



Annual Practising Certificates

Practitioners are reminded that their current annual practising certificate (APC) will expire on 31 March 2010. To ensure that you are not in breach of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act and that your APC remains current, you must complete and return your completed APC form to the Dental Council prior to 31 March 2010.

APC Cycle for Dentists and Dental Specialists

The practising certificate cycle for dentists and dental specialists has been changed from a 1 April – 31 March year to a 1 October – 30 September year. The Dental Council cannot by law issue a practising certificate for a period of more than one year. Accordingly, to effect this change, there will be two APC cycles over the next 18 months for dentists and dental specialists.

The practising certificate to be issued on 1 April 2010 will be for a six-month period ending on 30 September 2010, at which time a second cycle will begin, with practising certificates being renewed on 1 October 2010 for the year ending 30 September 2011.

As a result of this change, a half-year practising fee of \$374 is payable by dentists and dental specialists for the practising period 1 April – 30 September 2010.

The change in practising year for dentists and dental specialists is aimed at spreading the Secretariat workload throughout the year. This will result in a reduction in operating costs.

APC Cycle for Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists, Orthodontic Auxiliaries, Dental Technicians and Clinical Dental Technicians

The APC cycle for dental hygienists, dental therapists, orthodontic auxiliaries, dental technicians and clinical dental technicians

remains unchanged and will continue to follow a 1 April–31 March practising year.

Separate APC and Retention Forms

This year, the Dental Council has introduced a new format that separates the APC form from the retention form. For those practitioners currently on retention, you will only receive a retention form. If you wish to change your status to practising (or from practising to retention), please download the correct form at www.dcnz.org.nz/application2010 or www.dcnz.org.nz/retention2010.

Help Us to Help You

The APC round is the busiest time of the year for the Dental Council, but please be assured that it is our priority to get your practising certificate to you in a timely and efficient manner.

To ensure your application can be processed, please remember to:

- carefully read and complete all sections of the application.
- ensure that your contact details listed on the form are correct and up to date, including an email address.
- sign the payment section of the APC form and sign the declaration.
- pay the correct application fee.

For any enquires about the annual practising cycle, please contact the Dental Council on (04) 499-4820 or email inquiries@dcnz.org.nz.

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DCNZ Annual Plan and Budget for the 2010/2011 year

The Dental Council presented its draft annual plan and budget for the year beginning 1 April 2010 in the December 2009 edition of *DCNZ News*. Stakeholders were invited to comment on the draft plan and budget.

The Council noted the feedback from its practitioners at its February 2010 meeting. The annual practising certificate (APC) fees as published in the December 2009 edition of *DCNZ News* are unchanged and have been gazetted to be effective for the 2010/11 year.

These are restated below:

Registration and Examination Related Fees

At its February 2010 meeting, the Council approved new and updated registration and examination fees. The approved fees schedule, that takes effect from 1 April 2010, can be found on the Dental Council website: <http://www.dcnz.org.nz/dcScheduleFees>.

Profession	APC Fees (GST inclusive)
Dentists	\$748
Dental Therapists	\$561
Dental Hygienists	\$462
Orthodontic Auxiliaries	\$336
Dental Technicians	\$736
Clinical Dental Technicians	\$889

CPD Compliance

This is a reminder for:

- dentists and dental specialists who did not meet their continuing professional development (CPD) requirements as at 31 December 2008 and who were given until 31 March 2010 to satisfy their outstanding obligations; and
- hygienists, therapists, orthodontic auxiliaries, dental technicians and clinical dental technicians who did not meet their CPD obligations as at 31 December 2009.

The CPD to be carried out by each practitioner over a four-year or, as the case may be, two-year cycle is not a voluntary programme. It is a formally constituted recertification programme established under section 41 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the completion of which is mandatory.

Where a practitioner fails to satisfy the requirements of a recertification programme, under section 43(1) of the Act, the Council may make an order altering the practitioner's scope of practice (for instance, by imposing conditions or issuing a time-limited annual practising certificate) or

suspend the practitioner's registration. In the latter case, the practitioner will be unable to practise from the date of the making of the order.

Where a non-compliant practitioner's scope of practice has conditions placed upon it or his or her practice is suspended, it is likely that the removal of those conditions or, as the case may be, the lifting of a suspension will be contingent upon the outstanding CPD first being completed. Practitioners may also be required to undertake competence or individual recertification programmes established for the purpose under sections 40 and 41 of the Act. There are a number of other conditions that could be applied.

