

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meetings during April 2017

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The Dental Council (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 on 3 April 2017.

Orthodontic treatment information brochures

At its November 2016 meeting, the Council accepted all of the recommendations in the orthodontic working group report. One of the recommendations included:

- *The Council, in consultation with key stakeholders in this area, develops and releases educative information guiding the public on orthodontic treatment. In particular what patients should look for when choosing a practitioner, important questions to ask when seeking orthodontic treatment, and patients' rights—including the right to complain about harm caused or unsatisfactory treatment. The information should be targeted to both young people and their parents/carers, and in plain English.*

To fulfil this recommendation, draft patient information related to orthodontic treatment was developed for Council's consideration.

Council recommended some changes to ensure the content was age appropriate, balanced with ensuring the key messages were retained to provide meaningful information to young patients. Following the changes to the draft brochures, Council agreed that feedback would be requested from NZ Association of Orthodontists and NZ Dentists' Orthodontic Society on the draft brochures.

Following this, the final drafts will be considered by the Council before finalisation and publication.

Sexual boundaries in the dentist-patient relationship review and draft Professional boundaries practice standard

The Council approved the draft professional boundaries practice standard and consultation document, subject to proposed changes.

Advanced areas of practice targeted consultation

On 16 December a discussion document was issued to the key stakeholders – including the professional associations, Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Otago, Department of Oral Health at Auckland University of Technology, Ministry of Health and the Health and Disability Commissioner.

The targeted consultation on advanced areas of practice included the following proposals:

- a) there was no need to develop an "Advanced areas of practice" practice standard
- b) there was no longer a need to retain the following documents and these would be rescinded:

- Policy on advanced and new areas of practice (May 2007)
 - The cosmetic dentistry practice standard (May 2009)
 - The cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) practice standard (May 2011)
 - Statement on the administration of Botulinum-A by dentists (Amended July 2016),
- c) the value in developing further clinical guidance for the safe and appropriate use of CBCT; not necessarily by the Council.

Following the close of targeted consultation 23 February 2017, a total of four responses was received.

Council discussed the responses received and agreed that all stakeholders would be notified of the Council's decision regarding the practice standard and Council documents (listed above) in the next newsletter.