



Te Poari Tiaki Waewae O Aotearoa

The ePod Newsletter

April 2016

www.podiatristsboard.org.nz

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SECRETARIAT: WE HAVE MOVED

New postal address: PO Box 9644, Wellington 6141

New physical address: Level 5, 22 Willeston Street, Wellington 6011

The Board office is now co-locating with the Midwifery Council, Psychology Board, Occupational Therapy Board, Osteopathic Council, Psychotherapy Board, Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board, Dietitians Board and Chiropractic Board as well as the Nursing Council on another floor.

The arrangement is working very well and credit must go to the Nursing Council for the excellent job they did in undertaking this large project and pulling it altogether so capably and efficiently.

BOARD MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

The Board last met on 25 & 26 February, and further 2016 meetings are planned for 2 & 3 June, 18 & 19 August and 3 & 4 November.

ON-LINE APC RENEWALS FOR 2016 / 2017

The online APC application function was activated on 1 March and the Board is very pleased that apart from the experience for a very small handful of practitioners, this process has run smoothly and efficiently this year.

LATE APC RENEWAL APPLICANTS TO BE IN PBRCF AUDIT

This policy is continuing and will mean the few practitioners renewing after the 2 April who had to pay the higher "late" fee will be included in the 2017 PBRCF Audit.

INACTIVE MAINTENANCE FEE OR REMOVAL FROM REGISTER

This fee is required for all registrants without an APC who wish to remain on the Register.

If this is not paid the Board will write to you advising that you will be removed from the Register if the Board has not heard from you for a period of 6 and a half months.

A second letter will be posted 6 months after the first and then section 144 of the HPCA Act allows the Board to remove a registrant after 10 days having elapsed since the posting of the second letter. This highlights the importance of keeping your postal address up to date with the Board.

PBRCF: a few reminders

- The CCME requirement for competence in Wound Management and Infection Control applies to all practitioners, regardless of whether your practice is within only the biomechanical area or not.
- Remember you are agreeing to engage with the PBRCF programme each year when you sign off on your APC application.
- The Board no longer allows extension requests for further time for PBRCF Audits
- The PBRCF and logbook have been reviewed and they are currently undergoing a number of changes, with the purpose of simplifying and bringing it up to date with modern practice requirements.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

The Board now requires all practitioners to ensure that **AED and Anaphylaxis** training is included in your refresher course.

Please remember to renew your certificate every 2 years to ensure you are always holding a current one.

COMPETENCY DRIFT CONCERNS

The Board has some concern over a small minority of the profession where due to the practitioner's isolation or lack of peer review, they may not be keeping up to date with their standard of competence. Sometimes this only becomes apparent at PBRCF Audit time.

This is a matter of concern and practitioners are encouraged to constantly reassess their practice to ensure their standards are not slipping. The Board's role under the HPCA Act is to ensure the health and safety of the public and the competence and good standard of practice within the profession is required for this outcome.

STUDENT PLACEMENTS

The Board would like to encourage practitioners to consider taking the opportunity of offering to take on a student placement in their clinic. This has proved to be a very successful way of helping the podiatric community by supporting the new generation of podiatrists in their training requirements. It can be a productive and enjoyable experience for practitioners and another avenue from which to gain PBRCF credits.

Practitioners who have previously had a student in their clinic have provided positive feedback, for example:

"I have enjoyed having a student placement for a number of years now. It is always fun to see the enthusiasm that these potential new grads have for the profession and their willingness to learn. Although it can be a little tiring especially with a one on one situation, it is also good for my own practice to take the time to see what I do and how I solve clinical problems reflected in new eyes. They of cause can add new ideas too and this can lead to some very interesting conversations.

I would encourage others to have a student even if that means sharing them with others in the profession, it's a nice feeling to see them grow over the 4 weeks and blossom."

If you are interested in having a student placement this year please contact AUT.

ETHICAL CODES AND STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The Board's Ethical Codes and Standards of Conduct now has a new look and the Board encourages practitioners to take the time to re-read this document. The Board would like to stress the point that this Code governs all behaviours including the use of social media and all online activity.

HPDT (HEALTH PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL) DECISION

Summary of decision of the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal for publication – Pod15/325P – Mr Stefan Edwards.

At a hearing on 09 November 2015 in Wellington, the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal considered a charge laid by the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC), appointed by the Podiatrist Board of New Zealand, against Mr Stefan Edwards, podiatrist of Tauranga.

The charge was that on 25 February 2015 Mr Edwards had been found guilty on one count of assault.

The hearing proceeded on an agreed summary of facts basis. The Tribunal found the charge was established and censured Mr Edwards and noted that the incident arose outside of the professional environment.

The Tribunal imposed conditions that Mr Edwards continue and complete the anger management programme and ordered him to pay a total of \$12,208.56 as a contribution towards the costs of and incidental to the hearing.

The full decision of the Tribunal can be viewed at:

<http://www.hpdt.org.nz/Default.aspx?Tabid=475>

CONTACT

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