Where conditions are placed upon a practitioner's scope of practice or an individual recertification or competence programme ordered, the costs of such conditions or programme will be required to be met by the practitioner.

All practitioners are reminded, if they have not already satisfied their CPD requirements, to do so immediately.

A Reminder to New Registrants (including graduates) – Emergency Care Training

If you are a new registrant you are reminded that you have six months from the date you are registered to provide the Dental Council with evidence that you have completed emergency care training to the required level. All oral health practitioners are required to hold a valid emergency care training certificate. This training must be revalidated every four years.

The table below shows the level of emergency care training required for the various professions.

Profession	Emergency Care Training Level
Dentists and dental specialists	Equivalent to the New Zealand Resuscitation Council (NZRC) Certificate of Resuscitation and Emergency Care (CORE) Level 4 modular certification or NZRC CORE Level 6 for dentists who undertake conscious sedation.
Dental therapists Dental hygienists Orthodontic auxiliaries Clinical dental technicians	Equivalent to (or higher than) the NZRC CORE Level 3 modular certification.
Dental technicians	Equivalent to the NZRC CORE Level 1 modular certification.

Reminder: Dental Therapy Practice Appraisals

As part of the ongoing recertification requirements for dental therapists, the Dental Council has required dental therapists to have one practice appraisal within each recertification cycle. Dental therapists are therefore reminded to submit evidence of their practice appraisal for the period ending 31 December 2009 with their 2010 APC applications.

In the event of an unsatisfactory practice appraisal occurring, the supervising dentist or dental specialist, has an obligation to notify the Dental Council in writing of the situation, and in turn specify the measures that have been put in place to address the deficiencies.

In December 2009, the Dental Council agreed for practice appraisals as part of the recertification cycle for dental therapists be removed. Accordingly, this is the last time dental therapists will be required to submit their practice appraisals to the Dental Council as part of the recertification process.

Accreditation of the New Zealand Association of Orthodontists (NZAO) Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme: Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting

The Dental Council has awarded accreditation to the NZAO Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme: Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting. The objectives of

the programme are to provide candidates with theoretical knowledge and practical skills to work as a registered orthodontic auxiliary.

Australian National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

At its meeting of 26 March 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) signed an Intergovernmental Agreement on the Australian health workforce, for the first time creating a single national registration and accreditation system.

Ten health professions will be included in the national system as of 1 July 2010. These are: chiropractors; dental care practitioners (including dentists, dental hygienists, dental prosthetists and dental therapists); medical practitioners; nurses and midwives; optometrists; osteopaths; pharmacists; physiotherapists; podiatrists; and psychologists. The Scheme aims to provide greater portability of the health professions, reduce red tape and provide a more responsive and sustainable workforce.

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions consists of:

- a Ministerial Council;
- an independent Australian Health Workforce Advisory Council;
- a national agency with an Agency Management Committee;
- national profession-specific boards;
- committees of the boards;
- a national office to support the operations of the scheme; and
- at least one local presence in each State and Territory.

From 1 July 2010 the Dental Board of Australia will operate with a full range of functions under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law. The functions of the Dental Board of Australia include overseeing:

- the registration of dentists, dental specialists, dental therapists, dental hygienists, oral health therapists and dental prosthetists;
- the development of dental profession standards;
- the handling of notifications and complaints in relation to the profession; and
- the assessment of overseas trained practitioners who wish to practise in Australia.

The Board will also approve accreditation standards and a list of accredited courses of study that meet the qualifications for registration and conduct investigations and disciplinary hearings.

For information relating to the legislation governing the operations of the Dental Board of Australia and matters relating to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency please refer to the Agency website:

www.ahpra.gov.au

Code of Practice on the Working Relationship between Orthodontic Auxiliaries and Dentists

Following consultation with stakeholders, the Dental Council has approved a revised code of practice on the working relationship between orthodontic auxiliaries and dentists.

The aim of the code is to describe the general functions and levels of supervision required by orthodontic auxiliaries and assist practitioners to understand the requirements of orthodontic auxiliary practice. The

approved code of practice is available on the Dental Council website: www.dcnz.org.nz/dcStandardsCodes.

The Dental Council would like to thank the practitioners and associations that submitted feedback on the draft code.

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