



**Podiatrists Board  
of New Zealand**  
Te Poari Tiaki Waewae O Aotearoa

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## The ePodNewsletter

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### May 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa. Greetings and welcome to the Board's latest Newsletter.

**Privacy Week 2024** kicked off on Monday, reminding us of the importance of making sure we are all doing the right thing with people's health information.

The Health Information Privacy Code (HIPC) 2020 is a Code of Practice issued by the Privacy Commissioner under section 32 of the Privacy Act which gives extra protection to health information because of its sensitivity. There is clear guidance you can download on the storage, security, retention and disposal of your patient's health information on the Privacy Commissioner's website [here](#).

For those seeking some extra CPD, recordings of all the **Privacy Week 2024** presentations are available which provide a good starting point for understanding data privacy here in Aotearoa. The presentations are aimed at myth busting some of the common data privacy and cybersecurity myths – one webinar at a time. You can watch them all [here](#).

### Board Vacancies

Just a reminder that Manatū Hauora | The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) is seeking candidates who wish to be considered for appointment as health practitioner or

layperson members of Te Poari Tiaki Waewae o Aotearoa | The Podiatrists Board of New Zealand (the Board). The deadline for applications is **28 May**, so please do share this with your colleagues and contacts who may be interested in applying their skills to Health Regulation. Further information on the application process can be found [here](#).

### **Current Board Members**

Dr Belinda Ihaka (Chair)  
Erin Beeler (Deputy Chair)  
Chris Rewi-Wetini  
Elson Ng  
Natalie Tanner  
Heidi Barton  
Kellie McGrath (Lay member)  
Alex Delany (Lay member)

### **Application for Designated Prescribing Rights for Podiatrists**

The Ministry have confirmed that the Minister of Health has signed their most recent briefing on our application, clearing the way for them to advance the required Cabinet paper and Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). As some of you will be aware, this independent Regulatory Impact Process can take some time, but we are expecting their paper to be presented to Cabinet in June. It is a positive step but there is still a long way to go yet. The Board will of course continue to liaise with the Ministry on this application until we receive a final decision.

### **Annual Practising Certificate (APC) renewal process**

The APC renewal process has run very well this year and opened on 12 February 2024. Please note that to remain on the register you must either hold a current Annual Practising Certificate (APC) or Inactive Maintenance (IM) - non-practising status. The Board has begun the process outlined in section 144 of the HPCA Act 2003 to remove any practitioner from the register who has not renewed one of these options.

### **Continued Professional Development (CPD) Audit 2024**

Fifty Podiatrists were selected for the CPD Audit, with 3 not achieving a pass. Those practitioners now have a condition placed on their scope of practice to complete the

outstanding CPD and have all been issued with a Board approved Interim Practising Certificate (IPC), which expires on 20 June 2024.

### **Standards Review**

The Boards Standards Committee are in the process of updating the PBNZ Principles and Standards for the Practice of Podiatry in New Zealand (PSPPNZ) and the PBNZ Ethical Codes and Standards of Conduct, with the aim of a consultation process commencing later in 2024.

### **Medsafe – Medicines Classifications Committee (MCC)**

The Board, supported by Podiatry NZ submitted an application to the MCC for an exemption provision for Podiatrists to use phenol, which has been approved.

The Committee recommended that the prescription classification statement of phenol should be amended to:

*“Prescription except when supplied in a manufacturer’s original pack that has received consent from the Minister or Director-General to a podiatrist registered with the Podiatrists Board of New Zealand (PBNZ), for chemical matrixectomy.”*

This is a positive step, but we must stress that this does not change the current situation as there is still no phenol product approved for distribution as a medicine in Aotearoa. Medsafe and Podiatry NZ are still in the process of trying to persuade a distributor to submit a product approval application. The key issue is that phenol is categorised as a medical device in most other countries, so it would involve the manufacturer repackaging/relabelling their product for distribution here.

The Board will continue to work with you, the profession, and all our stakeholder organisations, using all regulatory and non-regulatory levers that are appropriate, targeted, and transparent and that includes a strengthened commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and cultural safety and health equity for all.