



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.