

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting 7 November 2016

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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 in November 2016.

2017 Council meeting dates

The 2017 Council and Audit and Risk Committee meeting dates were approved. The dates will be published on the website.

Oral Health Therapy – application for recognition as a standalone profession

Council approved the application to be submitted to the Minister of Health for the recognition of oral health therapy as a profession under the Act.

Orthodontic working group report

Council considered the report from the Orthodontic Working Group. There were 12 recommendations included in the report, in which were all accepted by the Council.

Overall the inquiry found that there was no evidence of widespread harm or risk to patients. The report will be published on the Council's website.

Advanced areas of practice

In December 2015, the Council confirmed the practice standard review priorities, and agreed that the following standards would be incorporated into a new practice standard "Advanced areas of practice" or similar title:

- Cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) practice standard (May 2011)
- Cosmetic dentistry practice standard (May 2009)
- Digital technologies – new practice standard proposed by the Standards Review Committee
- Council statement on restricted activities and the practice of bleaching by non-registered persons (July 2005).

For the development of the proposed new practice standard, the following additional Council statements, policies and newsletter articles (position statements) were identified and included in the initial investigation phase:

- Policy statement on restricted procedures under the HPCA Act 2003 (Amended May 2007)
- Policy on advanced and new areas of practice (May 2007)
- Statement on the administration of Botulinum-A by dentists (Amended July 2016)

- Oral health practitioners' ethical responsibility in the community water fluoridation debate (newsletter article August 2013).

During the development stage of the standard, Council noted that consideration was given as to whether there was the need, or not, for an "advanced areas of practice" standard with the Standards Framework in place, and if so what form would the proposed practice standard take.

A comparison of the relevant documents was undertaken against the Standards Framework and other regulatory tools, to identify areas not covered, and the associated risks from regulatory and patient safety perspectives as a consequence of those gaps.

In conclusion, it was proposed that:

- A practice standard was no longer required to be developed to cover the areas of 'advanced' and 'new' areas of practice, cosmetic dentistry, administration of Botulinum-A and CBCT.
- The standards framework and other regulatory tools covered the standards embodied in the current documents, at a principle level; that no additional standards were required in this practice area; and that there was questionable value in gathering the relevant standards in one document as it was already covered in the standards framework.
- The development of a guidance document for the use of CBCT, written at a principle level, was considered the most appropriate approach to cover the statements not covered—rather than updating the current practice standard.
- The Office of Radiation Safety would be engaged to consider whether they could include the relevant statements in their code of practice for dentistry that was currently under review. Alternatively, the New Zealand Dental Association could develop such guidance for its members, if considered necessary.
- The standards framework had superseded the Council's statement on oral health practitioners' ethical responsibility in the community water fluoridation debate, and was no longer required for referencing when dealing with complaints relating to fluoride statements made by practitioners.
- The policy statements on restricted procedures under the Act, and on restricted activities and the practice of bleaching by non-registered persons be reviewed, and combined into one guidance document or information on the Council's website.
- Consequently, it was proposed that the Council considered rescinding the following documents, as they were no longer considered necessary with the introduction of the standards framework:
 - Policy on advanced and new areas of practice (May 2007)
 - Statement on the administration of Botulinum-A by dentists (Amended July 2016)
 - Cone beam computed tomography practice standard—following development of appropriate guidance for practitioners on the use of CBCT.
 - Cosmetic dentistry practice standard
 - Oral health practitioners' ethical responsibility in the community water fluoridation debate (newsletter article August 2013).

The Statement on the administration of Botulinum-A by dentists was updated in July 2016, as it was considered outdated and limiting practice.

The Council considered the discussion document and concluded that it would accept the preliminary positions reached, and initiate a targeted consultation with the Ministry of Health and all key professional associations to ensure that no unintended consequences with the proposed changes have been missed.

It agreed it would defer its decision to rescind the documents, until after the targeted consultation is completed.

2017/18 Budgets and APC fees and disciplinary levies and other fees

Council approved the 2017/18 budgets, proposed APC fees, disciplinary levies and other fees would be consulted upon with stakeholders in November - December 2016.

Integrated IT Platform RFP Business Case

The Council considered the business case and confirmed to engage with a preferred supplier for the integrated IT platform.

This project is an extensive overhaul of the IT systems employed by the Council to manage practitioners effectively. A project manager / change manager will be appointed in November to oversee this project.

HR Policies

The Council approved the updated HR policies that were reviewed by Buddle Findlay. Council also agreed to remove the Resignation and Terminations Policy, as this area is covered in the employment agreement.