

June 2014 Newsletter

In this Issue

- Message from the Chair
- Congratulations to Leanne Te Karu
- Staff change - Deputy Registrar
- Competence Standards consultation
- Report on Auditing of CPD records at APC renewal
- Assessment Centre for intern pharmacists
- Intern pharmacists - Written Examination (multi-choice questions) update
- Changes to pharmacist vaccinator resuscitation requirements
- How to contact us at Council

Message from the Chair



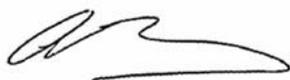
Welcome to our June newsletter. In this issue, we update you on PCNZ's recent activity including staff changes, competence standards review, CPD and APC renewal, and report on key aspects of our recent meeting.

The Council held its regular meeting over two days in late May and one emphasis was competence and continuing professional development. As part of our responsibility for ensuring pharmacists are maintaining their competence, the Council this year audited over 500 pharmacists at APC-renewal time to check their participation in a Council-approved recertification programme. We are pleased to provide a brief report on the outcome of this audit later in the newsletter.

The importance of maintaining competence as a pharmacist cannot be over-emphasised. Public safety is paramount and it is the responsibility of us all to ensure we regularly review our practice and remain up-to-date with our rapidly changing practice environment. An example of such change is the re-classification of medicines. It is our professional responsibility to identify relevant learning required to safely recommend these medicines, and to ensure that we fully engage in any recommended training and then continue to remain up to date in their use.

The format of our Council meeting includes strategy, work in progress, policies, individual pharmacist applications, special considerations, and stakeholder engagement. As part of our stakeholder engagement plan we were pleased to welcome Pharmaceutical Society President Dale Griffiths and Vice President Clare Hynd to the meeting. We also met Prof. Julia Kennedy (Head of School of Pharmacy, Auckland University), Andi Shirtcliffe (Pharmacy Chief Advisor MoH) and Cathy O'Malley (Deputy Director General, Sector Capability and Implementation MoH). All of our stakeholders play different but vital roles in assisting the Council to fulfil its mandate of assuring public safety.

The next meeting for Council will be late July.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Bary', written over a horizontal line.

Andrew Bary, Chair

Congratulations to Leanne Te Karu

The Council formally congratulates Leanne Te Karu for the Fellowship Award presented to her by the Pharmaceutical Society at their recent Auckland symposium. The award was well-deserved and is in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the profession throughout her long and varied career in pharmacy. In particular, Leanne has long advocated for the role of pharmacists in abolishing health disparities, and was instrumental in founding the Māori Pharmacists Association. Among the many contributions, Leanne is also a current member of the Pharmacy Council.

Staff change - Deputy Registrar

We are pleased to advise the appointment of Dr Owain George, BPharm, PhD, MPS, RegPharmNZ, to the position of Deputy Registrar effective from early May.



Owain has significant experience in health regulation and has worked with the Council since 2006 as Competence Advisor and, more recently, as Registrations Manager. He has worked in community and clinical pharmacy roles both nationally and internationally.

Owain has taken up the position of Deputy Registrar since the retirement of Jenny Ragg who had been with the Council since its inception in 2004.

Competence Standards review consultation

In our previous Newsletter, we outlined the impending regional meetings which gave pharmacists an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the proposed changes to the scope of practice and the competence standards. The meetings also provided pharmacists with a chance to ask questions and provide initial feedback on the changes. The meetings were well attended with over 400 pharmacists at 13 venues. Following these meetings, a consultation document was posted on our website – see this page: www.pharmacycouncil.org.nz/consultations which allows you to respond either via SurveyMonkey or in writing. To consider how the proposed new standards relate to your practice we recommend you try a “dry run” practice review against the draft standards. This will help you to assess their usability and provide feedback.

We strongly encourage you to respond to this document by the consultation closing date of 27 June.

Pharmacist Prescribers, MUR and MTA

The Council recently engaged an independent expert to map the pharmacist prescriber competencies against Medicines Use Review (MUR) and Medicines Therapy Assessment (MTA) requirements and provide a report on the findings. After carefully considering the report, Council agreed that:

- Pharmacist prescribers are eligible to provide MUR, MTA, and future CMM services without the need to complete the MUR course or submit a portfolio for MTA accreditation.
- MTA pharmacists are eligible to provide MUR services without the need to complete a full MUR course, and
- Future CMM, or similarly accredited pharmacists, are eligible to provide MUR and MTA services without the need to complete the Pharmaceutical Society MUR/MTA course requirements.

