



Message from the Chair and Chief Executive

Tēnā koutou

It's hard to believe we are almost a quarter way through the year. This is our first newsletter for the year, as previously mentioned designed to provide you an update on Council business following a Council meeting.

Council met late February and covered a range of issues including:

- Our strategic and budget planning process and timetable for the year
- Council's position and role in the Community Pharmacy Services Agreement
- Accreditation and competence assurance
- Written exam fee proposal
- Prescriber registration
- Legislation updates
- Major projects – including our business capability improvement programme
- Registration and compliance

Aside from the Council meeting, at an operational level there is a significant amount of work that has been happening over the last quarter, including:

- APC registration is underway. At this time we have managed to process about 25% of the expected number of APC registrations.
- Release of the revised Code of Ethics. Thanks to the involvement of the sector in developing what we believe is a Code that matches the increased involvement of the profession in an integrated healthcare model. It has received a fair degree of publicity principally around the Complementary Alternative Medicines Statement.
- Reviewing and participating in considerations with other regulatory authorities on the Health Practitioner Competence Assurance Bill.
- Advancing work on the competence and risk assurance matrix project, including workshops on medicines management and pharmacists in general practice.
- Completion of a written exam and development on the law and ethics questions for the next exam.
- Progressing various complaints and cases.
- Developing some modifications to the online system and progressing the development of the systems for better case management.
- Progressing the necessary work to enable us to return to our office (at 80 The Terrace).

We have had feedback that keeping our message short and snappy is the preference.

Hei konā mai

*“Promoting
enhanced wellbeing
through
excellence in
pharmacy practice”*

In this Issue:

- [Code of Ethics 2018](#)
- [CAG Update: Revision and additions to NZ standardised oral formulation](#)
- [Pharmacist Prescribers can issue medical or sick leave certificates](#)
- [Vaccinations](#)
- [Safety Alert – Atropine eye drops 0.01%](#)
- [Safety Alert – Arthrem Soft Gel Caps 150mg](#)
- [APC applications online from 1 March 2018](#)
- [Council welcomes new pharmacists](#)
- [New Registrants](#)



Mark Bedford
Chair



Michael Pead
Chief Executive

Code of Ethics 2018

You recently will have received an electronic copy of the new Code of Ethics 2018 which has been published with a Te Reo translation embedded into it.

A certificate of the published Code of Ethics 2018 principles was recently presented to Otago and Auckland School of Pharmacy year 1 students at their white coat ceremonies to welcome them into the profession.



Photo courtesy of Pharmacy Today

We recommend that you print the principles and make this visible for public viewing in your practice/ consulting rooms as the Code outlines the values and behaviours inherent to the profession.

The new Code has seven principles grouped around the principles of Care, Integrity and Competence.

Care	Integrity	Competence
Collectively, Principles 1 to 3 place the care of patients first, and recognise that pharmacists also have a role in supporting family, whānau, the wider community and public health.	Principles 4 and 5 address professional integrity.	Principles 6 and 7 are about professional competency.

We invite all of you to read and become familiar with the new Code of Ethics as well as the supporting Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) statement. There will be further opportunities for pharmacists to engage with the Code in both informal and formal settings over the next few months. In future newsletters we will provide examples of ethical or professional dilemmas for you to consider against the new Code of Ethics and discuss with your peers or colleagues.

Council would like to thank those that have been involved in the review and development processes, either through focus or working groups, or through feedback submitted during the consultation period.

The Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) statement is very significant as it sets out expectations for pharmacists when consulting with patients about CAM. We included reference to this statement in our November 2017 newsletter and provided a [link](#) to the statement on our website to encourage you all to become familiar with its content prior to the release of the new Code. Please note the CAM protocol *MUST* be followed consistently to ensure patient safety and adherence to the Code of Ethics 2018. We encourage charge pharmacists to ensure all pharmacy staff are aware of the expectations for safe and ethical supply of CAM by pharmacists.

