

26 September 2014

Dear practitioner,

## **Outcome of the follow-up consultation on the draft Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice Code of Practice**

The Council considered the submissions on the follow-up draft Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice Code of Practice consultation at its August meeting, with further refinements to the draft code finalised at its September meeting.

The follow-up consultation proposed amendments related to the:

- inclusion of CORE Level 4 equivalent courses in addition to NZRC CORE Level 4 courses
- the training, emergency equipment and drug requirements for practitioners administering sedation, excluding inhalation sedation
- clarification on role-play training in practice
- inclusion of the New Zealand Dental Association's (NZDA) *Medical Emergencies – Information and Specific Responses* and *Quick reference guide*, as appendices to the code
- confirmation of the two-yearly revalidation period
- minor amendments to the emergency equipment and drug requirements.

### **Outcomes**

The majority of proposed changes were accepted by the Council. After consideration of the submissions received the following additional changes have been made to the draft code of practice:

- Removal of references to practice requirements - the Council is mandated under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 to regulate oral health practitioners. The changes made clarify the ultimate responsibility of the oral health practitioner to ensure compliance with the requirements contained in the code.
- Clarification on the role of the New Zealand Resuscitation Council in resuscitation training.
- Removal of requirement for Oxygen by dental technicians - the appropriate use of oxygen does not form part of dental technicians' training, and is not a core skill.
- Six monthly practice reviews – emphasising that staff members' particular roles in the management of an emergency should form part of the six-monthly practice review.
- NZDA medical emergency specific responses - amendments were made to the asthma, epilepsy and choking sections, in consultation with the NZDA.

None of these changes were considered to be of substantial nature that would require another consultation with all stakeholders.

The additional changes made to the follow-up consultation draft code of practice are reflected as red text in Attachment 1. The final Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice Code of Practice is enclosed as Attachment 2. An electronic version of the code will also be available on our website at [www.dcnz.org.nz](http://www.dcnz.org.nz).

## Implementation

To allow practitioners time to comply with the various changes, some of which are substantially different from the current standards, a phased-in implementation will be followed.

The following implementation dates are relevant to all oral health practitioners:

**30 September 2014:** The new Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice Code of Practice is implemented with the exclusion of the:

- resuscitation training requirements – sections 4.7 – 4.23
- equipment and drug requirements – sections 4.24 – 4.36.

**30 September 2015:** Full implementation of the equipment and drug requirements (sections 4.24 – 4.36). Practitioners are strongly recommended to comply with the requirements as soon as possible, but all oral health practitioners must comply by 30 September 2015.

**30 September 2016:** Full implementation of the resuscitation training requirements (sections 4.7 – 4.23). This includes the prescribed level of training and the two-yearly revalidation period.

On this date it must be no more than two years since a practitioner has completed resuscitation training at the newly prescribed level.

This means:

- If the renewal date for your currently held resuscitation certificate falls within the period 30 September 2014 – 30 September 2016, you must:
  - attend resuscitation training before the renewal date, at the level prescribed in the new Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice Code of Practice
  - revalidate every 2 years thereafter.
- If the renewal date for your currently held resuscitation certificate falls after the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, you must:
  - attend a resuscitation training programme before 30 September 2016, at the level prescribed in the new Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice Code of Practice
  - revalidate every 2 years thereafter.

Due to the increased demand for practitioners requiring revalidation prior to September 2016, practitioners are strongly encouraged not to wait until just before the implementation date to revalidate your resuscitation training.

The Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice Code of Practice will be fully implemented by 30 September 2016.

Please feel free to contact the Dental Council at [inquiries@dcnz.org.nz](mailto:inquiries@dcnz.org.nz) or 04 499 4820 if you have any further questions on the new code of practice or its implementation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Rodgers', written in a cursive style.

Mark Rodgers

Acting Chief Executive