



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

The ePod Newsletter

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November 2021

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

Firstly, we must congratulate and welcome AUT's latest graduates to the profession. We have started to register them this week and acknowledge the exceptional challenges they have faced alongside the AUT Podiatry Department teaching staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We write this newsletter as the New Zealand Government has announced that all of New Zealand will move to the COVID-19 Protection Framework (Traffic Light system) from 11.59pm on Thursday 2nd December. Please pay close attention to any changes

that are announced and ensure the podiatry profession lead by example, as it has done to date.

It is likely that providing health services under this system will have some different requirements than under the Alert Level system, but we are currently awaiting confirmation of what those requirements may be and how these might vary between the different 'colours'. We appreciate that practitioners will need to prepare for this change, and we will ensure we continue to pass on further information as we receive it.

At a minimum, however, clinical reasoning and risk assessment will remain the fundamental principles for considering care, and practitioners should ensure the following processes remain in place:

- screening for COVID 19 symptoms prior to any face-to-face appointments
- infection prevention control measures including PPE where required
- transmission precaution measures including consideration of ventilation
- keep accurate documentation of appointments to aid contact tracing if required
- ensure that your place of work is registered with the NZ COVID Tracer App and that the poster with the unique QR code is clearly displayed at the entrance to your premises.

The Board are committed to working across organisational boundaries, with other health practitioner regulators in Aotearoa; sharing our respective knowledge, experience, and approach, with a view to improving our ability to anticipate and respond to such challenges.

Board Meetings

The next Board Meeting will be held 10 - 11 February 2022 in Wellington. Further PBNZ Board Meetings are scheduled for:

- 19 - 20 May 2022
- 04 - 05 August 2022
- 10 - 11 November 2022

The Minister of Health has appointed two new Board members and we welcome Elson Ng, podiatrist and Alex Delaney, Lay member. These appointments return the Board to full quorum.

Current Board Members

Dr Matt Carroll (Chair)
Belinda Ihaka (Deputy Chair)
Steve York
Chris Rewi-Wetini
Rebecca Holbrook
Elson Ng
Kellie McGrath (Lay member)
Alex Delaney (Lay member)

Guidelines for working with foot care assistants in podiatry practice

The Board has published new guidelines aimed at podiatrists who employ foot care assistants in podiatry practice [here](#).

Ministry of Health, Health Provider Index

The Board is working with the Ministry of Health Identity and Eligibility Services and Health Workforce Directorate Teams to get Common Person Numbers (CPN) for podiatrists. We are aiming to have them in place for the next APC cycle in 2022. More information can be found [here](#).

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Audit

The Board will oversee the audit of up to 20% of APC holders in the current recertification cycle, so please ensure you have completed the required CPD and recorded your CPD hours online, using the logon and practitioner portal by **31 December 2021 deadline**.

Practitioners selected for the audit will be notified in writing and the audit will involve:

A review of activities recorded in the Online CPD Record, and related documentation, to ascertain whether minimum requirements have been met.

A review of the objectives, rationales and CPD activities, to determine relevance to the participant's practice and stated goals.

An assessment of the participant's review of their CPD, to establish the effect of the CPD on the participant's practice.

An assessment of the apparent relevance of the activities selected to New Zealand practice and the Board's Principles and Standards for the Practice of Podiatry in New Zealand (PSPPNZ) and Ethical Codes and Standards of Conduct.

The CPD Audit Policy can be found [here](#)

ACC Resources

The Board would like to remind practitioners that ProviderHub, ACC's one-stop-shop for providers will be replacing some of ACC's online services podiatrists currently use early in 2022. The attached information sheet explains how this change impacts the profession [here](#).

Annual Report 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

The Podiatrists Board of New Zealand Annual Report is produced in accordance with Section 134 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 and can be read [here](#).

Educational Events and Professional Development

Podiatry NZ is your professional membership association for registered podiatrists in New Zealand. The Board encourages all registrants to actively engage with your membership association and participate in the educational and professional development opportunities they offer, in support of maintaining high standards of competence in your profession. <http://www.podnz.org>

The Board will continue to work with you, the profession, and 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.

For all queries, please contact the Registrar,
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