



The ePodNewsletter

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Tēnā koutou katoa. Greetings and welcome to our latest Newsletter.

Board Appointments

As her time as our Deputy Chair has recently come to an end, we would like to acknowledge the unwavering support that the Podiatrists Board received from Erin Beeler (Podiatrist) to champion modern regulatory practices during her appointments. Her invaluable advice and experience of national and international health care and health care systems helped us collaborate effectively and drive forward the implementation of designated prescribing for podiatrists.

We would like to welcome Jerome Tulia (Podiatrist) to the board who has already hit the ground running and brings with him 16 years of clinical experience, including 12 years in secondary care. We look forward to our first in person meeting with him and many robust strategic discussions at the next meeting in Wellington in November – alongside the Corporate 5K run/walk challenge in Waitangi Park we have persuaded him to enter with his fellow board members and many of the other health responsible authorities.

At the 13 August board meeting we elected a new Deputy Chair – Kellie McGrath (Layperson), who has a strong academic background in Science and Business Administration and extensive experience in strategic consulting across a number of sectors. Kellie has been involved in driving the application for designated prescribing for

podiatrists from the onset, so she is well placed to ensure the safe and timely implementation of this important initiative as one of our key strategic priorities. She also recently represented the Podiatrists Board on the Prescribing Panel Discussion at the PodiatryNZ Conference in Wellington, alongside other key stakeholder, such as AUT and the Prescribing Guild.

As an aside, we were delighted that many of our current board members were able to attend the PodiatryNZ Conference in support of continuing the great collaboration we have with the professional association and members. It was also very encouraging to see how many podiatrists declared their intention to become a podiatrist prescriber during the numerous very informative and educational presentations and discussions.

Prescribing Update

As previously reported, we have 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](#).

The board has 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 will support the development of the prescribing course at AUT, and we are now expecting the first course to commence in the second semester of 2027.

At the 13 August board meeting, the Board also approved the Continued Professional Development (CPD) Recertification Framework for podiatrist prescribers and are scheduled to approve all supervision requirements and guidance in November.

All the standards, policy, guidance and resources to support podiatrist prescribers will be added to a new prescribing specific area being developed on our website, which is well underway and we will notify the profession prior to its launch.

We are also currently involved in discussions with the Ministry of Health (Manatū Hauora) and PHARMAC (Te Pātaka Whaioranga) on issues such as Approved Provider recognition and the impact of prescription co-payments on patients and subsidies for medicines on the Specified Prescription Medicines List (SPML) and through the Practitioner's Supply Order (PSO) mechanism.

Health New Zealand (Te Whatu Ora) have established a National Pathology Clinical Network and are currently in the early stages of a work programme involving the following two components:

- Development of a national consistent schedule of tests
- Development of national consistent requester eligibility framework

The board has a meeting scheduled on 2 October with Health New Zealand, alongside PodiatryNZ, to discuss future access to laboratory tests for podiatrist prescribers to support appropriate and safe prescribing.

Informed Consent

The Podiatrists Board [Informed Consent Practice Standard](#) is contained in the [Principles and Standards for the Practice of Podiatry in Aotearoa New Zealand \(PSPPANZ\)](#), alongside four other Practice Standards all registered podiatrists must comply with.

Most practitioners have an informed consent form somewhere in the clinic, but a different question is: are your patients actually prepared for what is about to happen?

Informed consent is about making sure people understand what you are doing, why you are doing it, and what they can expect. It is also an important part of maintaining professional boundaries.

Many concerns received by the board are not about the treatment itself but about communication. A patient may not have expected a particular technique to be used, may not have understood why clothing needed to be adjusted, or may not have realised a certain part of the body would be touched or treated.

A quick clinic check might include asking yourself:

- ☒ Do I explain what I am going to do before I do it?
- ☒ Does the patient know which areas of the body I will be treating?
- ☒ Have I discussed any clothing that may need to be removed or adjusted?
- ☒ Do I check that the patient is comfortable before proceeding?
- ☒ Are informed consent discussions recorded in the clinical notes?

One simple habit that can make a big difference is to talk patients through what is happening as you go. These small conversations help patients feel informed, respected, and in control of their care.

Remember, informed consent is not a one-off form signed at the first appointment. It is an ongoing conversation.

A useful clinic rule: if a patient might be surprised by it, explain it before it happens.

Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act Amendment Bill

The Government introduced a bill in May 2026 to update the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 with its first reading initially scheduled in the House of Representatives on 2 July. The bill has still not passed the first reading stage, with very few days remaining to achieve that as we approach the dissolution of Parliament on 1

October prior to the General Election. We will continue to closely monitor the bills progress and the potential impact on the regulation of the podiatry profession.
