

# Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meetings in November 2020

Level 8  
Kordia House  
109-125 Willis Street  
Wellington 6011  
New Zealand  
  
PO Box 10-448  
Wellington 6143  
New Zealand  
  
Tel: +64 4 499 4820  
Fax: +64 4 499 1668  
inquiries@dcnz.org.nz  
  
www.dcnz.org.nz

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 November 2020.

## Patient records and privacy of health information

The updated Patient records and privacy of health information practice standard was approved by the Council. The changes were required in order to comply with the new Privacy Act 2020 which comes into force on 1 December 2020.

Since these changes all relate to legal requirements under the Privacy Act 2020 and Health Information Privacy Code 2020, there was no need to consult with practitioners and stakeholders.

The updated practice standard – including the key changes made will be published on the [website](#).

## COVID-19 guidelines for oral health services

The COVID-19 guidelines for oral health services were reviewed to consider new research developments in response to COVID-19. The proposed changes to the guidelines are currently being considered by the Ministry of Health. All oral health practitioners will be advised of any changes once a final decision has been made.

## University of Otago dental programmes condition interim monitoring reports

The Council considered the recommendations of the accreditation committee regarding the monitoring condition reports for the following programmes:

- Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)
- Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH)
- Bachelor of Dental Technology (BDentTech)

### *BDS:*

Council accepted the accreditation committee's recommendation that the Auckland facility conditions have been met. However, updates would be requested on further progress and confirmation of ongoing embedding of the initiatives put in place for the academic induction of Auckland PPFs, and academic and clinical integration between Auckland and Dunedin.

### *BOH:*

Council considered the programme's request to reconsider the accreditation condition to increase restorative and exodontia procedures.

Although the Council agreed with the strong preventive focus of the oral health programme, and the success the programme is achieving within the oral health of the Dunedin younger population, Council emphasised the existing oral health needs of children in New Zealand. Council's responsibility is to ensure the oral health graduates are competent across the oral health therapy scope of practice. According to the findings of the 2018

accreditation review, feedback to the site evaluation team from various groups, there was a need identified for increased clinical experience opportunities in those clinical areas.

Overall, Council accepted the accreditation committee's recommendation to not remove the condition to increase student exposure to restorative and exodontia procedures.

*BDentTech:*

Council noted the progress on the condition placed following the 2019 accreditation review, and that there were no concerns raised by the accreditation committee.

### [Proposed 2021/22 Budget, APC fees and disciplinary levies and other fees](#)

Council approved the proposed 2021/21 budget, fees and levies to be consulted on with all stakeholders and practitioners. The consultation period will open in November to January 2021.

### [Updated finance policies](#)

The following financial policies were approved:

- Level of reserves policy
- Budgeting, fee setting and cost allocation policy
- Expenses and reimbursement policy