



The ePodNewsletter

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

Prescribing Update

The Board has now published the podiatrist prescriber additional scope of practice in the NZ Gazette as secondary legislation within the [Podiatrists Board of New Zealand Scopes of Practice and Prescribed Qualifications Notice 2026](#). This notice can also be read on our website [here](#).

Following a robust consultation process, the Board has also now approved the [PBNZ Competency Framework - Principles and Standards for Podiatrist Prescribers](#) and the [PBNZ Accreditation Standards - for Aotearoa New Zealand training providers of podiatry prescribing qualifications](#). The Accreditation Standards are now with AUT to support the prescribing course development, and we are still expecting the first course to be delivered in early 2027.

Our registration database development to support the podiatrist prescriber additional scope of practice is underway and a new prescribing specific area will soon be added to our website to ensure that all standards, policies, guidance and resources are easily accessed.

The Board has signed a prescribing specific Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with PodiatryNZ who are also working closely with the Pharmacy Guild to support the timely and safe implementation of designated prescribing for the podiatry profession.

In short, we are on track and the Board will be approving the CPD Recertification Framework for podiatrist prescribers and all supervision requirements and guidance at their 13 August Board meeting.

Finally, just a reminder that at the PodiatryNZ Conference in Wellington on 6-8 August, the Board will be represented on a scheduled Prescribing Panel Discussion, alongside other key stakeholder, such as AUT and the Prescribing Guild. This will provide another great opportunity for professional discussion, education and updates on the implementation of designated prescribing for podiatrists.

Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act Amendment Bill

The Government has introduced a bill to update the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 with its first reading in the House of Representatives on 2 July. There will be an opportunity for public feedback on this bill at the Select Committee stage of the bills legislative process and further details on this bill can also be read on the [New Zealand Parliament website](#).

While the Bill is still in its early stages and may evolve, it signals some significant potential changes that will impact health practitioners.

In broad terms, the proposals include:

- A greater role for the Minister of Health, including the ability to direct health regulators to implement Government policy.
- The establishment of a new committee to review certain registration decisions.
- A stronger focus on practitioner conduct, alongside clinical competence, when considering registration and practising certificates.
- New powers to suspend practitioners quickly where there is a serious risk of harm.
- Additional options for resolving complaints more efficiently, such as restorative justice and decisions made without full hearings.
- Stronger penalties for people practising without proper registration.
- Changes to legislative references to cultural competence.

Recent changes to the Health Information Privacy Code (HIPC)

The Board would like to remind practitioners about their obligations under the [Health Information Privacy Code](#) and recent changes to reflect a new information privacy principle – IPP3A.

The HIPC covers health information about identifiable individuals that is collected, used, held, and disclosed by health agencies, including health practitioners. Health practitioners should have policies around obtaining, secure storage, retention and disposal of this information, either individually or through their employers.

On 1 May [Information Privacy Principle 3A](#) came into force. IPP3A means that if an agency collects someone's personal information indirectly, that agency is required to notify them, unless one of the listed exceptions applies. This principle is about helping people understand the reasons you are collecting their information, and we encourage all podiatrists to make themselves aware of these new obligations.

All Health Responsible Authorities (RAs) recently underwent a Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora led 5-yearly Performance Review. The Podiatrists Board are very pleased with the outcome of this process which we feel reflects the many improvements the Board has made in the last 5 years in support of ensuring we operate as a modern and effective regulator. We are particularly proud that the review recognised the significant progress made in strengthening our regulatory functions and modernising our processes to honour our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The Performance Review report can be read in full on our website [here](#).