



Definition of the 'practice of medicine'

The Council defines the practice of medicine as including any of the following:

- advertising, holding out to the public, or representing in any manner that one is authorised to practise medicine in New Zealand
- signing any medical certificate required for statutory purposes, such as death and cremation certificates
- prescribing medicines, the sale or supply of which is restricted by law to prescription by medical practitioners or designated prescribers
- assessing, diagnosing, treating, reporting or giving advice in a medical capacity, using the knowledge, skills, attitudes and competence initially attained for the MB ChB degree (or equivalent) and built upon in postgraduate and continuing medical education (CME), wherever there could be an issue of public safety.

Notes

1. 'Practice' in this context goes wider than clinical medicine to include teaching, research, medical or health management, in hospitals, clinics, general practices and community and institutional contexts, whether paid or voluntary.
2. Emergency care is so much a part of a doctor's professional ethic that, in the opinion of the Council a qualified doctor who is not registered may render medical or surgical aid to any person in an emergency when a registered doctor is unavailable.

Approved by Council:
Administration change:

August 2004
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Definition of clinical practice and non-clinical practice

Clinical practice

Any work undertaken by a doctor that relates to the care of an individual patient

Non-clinical practice

Any work undertaken by a doctor that does not relate to the care of an individual patient

Notes

If a doctor working in non-clinical practice can satisfy Council that their work has no / low risk to public health and safety they may recertify via a collegial relationship with another doctor to ensure the doctor is maintaining competence and taking part in continuing professional development (CPD). Alternatively, they may form a relationship with a CPD associate within an organisational appraisal system that includes requirements for CPD.

The doctor may also be able to claim a reduction of the PC fee (dependent on income) or waiving of the PC fee (if retired and giving service to the profession).

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August 2004

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September 2013
