



14 November 2019

Tēnā koutou,

Recertification requirements for vocationally-registered doctors practising in New Zealand

As part of its role to protect the public and promote good medical practice, the Medical Council of New Zealand sets the requirements and accredits recertification programmes for doctors. Recertification supports doctors to reflect on how they can develop their practice, drives improvements in the care provided to patients and gives the public confidence that their doctor is up to date.

The Council has released strengthened [Recertification requirements for vocationally-registered doctors in New Zealand](#) that build on existing systems and emphasise the value of the activities, particularly those related to review and reflections of practice. Responsibility for determining what is appropriate for each vocational scope falls to the recertification programme provider. Accredited recertification programme providers are expected to work towards these requirements, with implementation by 1 July 2022.

The recertification requirements were developed with extensive engagement and input from stakeholders. The requirements put emphasis on recertification activities that relate to the actual work doctors do and that, according to the [latest research and evidence](#), are most likely to improve practice. We sincerely thank the recertification working group and all those who have provided their input.

Programme providers – in most cases in New Zealand these are the medical colleges – are responsible for developing and delivering the recertification programmes in line to these requirements. Individual providers will decide the specific nature of their programmes according to what is relevant and important for their scope of practice.

Core Elements

By 1 July 2022, all recertification programmes must include the following components:

- 1. Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**
All programmes include a mix of activities, across all three categories of CPD:
 - a. Reviewing and reflecting on practice
 - b. Measuring and improving outcomes
 - c. Educational activities (Continuing Medical Education – CME)
- 2. Cultural safety and a focus on health equity** - embedded within all recertification activities.
- 3. Annual Conversation** – providers will give guidance to doctors on structuring an annual conversation with a peer, colleague or employer.
- 4. Professional Development Plan (PDP)** – providers will offer a facility and template for doctors to create and maintain a professional development plan.

5. **High value activities** - providers will offer processes and give appropriate credit for doctors to undertake high value activities, including collegial practice visits (sometimes called RPR) and multisource feedback.
6. **Employer-led activities** - providers are expected to recognise and give credit for appropriate activities undertaken through other processes, such as fulfilling the requirements of another accredited recertification programme or during the course of a doctor's employment.

What does it mean for vocationally-registered doctors?

The overarching requirement for doctors remains the same; that all doctors registered in a vocational scope of practice must participate in and satisfy all of the requirements of a recertification programme provided by an accredited provider. Doctors are asked to confirm they are complying with the requirements of their relevant programme when they renew their practising certificate.

A number of medical colleges are already working towards aligning their programmes to the new requirements, so doctors will need to check with their respective provider for any changes as colleges continue to develop their programmes.

What does it mean for recertification programme providers?

Recertification programme providers must meet accreditation standards. Consultation on revised recertification accreditation standards will take place in 2020. The revisions will reflect the core elements above, with a focus on giving greatest recognition for the professional development activities that are most likely to lead to improvements in practice.

During the phased implementation, providers undergoing accreditation will be asked to show progress towards implementing the new requirements. The Council can be contacted directly for any guidance to support implementation of the new requirements.

More information

More detail on the new recertification requirements can be found on [our website](#) and you can contact us about these via sconsultation@mcnz.org.nz. If you are a doctor and have any questions relating to your specific recertification programme requirements, please contact your programme provider (college) directly.

Nāku noa, nā



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