If you have any questions about these requirements, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Report on Auditing of CPD records at APC renewal

A total of 516 pharmacists were audited at the time of APC renewal. The audit was to confirm that the randomly selected pharmacists are engaged with continuing professional development through the

Council-approved programme. We are pleased to advise that the majority of pharmacists (98%) were enrolled in the Council-approved programme. Of those enrolled, 87% had met the minimum required number of points for this year (ie 20) and had made a declaration to the programme provider. The declaration on your APC renewal form confirms to Council that you are participating in the programme, you have met the minimum number of points required, and you have made a declaration to the programme provider. It is important when completing your APC renewal form, you are absolutely honest and all information you provide is accurate and complete as at the date you have signed it. The Council is working with pharmacists who have been identified as not participating in the recertification programme, or who provided a misleading declaration.

A second part of the audit process to commence this year will examine the quality of learning in more detail. A Recertification Working Group comprised of members of the profession will meet on 19 June to identify the criteria for this part of the audit. Following the workshop, a sample of records will be collected from the 516 pharmacists audited at APC renewal. Following this audit, the group will provide feedback to the programme provider as well as the individual pharmacists selected. We look forward to updating you on the quality audit process in our next Newsletter.

Assessment Centre for intern pharmacists

The first new-format OSCE Assessment Centre was held in Wellington on 28 May with 27 intern pharmacists attending. This followed close engagement with the profession allowing a number of pharmacists to have considerable input into the station development. The Assessment Centre was well organised and a big thank you goes to the EVOLVE team for ensuring it was well run. The process will be repeated for the second half of the year with the main Assessment Centre for 2014 being on 11 November. For information on the new Assessment Centre please contact our Assessment and Examinations Manager Peter Lourié, p.lourie@pharmacycouncil.org.nz

Intern pharmacists - Written Examination (multi-choice questions)

As reported in our last newsletter, the first Written Exam was held in March. The calculations section of the exam was done well and the areas identified as weaknesses for the majority of those who did not pass include competence standard 1 Practise Pharmacy in a Professional and Culturally Competent Manner and competence standard 3 Provide Primary Health Care. Council decided that seven borderline candidates who did not pass the March Written Exam could attend the May Assessment Centre. This was a one-off special consideration in light of the transition period for the Written Exam. Candidates results were then reviewed alongside their Assessment Centre results by the Preregistration Assessment Board. No special considerations of this nature will be given in future.

Registrations are now open for the second Written Exam which will be held on Sunday 20 July. There are three venues for this exam - Christchurch, Wellington, and Auckland. Intern pharmacists are required to be signed off by their preceptor and pass the Written Exam before they can attend the Assessment Centre in November. They have all been notified by email of the exam registration details. Please visit our website - http://www.pharmacycouncil.org.nz/intern_page; or contact our Assessment and Examinations Manager, Peter Lourié, p.lourie@pharmacycouncil.org.nz if you have any questions or require further information.

Changes to pharmacist vaccinator resuscitation requirements

The Ministry of Health has recently reviewed the resuscitation requirements for all vaccinators, including pharmacists. As a vaccinator, your resuscitation training should now be at a standard equivalent to New Zealand Resuscitation Council (NZRC) Level 4. The five specific skills that must be included in the training are:

- i. CPR including mouth-to-mouth, mouth-to-mask and the management of choking

- ii. use of airway adjuncts, including the sizing and insertion of oropharyngeal and laryngeal mask airways (LMA)
- iii. use of an Automated External Defibrillator
- iv. one- and two-person bag valve mask ventilation and mouth-to-mask technique
- v. use of supplemental oxygen.

Further requirements are outlined in Appendix 4, section 4.3 of the Immunisation Handbook 2014, including the need to validate your resuscitation certification every two years. The handbook is available on-line at www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2014

Changes of address and how to contact us

As part of the APC renewal process, our database is now up to date. Please let us know if you change your postal, work or email addresses at any time during the year. This will help us to ensure you receive all our correspondence, including our newsletters by email.

You can contact us by:

Phone: 04-495-0330
Email: enquiries@pharmacycouncil.org.nz
Website: www.pharmacycouncil.org.nz