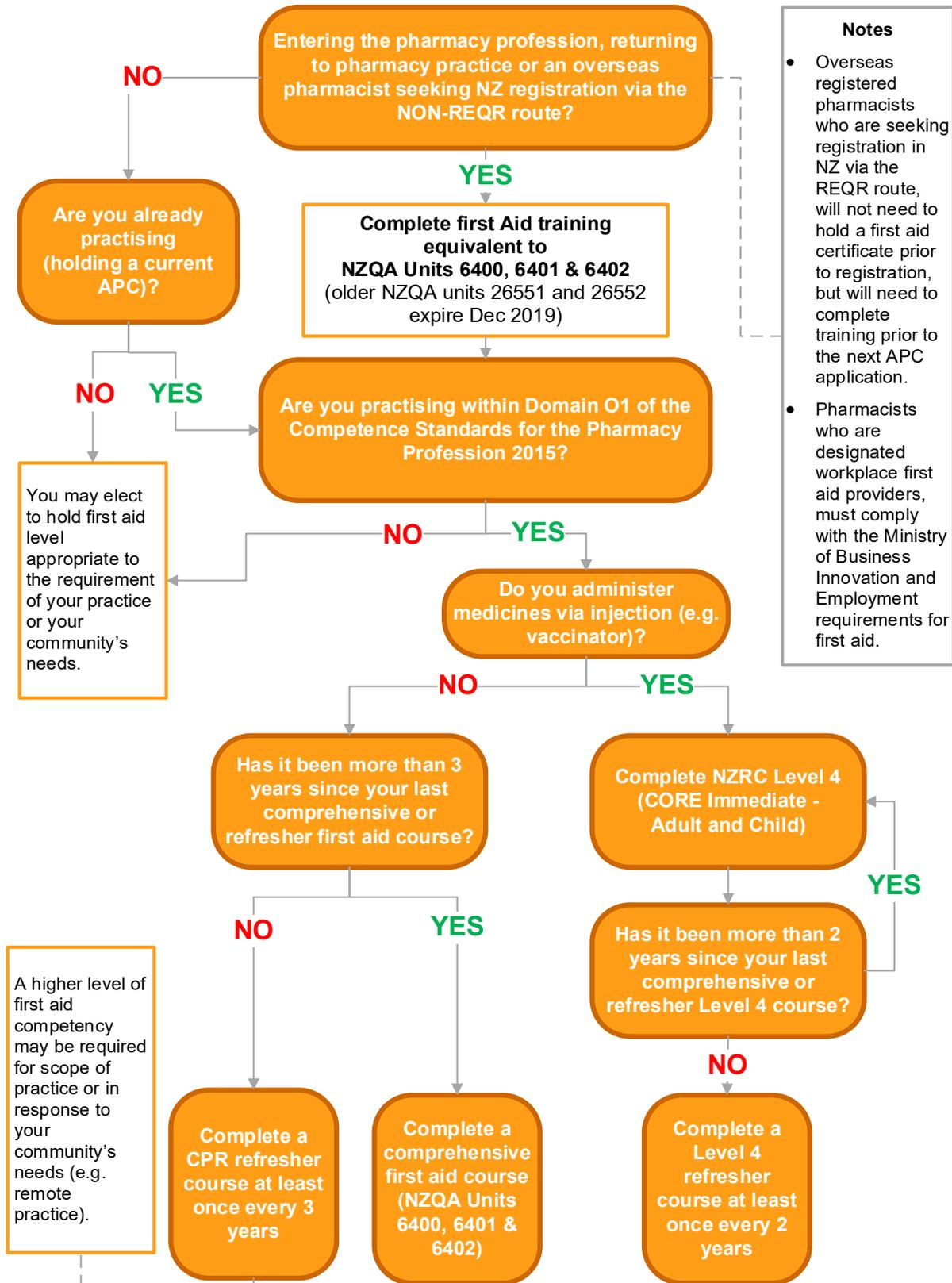


## First Aid Requirements for Pharmacists Flowchart

**For community pharmacists and those working with patients in the community in clinical roles  
e.g. MTA Pharmacists, Pharmacists in General Practice**



# First Aid Requirements for Pharmacists

## Questions and Answers

**Q. Which NZQA unit standards should I do my training in?**

A. The two main training providers, St John and Red Cross, do first aid and resuscitation courses based on unit standards 6400, 6401 and 6402.

