

# Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting – 1 September 2014

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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 September 2014.

## 2015 Council meeting dates

Council approved the 2015 Council and Audit and Risk Management meeting dates.

## NZ Dental Examinations – collaborative agreement with the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB)

The Dental Council has been evaluating its dentist examination process over a number of years, and reviewed alternative models and options. At its meeting in March 2014, Council considered a business case on future options for the examination process for the assessment of overseas trained dentists. After careful consideration, of the information provided during this period, Council resolved to proceed to partner with NDEB to administer the NZDREX examination.

The Council was of the view that the NDEB process offered a more secure and robust system that would help to protect the safety of patients.

A collaborative agreement is being explored between Council and NDEB, and approved in principle by Council. Delegated authority to the Chair and Chief Executive to finalise the service contract.

## Preliminary Consultation - Specialist Competencies and Qualifications Framework

The final feedback from the targeted information gathering forums was considered by the Expert Reference Group – Specialist (ERGS) at its meeting in August, and a preliminary consultation document was developed for the Dental Council and the Dental Board of Australia's consideration.

Council approved the preliminary targeted consultation document to be issued to key stakeholders for a 6 week consultation period. A full consultation with all stakeholders will follow the preliminary targeted consultation.

## Medical Emergencies Code of Practice – follow up consultation

Council accepted the proposed changes to the updated draft medical emergencies code of practice and approved issuing of the document to all stakeholders as the final Medical Emergencies Code of Practice.

The implementation of the updated code was considered and it was agreed that the code will be implemented in stages, with all parts of the code to be fully implemented by September 2016. The

equipment and drug requirements would be implemented by September 2015, and the training renewal requirements by September 2016.

### Standards of competence in orthodontic treatment

Council received a number of concerns around the standards of competence of general dentists providing orthodontic treatment and the value of short courses to dentists to perform orthodontic treatment. Council agreed there were fundamental issues concerning the standard of competence of general dental practitioners taking on complex orthodontic treatment that was beyond their knowledge and skill, and in doing so, the safety of patients is being compromised. It was critical that practitioners understood where their competencies and limitations sit within their scope of practice, and refer where required.

The current scope of practice for general dentistry permitted orthodontic treatment, but the competencies did not contain specific orthodontic competencies. Council resolved to further investigate the issues to determine the appropriate way forward. Advice will be sought from the University of Otago regarding the extent of orthodontic training in the BDS undergraduate program that will inform a working group to be formed to consider the issues.

### Draft Accreditation Standards

Council approved the draft ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Standards consultation document to be issued to all stakeholders.