

DENTAL COUNCIL

Te Kaunibera Tiaki Nibo

DENTISTRY - DENTAL HYGIENE - CLINICAL DENTAL TECHNOLOGY - DENTAL TECHNOLOGY - DENTAL THERAPY

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting – 6 May 2013

The Dental 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 in May 2013.

Proposal for a Health Regulatory Authorities Shared Services Organisation

The Council discussed extensively the proposal for a single shared organisation that would deliver the regulatory and back-office functions for all 16 regulatory authorities (RAs). The Council agreed to give its support of the Target Operating Model (TOM) developed by the Steering Committee subject to support from all 16 RAs being in place by 31 August 2013. The Council also supported consulting with stakeholders and staff once the form of the TOM is agreed by all 16 RAs. Council will advise the Minister of Health, Health Workforce New Zealand and the Director-General of Health as well as the Chairs of the other RAs of its decision.

Academic Scope of Practice

The Council agreed that the purpose of the academic scope of practice is to create an academic pathway for those practitioners that have chosen academia as their career path, and should not create a pathway for clinical teachers. Further, the eligibility criteria for potential applicants should be designed to ring fence long serving academics, with limited potential for competence concerns, who are international experts in their specific area of practice, and will add value to the quality of training at the New Zealand institutions offering dental programmes. The following principles be reflected in the proposed prescribed qualifications:

- specific senior level academic requirements, using the Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF) as a guideline for developing the appropriate criteria;
- a higher educational qualification be required;
- specialist skills, experience and advanced standing in the academic profession;

Council also agreed that the academic's practice be limited to its specific area of expertise within the educational environment only. The scope should be generic to include academics teaching in all areas of dental practice, including oral health and technology. Council agreed that the primary consideration during the development of an academic scope must be to ensure the patient's safety.

Postgraduate Student Scope of Practice

Council agreed that postgraduate students not registered, or not eligible to be registered, in the general scope of practice, should not teach students in a clinical setting where patients are involved, as this would potentially put patients' safety at risk. Council is to approach the joint accreditation committee to determine the impact of the proposed change to the accreditation standard that would remove the requirement for postgraduate students to teach undergraduate students in relation to accreditation best practice. Council will consider whether there is a need to develop a postgraduate scope of practice following advice from the accreditation committee.

Medical Emergencies Code of Practice

The Council agreed to minor amendments to the draft code of practice and delegated authority to Robin Whyman as the Chair of the working group to sign-off the amended consultation document for issuing to stakeholders.

Standards Review Committee Appointment

The Council rescinded its decision of December 2012 to appoint Tania Stuart as the dentist member to the Code of Practice Review Standing Committee due to the conflict of interest that arises as a result of her employment with the NZDA. Graham Symes was appointed as the dentist member on the Code of Practice Review Committee.

Otago University – DclinDent (Special Needs Dentistry)

The Council will approach the ADC/DC(NZ) accreditation committee for guidance on whether any of the concerns identified in the peer review report warrant a condition being placed on the programme or whether having met the previous condition the programme can be granted full accreditation. The Council will also submit a copy of the letter that was received from the Canterbury DHB raising concerns about the programme to fully inform the discussion.

University of Otago DclinDent (Oral Medicine) – Medical Component

The Council will amend the consultation document on the DclinDent (Oral Medicine) programme to reflect the information received from the Medical Council on the requirements of the medical component of the programme. Which replaces “a medical school listed in the WHO World Directory of Medical Schools or the ECFMG Faimer Directory’ with “a medical school listed in the Avicenna”.
