



Te Poari Tiaki Waewae O Aotearoa

The ePod

MARCH 2015

PODIATRISTS BOARD NEWSLETTER

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BOARD MEETINGS

The Board met on 26 & 27 February at AUT in Auckland, and this included a morning meeting with ANZPAC (Australian & NZ Podiatry Accreditation Council), the organisation which also provides the Board with qualifications and skills assessments for overseas trained registration applicants in NZ.

This further strengthened ties and lead to agreement to work together on a number of other projects.

BOARD MEMBER VACANCIES

The Board is expecting advice very shortly from the Ministry of Health on the two positions that are up for appointment or reappointment.

PRACTISING WITHOUT AN ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC)

There are currently 382 practising podiatrists holding an APC. However this number usually drops a little each year after 1 April as some new graduates gain an APC in order to apply for registration in Australia under TTMR rather than to practice in NZ.

The Board wishes to remind all registrants that it is essential they hold a current APC in order to practice, and under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA) it is illegal to practice without one.

This is also a reminder for those registrants who do not hold an APC that should an unexpected opportunity arise for you to practice for a very brief period of time, you are still required to hold a current APC regardless, and would be practising illegally should you not have this. To save embarrassment please contact the Board should this situation arise.

ON-LINE ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC) RENEWAL PROCESS

If you have not renewed your APC yet and wish to continue practising in April, please note you are unable to do so legally until your APC has been renewed. Please apply online or send in the 2015/16 APC application form.

The Board is very pleased that for the majority of practitioners this process has been easy and straight forward. There have been a few glitches along the way for some, however most of these were rectified. It is hoped that now the majority of you have "activated your account" the process will be easier next time.

The ability to update your own contact details will be available all year round.

For those choosing not to practice, applications to remain on the Register and pay the Inactive Maintenance fee are also be available.

PBRCF AUDIT

- A reminder to all practitioners selected for PBRCF audit that it is the previous 4 years/quadrannium worth of your continuing competency records that the Board wishes to view. For some, this may require sending in 2 logbooks, as your previous quadrannium may span the timeframe for example, of the last 2 years of your previous logbook and 2 years of your current logbook.
- It is essential that evidential documentation is provided for activities claimed under CCME.
- ***As in previous years, practitioners in this year's audit must provide logbooks before APCs can be processed.***

REVIEW FEE CONSULTATION

Please note, the proposed Review Fee is intended ONLY for practitioners who are required to undertake a **Competence Review** as a consequence of a Board decision due to a referral back from HDC (Health & Disability Commissioner).

This fee is NOT related to the PBRCF Audit process at all.

The Board has now received the submissions and is waiting on some further information before making a decision.

STERILISER USE: GOOD PRACTICE

It has come to the Board's attention that some practitioners are not always noting the steriliser batch number on patients' notes. Please ensure that you do so in future.

Refer to section 3.2.5 of the Board's [Code of Practice](#) that provides requirements regarding sterilisation.

"The batch control number must: be labelled on every pack in the load; and be recorded on the case record of the patient on whom the instruments were used."

PodiatryNZ

The Board's Executive Committee meets periodically with PodiatryNZ representatives and the Board values this collegial contact.

PodiatryNZ runs a number of courses and activities throughout the year that are eligible for PBRCF credits, including the biennial conferences. Please refer to their website <https://www.podiatry.org.nz/> for information on their current courses.

To clarify, the roles of the Podiatrists Board of NZ and PodiatryNZ are:

- The Podiatrists Board's legislated role is to protect the health and safety of the public by providing mechanisms to ensure podiatrists are competent and fit to practice. Registration and certification are mandatory to practice in NZ.
- PodiatryNZ's role is "to advance the quality of and access to podiatry in New Zealand". Membership is optional.

AUT

The Board values its contact with the School of Podiatry and the Head is invited annually to address the Board at their meeting.

The Registrar speaks with third year students annually, providing background on the Board's functions, and registration and re/certification requirements for practising podiatrists in NZ.

SECRETARIAT

The Board is continuing its SLA with the Occupational Therapy Board (OTB), providing office accommodation and secretariat support as needed.

Due to opportunities that have arisen however, at some stage later in 2015, it is envisaged that the Board together with OTB and 7 other Health Regulatory Authorities, will enter into a similar SLA with the Nursing Council whereby the Nursing Council will provide accommodation and back office services for the Board. It is expected that this arrangement will be even further cost effective for the Board.

DATABASE

The Board has recently moved to a new database (based on the Nursing Council system) and would like to acknowledge the goodwill of the Nursing Council for providing this to the Board at no cost.

The Board has been able to utilise this system, adapted for the Podiatrists Board needs, for a much lower sum than would otherwise have been possible.

It is anticipated that a number of RAs will be using a version of this by the end of the year as well.

WEBSITE

The Board's website is also undergoing a re-development and should be live before mid-year.

BOARD COMMITTEE WORK

Expressions of interest are sought from experienced podiatrists (7 years or more) to join a pool of practitioners who are available to undertake work for the Board serving on various committees. These would include Competence Review Committees and Professional Conduct Committees (PCCs).

UPDATE YOUR REGISTER CONTACT DETAILS

Please ensure the Board has your correct address.

The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA) requires that you notify the Board of any address change within one month.

You are now able to update your own contact details by logging in from the Board's website (and activating your account if you have not already done so.)

CONTACT WITH THE BOARD

For all queries please contact the Registrar, Annabel Whinam

registrar@podiatristsboard.org.nz

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