**Q. Red Cross has said my certificate will expire if I don't renew it every two years. What is the difference between St John/Red Cross requirements and Council Requirements?**

A. You will need to have a full first aid certificate for entry into the profession (either as an Intern, as a Returning to Practise pharmacist, or if you are from overseas). Following this, as a minimum requirement for pharmacists working in settings with direct patient contact, Council only requires you to update your CPR skills once every three years. Refer your first aid provider to the Pharmacy Council First Aid statement.

If you need a full certificate for personal reasons e.g. for a sports team or diving or the location you are working at (e.g. remote), you will still need to complete a refresher course every two years as per the Red Cross or St John requirements.

**Q. I am a pharmacist vaccinator and have done my Level 4 first aid requirements almost two years ago. My full first aid certificate and my Level 3 CPR certificate have expired. What do I need to do?**

A. Depending on your work and personal requirements, as a minimum, Council only requires you to renew your Level 4 CORE Immediate – Adult and Child course every TWO years as required to maintain your requirements as a vaccinator.

**Q. What is NZRC Level 2?**

A. NZRC Level 2 requires trained lay rescuers to:

- have an understanding of breathing and circulatory assessment
- have practical skills in manual airway control
- perform expired air ventilation and chest compression (CPR)
- understand the differences between paediatric "call fast" and adult "call fast" resuscitation.

**Q. What is the NZRC Level 3 resuscitation course?**

A. This is a 4-hour course for "First responders". In addition to the level 2 skills, it reviews CPR for adults and children; in airway management; defibrillation; anaphylaxis (including use of an adrenaline auto-injector) and resuscitation scenarios.

**Q. What are the requirements if I am the designated workplace first aider?**

A. Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) sets these requirements – you would need to do a full first aid refresher course every two years to maintain currency.

**Q. I am returning to practice after five years and my first aid certificate is dated 2010. Do I need to do a full course or just the CPR refresher?**

A. Your certificate is more than three years old and has expired; therefore, you will need to renew it in full. You need to have a full and current first aid certificate for entry into the profession (either as an Intern, as a Returning to Practise pharmacist or if you are from overseas). As per the simplified Council requirements that came into effect in

2009, you then only need to update your CPR skills once every three years if you have direct patient contact and therefore, work within the scope of practice covered by Competence Standard Domain O.1 (this includes a community pharmacist, an MUR pharmacist, an MTA pharmacist or a Clinical Pharmacist in a primary care setting).

**Q. I am an intern pharmacist. What do I need to do?**

A. Intern pharmacists are required to hold a current First Aid certificate when applying for registration in the scope of practice of a pharmacist i.e. you must provide evidence of a full certificate to your preceptor for your final Evolve appraisal and complete a self-declaration on the Society Learning Management System (LMS) confirming that your certificate will still be valid when you lodge your application to register in the Pharmacist scope of practice.

**Q. I am a pharmacist from Canada. What does the Council require me to do?**

A. Pharmacists applying for registration through the Recognised Equivalent Qualifications Route (REQR) are not required to hold a current certificate at the time of full registration. However, they would be expected to hold one by the next APC renewal date, if they declare Competence Standard Domain O.1 as part of their practice.

**Q. Who provides CPR courses apart from St John and Red Cross?**

A. There are many first aid providers who can deliver CPR courses that meet the requirements outlined by Competence Standard Domain O.1 (including NZRC who provide the Level 4 Health Professional Responder CORE [Immediate – Adult and Child] resuscitation course required for the provision of the vaccinator service).

A list of registered providers who can assess first aid standards in accordance with NZQA requirements is available at: [Home » NZQA](#)

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