

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting 17 September 2018

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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 September 2018.

2019 meeting dates

The 2019 Council and Audit and Risk Committee meeting dates were approved. These dates will be published on the website.

Medical emergencies – oxygen requirement

Council considered a request from the New Zealand Institute of Dental Technologists to review the requirement for clinical dental technologists to have oxygen in their clinics, as required by the Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice – practice standard.

NZIDT raised concern as a result of an article published in the New Zealand Herald in June 2018 titled “*Oxygen therapy given to sick patients could do more harm than good*”.

Council noted the current New Zealand Resuscitation Council's (NZRC) guidelines and training publication¹ in relation to Oxygen. Further it noted the concerns expressed in the NZ Herald media article primarily related to severely ill or acutely ill patients in a hospital setting.

In conclusion, Council agreed it would not escalate its review of the Medical Emergencies practice standard at this time – on the basis that the current NZRC standard and guidelines were clear around the ongoing use of Oxygen in the first-line management of medical emergencies, including for cardiac arrest.

Waikato District Health Board – Primary tooth pulpotomy and stainless steel crown for New Zealand practising dental therapists course

Council approved the Waikato DHB's Primary Tooth Pulpotomy and Stainless Steel Crown for New Zealand Practising Dental Therapists course until 30 September 2023.

CPD Providers – extension of approval period

An extension to the CPD approval periods for the Nelson Marlborough and Southern District Health Boards was approved to 31 December 2019.

However, the DHBs would be reminded of the potential impact of the Recertification Policy review may have impact on CPD related policies.

¹ New Zealand Resuscitation Council, Resuscitation – A Guide for Advanced Rescuers (First Edition, July 2016).