

**REPORT ON VISIT TO CHRISTCHURCH HOSPITAL REGARDING THE GENERAL SURGICAL
DEPARTMENT 28 FEBRUARY 2013**

Background

On 15, 16 and 17 February 2012 the Medical Council of New Zealand (Council) visited the Christchurch group of teaching hospitals for its three-yearly hospital accreditation visit, for the purpose of reaccrediting Canterbury District Health Board (DHB) for providing intern runs. During the visit a series of problems emerged with the department of general surgery that were considered to be serious and warranted both intervention by the DHB and a second visit in 12 months time. The issues were:

1. Interns on general surgical runs were unable to complete clinical work due to high overall workload and inadequate support.
2. Management appeared unaware of the problems faced by interns on the surgical run despite there being data that clearly delineated the problem.

Conclusions

The visit team was impressed with the progress that had been made across multiple areas and the willingness at all levels to make the necessary changes. The interviews with the interns confirms that the changes have been effective and the problems identified 12 months ago appear to have been resolved. Minor recommendations have been made that may further assist efficiency in the service.

Dated: 14 March 2013