



## Policy on critical incidents during NZREX

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**Policy Statement**

During the examination, any behaviour representing a significant breach of what would normally be considered acceptable professional standards or ethical boundaries will be recorded as a critical incident.

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**Rationale**

NZREX candidates whose behaviour has met the definition of a critical incident may pose a risk of harm to the public. Steps must be taken to ensure these doctors are fit for registration, consistent with requirements under Section 16 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

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**Procedures**

When a candidate exhibits behaviour that the station examiner believes is a critical incident, the station examiner will record the event using the Examination Incident Report.

The actor will be interviewed separately by both the Examinations Director and another Examiner. The Examinations Director and both Examiners will discuss the incident and make a decision about whether the incident represents a significant breach of what would normally be considered acceptable professional standards or ethical boundaries and is thus a critical incident. If agreement is reached that the behaviour does constitute a critical incident, the candidate will score zero for that station.

If the behaviour is judged to be a critical incident and the candidate scores zero for the station, further action will be taken:

1. At the post-NZREX teleconference (held the week after NZREX to confirm the results before candidates are notified) attended by the Examinations Director, Council Chair and Chief Executive, the critical incident will be discussed. In the unlikely event that the candidate has managed to pass the examination after scoring a zero in one of the stations, a decision can be made to fail the candidate based upon the severity of the incident.
2. The candidate will be advised of the critical incident in the NZREX result letter.
3. The candidate will be advised that the details of the incident will be placed in the candidate's file and the candidate will be given an opportunity to respond.

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4. Council will be advised of the incident and provided with the candidate's response.
  5. Based on the severity of the incident, Council will choose from the following actions:
    - candidate will not be permitted to repeat NZREX
    - candidate will not be permitted to sit NZREX until completing prescribed remediation
    - candidate will be required to undergo an assessment after passing NZREX. The assessment will be done by an experienced assessor before the candidate can apply for registration in a provisional general scope of practice. The candidate will be responsible for costs associated with the assessment and the completion of any recommended remediation. The candidate will not be registered until evidence can be provided that the doctor is fit for registration.
  6. When registered in a provisional general scope, the intern supervisor will be advised of the critical incident and informed of any remediation the candidate has undertaken. The intern supervisor will be asked to report to Council on any further incidents. (The candidate will be advised of this when informed about the critical incident.)
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Passed at Council meeting:

August 2008