

## Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meetings in October 2019

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 meetings held in October 2019.

### Naming Policy – consultation

Council adopted the draft Naming Policy at its September 2019 meeting. Section 157C of the Act requires Council to consult, and take into account any comments received from stakeholders, before issuing its naming policy. Accordingly, Council approved the draft consultation document on the Naming Policy – subject to further amendments.

The consultation will open on 10 October with submissions closing on 6 December 2019.

### Scopes of practice and prescribed qualifications consultation

An external quality assurance review initiated by the Council highlighted some practices dating back to the inception of the Act that may have a potential for confusion or create legal uncertainty on what is, or is not, within a scope of practice.

To address the issues related to scopes, Council considered and approved the proposal to:

- attribute each scope to the profession it actually describes by removing references to a “subset of dentistry” or “part of the practice of dentistry” (except for the general dental practice and dental specialists’ scopes which do describe the profession of dentistry)
- remove the title Detailed scope from the scopes
- consolidate its Gazette notices by publishing one notice to replace all previous scopes and prescribed qualification notices.

The proposed amendments will not change, limit or impact the tasks practitioners registered in the affected scopes and related professions are currently able to perform in their day-to-day practice.

Some minor updates were also proposed in the consultation document to provide clarity and equity around prescribed qualifications for general dental practice and dental specialist scopes.

Council will be consulting on the proposed changes from 17 October, with submissions closing on 12 December 2019.

### Review of the Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice

Council considered the review of the updated Medical emergencies in dental practice – practice standard. In particular, Council considered the following areas:

- The practice standard is updated into the new format (standards and guidance)
- The concerns expressed by dental therapists about the administration of adrenaline for anaphylaxis and whether the concentration described for administration in children is appropriate
- To revisit the position on oxygen, In response to the New Zealand Institute of Dental Technologists' concerns
- An update of the New Zealand Dental Association (NZDA) protocols contained in Appendices A and B of the practice standard; and investigation into their appropriateness for children
- Liaison with resuscitation providers on concerns related to training for dental practitioners administering emergency medicines
- Liaison with the New Zealand Resuscitation Council (NZRC) on any key changes to their guidelines that could impact the practice standard.

In summary, the outcomes of the review are:

- Council considers that the updated medical emergencies practice standard places no new obligations on oral health practitioners, making consultation unnecessary.
- The title of the practice standard has been simplified to Medical emergencies practice standard.
- The updated practice standard maintains all the information in the 2016 practice standard, and has been formatted consistently with other, more recent, practice standards (standards and guidance)
- A small amount of further guidance has been added to the updated practice standard for standards 1,7, and 8
- References to 'drugs' in the 2016 practice standard have been changed to 'medicines' in the updated version
- Practitioners' obligations for the use of oxygen have not changed, including for clinical dental technicians
- Practitioners are encouraged to discuss their training needs with their resuscitation course providers when booking, to enable them to competently administer adrenaline or oxygen, as relevant, in a medical emergency
- Appendices A and B of the practice standard have been updated to reflect current ANZCOR guidelines and NZRC published information.