

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting – 11 May 2015

Level 10
101–103 The Terrace
Wellington
New Zealand

PO Box 10–448
Wellington 6143
New Zealand

Tel: +64 4 499 4820
Fax: +64 4 499 1668
inquiries@dcnz.org.nz

www.dcnz.org.nz

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 meetings held in May 2015.

Transmissible Major Viral Infections (TMVI) Code of Practice

At its meeting on 13 April 2015, the Council considered whether a patient should be informed of a TMVI infected practitioner's status following exposure of the patient to the blood of the practitioner as a result of an EPP incident.

The proposed draft TMVI code has no requirement for an infected practitioner to disclose their infected status to the patient at the time of an EPP incident. The draft TMVI code required the infected practitioner to inform the patient of the incident and that the practitioner need to seek advice; and to inform the TMVI panel immediately.

The TMVI panel would decide, based on a risk-assessment, whether the risk posed to the patient justified disclosure of the practitioner's infected status to the patient. A TMVI panel member, or another nominated medical practitioner, would then contact the patient to provide appropriate medical advice, and may disclose the infected status of the practitioner to the patient at that time if deemed appropriate by the TMVI panel.

Following extensive discussion the Council agreed to defer its decision regarding whether disclosure to the patient by the practitioner immediately following the incident should be mandatory, until the advice of the Health and Disability Commissioner and Privacy Commissioner on the proposed approach have been received and considered.

Cross infection code of practice: Standards review standing committee recommendations and draft code of practice

The Standards Review Standing Committee (Committee) held a teleconference meeting on 4 May 2015.

The Committee considered and noted the Cross Infection working group report and draft Infection Prevention and Control code of practice, as presented to the Council at its April 2015 meeting.

The Committee accepted the working group recommendations and requested a small number of minor changes to the wording of the draft Infection Prevention and Control code of practice.

Following extensive discussion on the matter, Council requested some further changes to the draft Infection Prevention and Control code of practice, and delegated the Chair and Deputy Chair to approve the final draft code for consultation.

Election of Deputy Chair to the ARM Committee

With the resignation of David Stephens from the Audit and Risk Management Committee, the ARM committee elected Leslea Eilenberg as Deputy Chair at its meeting on 6 May 2015. Council ratified the appointment.

Fitness to Practise and Registration Policies

Consultants O'Connor Sinclair has completed their review of the Dental Council policy documents. It was proposed Council adopt a phased approach to address the issues raised in the O'Connor Sinclair policy review report. This report was submitted to Council in April 2015, however due to the volume of policies to be reviewed Council agreed that the Audit & Risk Committee (ARM) consider the new set of documents and report back to Council with:

- assurance that the new set retains relevant policy and can be endorsed;
- assurance that policies identified through the review as outdated, incorrect or 'not policy' can be safely rescinded by Council; and
- recommendations regarding an option to split policy and operational processes/procedures into two separate documents.

The ARM Committee considered the Fitness to Practice and Registration policies at their May 2015 meeting, and made recommendations to the Council.

Council approved the following updated Fitness to Practice and Registration policies:

- Management of health impaired practitioners
- Supporting the health and wellbeing of oral health practitioners
- English language requirements and tests
- Fitness to practise
- Registration as an oral health practitioner in NZ
- Registration of dental advisors, managers, teachers and researches
- Registration of additional qualifications and titles
- Restoration to the dental register
- Disclosure of information on oral health practitioners
- Use of qualifications and titles
- Notifications to relevant regulatory authorities regarding changes to practicing status
- Registration information for Dental students convicted of any offence against the law
- New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations

Council also rescinded the following policies, deemed to be no longer required or relevant:

- Supervision and recertification requirements for Dental Therapy registrants
- Consequence of removal and suspension from the Dental Register