



Policy on examiners raising serious concerns about candidate performance during the New Zealand Registration Examination (NZREX Clinical)

Policy Statement	During NZREX Clinical, an examiner may raise a serious concern that a candidate's performance is significantly below minimal expected levels of clinical or professional behaviour. This policy outlines the process for a serious concern being raised and the resulting consequences for a candidate.
Rationale	<p>Examiners may form the view that a candidate's performance is significantly below minimal expected levels of clinical or professional behaviour during the examination and may wish to alert the Examinations Director or Assistant Examinations Director to the serious concern, by way of a caution.</p> <p>A serious concern of this nature would not meet the threshold of a critical incident (a significant breach of acceptable professional standards or ethical boundaries). Nevertheless, it would be of sufficient concern that the Examiner would form the view that it warrants specific consideration by the Examinations Director or Assistant Examinations Director.</p>
Procedures	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Examiners have the option of alerting the Examinations Director and Assistant Examinations Director if they have a serious concern about a candidate's performance during the examination.2. A serious concern is raised when the examiner considers the candidate's clinical performance or professional behaviour to be significantly below minimal expected levels during the examination, and to such a degree that it needs to be brought to the Examinations Director or the Assistant Examinations Director's attention.3. The examiner must indicate the serious concern on the candidate's mark-sheet, by way of a caution, and provide the reason(s) for the concern.4. A serious concern can only be raised in a dynamic station, with an examiner and simulated patient present.5. The serious concern can include, but is not limited to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• language• communication• physical examination skills• professionalism

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- medical knowledge
 - clinical reasoning.
6. If a candidate has received three or more serious concerns (cautions) during the examination, the candidate will fail the examination overall.
 7. The candidate will be advised of the serious concerns (cautions) in their NZREX Clinical feedback letter.
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Related policies *Council's Policy on critical incidents during NZREX Clinical.*
Council's Policy on NZREX Clinical pass and fail criteria.

Approved at Council meeting:

August 2017