

Dental Council of New Zealand Meeting 28 August 2007

Summary of Decisions

Guidelines on cosmetic procedures

It was noted that the NZDA has proposed setting up a project team to develop generic guidelines on cosmetic procedures for the use of membership and the Dental Council.

Review of the HPCAA

It was noted that the review of the Act is scheduled to begin later in the year and draft terms of reference have been circulated with the emphasis on the operation rather than the philosophy of the Act.

APC Allocation model

Council approved a new method of cost allocation for APCs for 2008/2009 which reflects recent Regulations Review Committee advice to avoid cross subsidisation between the disciplines.

The proposed 2008/2009 APC will comprise:

- a DCNZ (Council) levy
- a workforce board component
- a discipline levy.

Management accounts for period ending 30 June 2007

The draft DCNZ management account for the period ending 30 June 2007 shows:

- a surplus of \$57,269 instead of a budgeted deficit of \$34,808
- a closing financial position of \$1,332,574.

The involvement of the Auditor-General has delayed the audit process.

Workforce Board appointments

Council approved the appointment of Michael Williams to the Dental Technicians Board for a three-year term commencing 1 September 2007 and the appointment of Susan Moffatt to the Dental Therapist Board for a three-year term commencing 1 September 2007.

Appointment of Registrar

Council approved the appointment of David Dunbar as Registrar of the Dental Council.

Oral Surgery

- As a result of concerns that were raised, Council agreed that further consideration will be given to the possible reopening of the oral surgery scope of practice.
- Council will design a new consultation process.
- The decision on the possible reopening of the oral surgery scope of practice will be made by Council following the consultation process.

Dental technology scopes of practice

DCNZ will meet with NZIDT in late September to discuss concerns about scopes of practice. The focus will be on the Implant Overdentures in Clinical Dental Technology Practice scope of practice.

Mail order grills

- Council agreed that the provision of dental grills lies within the CDT scope of practice and requirements such as an oral health certificate need to be in place before they are provided by CDTs.
- Council noted that under amended DCNZ policy guidance on restricted activities unregistered persons can take impressions for, and trial fit removable appliances (eg grills) but a dentist must undertake final fit and adjustments. Advice for the public will be developed accordingly.

Orthodontic procedures in dental hygiene scope of practice

Council approved the amended wording to the additional dental hygiene scope for undertaking orthodontic procedures. This was done to address the unintended situation where previous wording had been interpreted that the only person who could provide required supervision was the dentist or orthodontist who has developed the initial treatment plan.

Registration examinations

Upcoming examinations include:

- NZDREX clinical – November 2007
- Endodontic specialist registration examination – mid-2008
- Dental technician registration examination – February 2008.

Dental technicians registration amnesty

Council noted that:

- 30 June 2007 marked the end of the amnesty period for those practising dental technology to continue doing so while their application for registration was considered
- the amnesty has been very effective with 125 applications for registration being received; 60 of which were granted registration, 30 were registered under TTMR, 21 are on hold, 6 are currently being assessed and 8 were declined
- it was agreed to allow those practitioners who were unable to satisfy the registration requirements under the amnesty provisions the opportunity to sit a one-off dental technology examination in early 2008.

Submission to ERMA on teeth whitening

Council approved the submission that has been drafted on teeth whitening.

Codes of practice

Council noted that:

- the generic code for medical emergencies in dental practice has been amended to state that until a modular CORE 3 course is developed dental therapists, dental hygienists and clinical dental technicians can best meet the emergency care training requirements by undertaking the NZRC CORE Level 4 (modular) course
- DCNZ has responded to the NZDA's request for comments on:
 - their draft code on the control of cross-infection
 - the use of Pentrox in conscious sedation
- The NZDA has expressed further concerns about the fitting of mouthguards by dental hygienists.

Practice of dental technology and clinical dental technology and the working relationship within the practice of dentistry

- Council considered the changes that have been recently approved by the DTB to the code of practice on the practice of dental technology and clinical dental technology and the working relationship within the practice of dentistry.
- Council approved the code after requesting the addition of a footnote to the template for the oral health certificate noting a recommended expiry date of 90 days.

Working relationship between dental hygienists and dentists and use of laser technology

- Council approved the amended wording relating to the use of laser technology in the code of practice on the working relationship between dental hygienists and dentists subject to the final sentence of the first paragraph being amended to read: "Dental hygienists must not use laser technology where the use of that technology removes or alters hard or soft tissue ... as these areas fall outside the dental hygiene scope of practice."

- Council noted that the code is not under review and the wording changes are designed to address the use of laser technology by dental hygienists; the code will be updated and published subject to consultation with NZDA and NZDHA.

Cultural competence

Council considered and discussed the draft code of practice and the draft statement on best practice and agreed to consult with the professions and other appropriate stakeholders.

Generic TMVI code

- Council considered the feedback received from stakeholders on the draft code of practice on transmissible major viral infections and noted that it was positive.
- Council agreed that the TMVI code of practice should stand alone and not be part of the code of practice on cross infection control and that the final version would be posted on the DCNZ website and sent to the professional associations.

Training providers for medical emergencies in dental practice

Council approved the addition of St John to the list of approved providers noting that it has temporary equivalent status until 31 March 2008.

Dental Therapist Board policy on recency of practice for dental therapists

Council approved this policy.

Report on Otago Dental Technology and Clinical Dental programmes

Council noted that the university has indicated progress on all recommendations reported by the Accreditation Review Team.

Changes to BDS curriculum

Council considered changes to the BDS curriculum that are proposed by the University of Otago due to recent changes in the Health Science First Year programme and noted that the changes are about the redesign of the programme rather than to the course content. Council agreed to await the annual report before considering the changes.

ARDS refresher course

Council noted that:

- ARDS had provided the information that had been requested earlier in the year by the Council
- the review team considered the documentation and was satisfied that the issues identified in the review report had been met.

Moderation of dental therapy refresher programmes

- Council considered the draft policy on the moderation of dental therapy refresher courses which had been drawn up in consultation with the course providers and tertiary institutions to provide for the establishment of a moderation committee.
- The committee will review course materials and undertake site visits to ensure that clinical standards are comparable to those required for graduation.
- Council approved the policy subject to amendments and the first site visit will be undertaken in 2008.

CPD matters

Council approved the Dental Technicians Board recommendations regarding CPD subject to some minor changes and the policy on the approval of CPD activities will be amended accordingly.

Draft consultation policy

Council considered and discussed the draft guidelines, the responses of the professional associations and wording changes and approved the guidelines subject to minor amendments.

Meeting dates
26 November 2007