NZDA House, 195 Main Highway
Ellerslie, Auckland 1051

PO Box 28084
Remuera, Auckland 1541
New Zealand

tel. +64 9 579 8001
fax. +64 9 580 0010

Marie Warner
Chief Executive Officer
Dental Council
Level 11
Kordia House
109-125 Willis Street
Wellington 6011

12 February 2018

Dear Marie,

Re: Dental Council consultation on the Informed consent practice standard

The NZDA agrees with the content of the proposed standards detailed in the consultation document, Informed consent. The standards expected of practitioners are appropriate and consistent with professional, legal and ethical requirements.

NZDA has a minor suggestion regarding the 'guidance notes' as they relate to obtaining written consent from patients who are to receive care from a student practitioner (see page 12 third bullet and page 16 final bullet). These guidance notes infer written consent is required when this is not in fact the case. The consensus statement prepared by the Faculties of Medical and Health Sciences of the University of Otago, Chief Medical Officers of DHB's, NZ Medical Students' Association and the Medical Council of NZ provides very helpful guidance.¹

NZDA suggests minor amendments to these guidance notes as follows.

Consultation document Page 13

Third bullet point

Current: *Inform the patient if care is to be provided by a student practitioner, and obtain the patients written consent for this circumstance.*

Suggested. Inform the patient if care is to be provided by a student practitioner, and obtain the patients consent for this circumstance. Obtaining written consent for care to be provided by a student practitioner should be considered if the patients care is complex and/or if major procedures are involved.

Consultation document Page 16

Third bullet point

Current: *Where care is to be delivered by a student practitioner, obtain the written consent of the patient for this circumstance.*

Suggested: Where care is to be delivered by a student practitioner, obtaining the written consent of the patient for this circumstance should be considered if the patients care is complex and/or if major procedures are involved.

Kind regards

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

Dr David Crum
Chief Executive Officer
New Zealand Dental Association

Reference

1. Bagg W, Adams J, Anderson L, Malpas P, Pidgeon G, *et al.* Medical students and informed consent. NZ Med J 2015 May;128(1414):27-35