



19 October 2020

Consultation on proposed accreditation standards for providers of vocational medical training and recertification programmes for vocationally-registered doctors in New Zealand

As part of its role to protect the public and promote good medical practice, the Medical Council of New Zealand (Council) sets the standards and accredits providers to deliver vocational medical training and recertification programmes.

In 2019, Council released strengthened *Recertification requirements for vocationally-registered doctors practicing in New Zealand*. Council is now reviewing its accreditation standards for providers of vocational recertification programmes to ensure these align with the new recertification requirements. These changes affect both New Zealand-only providers and bi-national (Australasian) providers.

We have also taken the opportunity to also revise all of the accreditation standards for New Zealand-only providers to strengthen cultural safety, in line with Council's [Cultural Safety standards](#).

We now invite feedback on these revised accreditation standards.

This consultation is open until 5pm on 20 November 2020.

Once finalised, accredited programme providers will work towards meeting these new standards by 1 July 2022.

Background of the strengthened approach to recertification

Strengthened *Recertification requirements for vocationally-registered doctors practising in New Zealand* were developed with extensive engagement and input from stakeholders and expert advisors over several years. These were published in November 2019.

The requirements placed emphasis on recertification activities that relate more closely to the actual work doctors do and that, according to the latest research and evidence, are most likely to improve practice.

Accredited recertification programme providers are responsible for developing and delivering programmes that meet the accreditation standards. They decide the specific nature of their programmes and the activities that provide the most value, according to what is relevant and important for their scope(s) of practice.

For providers offering recertification programmes for doctors practising in either Australia or New Zealand (bi-national, or Australasian providers), the standards for accreditation are jointly agreed and applied by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) and the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ). Australasian providers are currently required to apply the New Zealand-specific criteria in addition to the AMC standards.

Changes in the revised standards

Proposed changes to the standards include:

- A strengthened focus on cultural safety and health equity across all elements of recertification programmes
- Recertification programmes are to include a mix of activities across all of the following CPD categories:
 - Reviewing and reflecting on practice
 - Measuring and improving outcomes
 - Educational activities (continuing medical education)
- Recertification programmes are also to include:
 - A process and guidance for participants to undertake a structured conversation with a peer, colleague or employer annually
 - A platform and template for participants to develop and maintain a PDP
 - A process for participants to voluntarily undertake multisource feedback
 - A process for participants to voluntarily participate in collegial practice visits
 - A process for assessing and recognising appropriate activities that are undertaken through other processes, such as fulfilling the requirements of another recertification programme or in the course of a doctor's employment
 - A method for review and continuous quality improvement of the recertification programme
 - A process to inform the Medical Council of New Zealand (at least annually) of those who are participating in the recertification programme and whether they are meeting requirements. This is in addition to immediately reporting any known non-compliance.

Consultation process

This consultation is open for 5 weeks and closes on Friday 20 November 2020 at 5pm.

Feedback Questions

1. **Do you foresee any challenges with implementing the proposed standards? What are these and do you have any suggestions about how these could be resolved?**
2. **Do you have any feedback on the format, order or readability of the proposed standards?**
3. **Do you have any other comments or suggestions about the proposed standards that might assist with a smooth implementation?**

Please provide your views by completing the [online survey](#) or, if you prefer, send your feedback on the questions to: SConsultation@mcnz.org.nz

There are two elements to this consultation:

Proposed changes affecting bi-national (Australasian) providers of recertification programmes for vocationally-registered doctors in New Zealand

We invite you to provide your views on the [proposed accreditation standards for recertification programmes](#).

Proposed changes affecting New Zealand-only providers of vocational medical training and recertification programmes for vocationally-registered doctors in New Zealand

We invite you to provide your views on all of the [proposed changes to the Accreditation standards for New Zealand training providers of vocational medical training and recertification programmes](#). These changes include the proposed standards for recertification programmes, and revisions to all of the standards to strengthen cultural safety, in line with Council's [Cultural Safety standards](#). The proposed revisions have been tracked within the current standards document, for ease of reference.

Next steps

Following consultation, Council will finalise and release the revised standards, taking into consideration any feedback received.