There has been intense media interest in pharmacist supply of complementary medicines and natural health products, following the Code of Ethics 2018 release last week, and you have probably seen the 12 March 2018 TV ONE News/Breakfast Show [interviews](#) with Council, the NZ Medical Association and with a practising pharmacist on the topic of CAM.

We anticipate that pharmacists will be tested against the expectations set out in the new Code and supporting CAM statement and strongly recommend that you ensure you all have comprehensive procedures in place to ensure these obligations are met at all times.

[Download the Code of Ethics 2018](#)

[Download the Code's principles](#)



The Code applies to all pharmacists, irrespective of whether they treat, care for or interact directly with patients and the public.

Pharmacy Practice

Compounding Advisory Group Update: Revision and additions to NZ standardised oral formulations

The Compounding Working Group (CWG) chaired by Dave Woods met in December 2017 to begin a formal revision of the NZ standardised oral formulations, which are currently detailed on the Pharmaceutical Society of NZ website [here](#). Existing standard oral formulations are being reviewed and updated into a new common template which has new features such as space for a sample label and further information on product appearance and explanation of appropriate storage requirements. New batch sheets are also being developed and will include medicines such as amiodarone, clobazam, omeprazole, phenobarbitone, trimethoprim, vancomycin.

It is envisaged that the full updated set of batch sheets will be available for use from the Pharmaceutical Society website later this month at which time you will be advised.

Pharmacist Prescribers can issue medical or sick leave certificates

The Holidays Amendment Act enables **suitably qualified health practitioners** to issue sick leave certificates if their employer and the relevant regulatory authority recognises that they are competent and safe to do so.

The Pharmacy Council has determined that only pharmacists practising in the Pharmacist Prescriber scope are deemed to be suitably qualified to write medical or sick leave certificates for patients they have assessed/consulted with.

More information can be found on the Ministry of Health website [here](#). This outlines amendments to eight pieces of legislation where the term medical practitioner has been replaced by health practitioner. This enables highly skilled and competent health practitioners to be utilised in areas where there is limited access to medical practitioners.

Vaccinations

The administration of vaccines is now a well-established part of community pharmacist practice. We would like to alert you to two points:

Pharmacist Vaccinator requirements

Although the administration of medicines is within the scope of pharmacist practice, specific training is required, as set out in the Immunisation Handbook ([here](#)) in order to administer vaccines.

Pharmacists must complete the IMAC requirements for pharmacists, including two-yearly recertification and ensure you hold a level 4 first aid certificate. If you do not hold a current vaccinator certificate and the required level of first aid, you cannot demonstrate that you have the skills required to legally administer a vaccine.

Delays in flu vaccine availability

We have recently received information from the Ministry that the funded influenza vaccine will be delayed and is unlikely to be available until April 2018. Information to enable you to explain delays to the public is [here](#).

Safety Alert – Atropine eye drops 0.01%

We are still receiving concerns around prescriptions for Atropine 0.01% eye drops and are aware of two recent incidents where Atropine 1% eye drops have been dispensed instead of the 0.01% strength for a child.

Please be aware that Atropine 0.01% eye drops are **not** a proprietary product. They must be extemporaneously compounded by a compounding company.

Please carefully read the updated **safety alert** [here](#). We suggest you print the alert off and locate a copy where dispensary staff can easily refer to it when necessary.

Safety Alert – Arthrem Soft Gel Caps 150mg

Medsafe recently released an alert regarding Arthrem, marketed as a natural dietary supplement for maintaining and supporting joint health and mobility. The Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) has received 14 reports of liver toxicity associated with the use of Arthrem. To date all the reports of harm to the liver have involved patients taking Arthrem specifically.

Please note Medsafe's advice "*Since the chemical composition of the Artemisia annua extract is not disclosed it is not clear if other products containing Artemisia annua extract have similar effects.*"

Please ensure you read the full alert on the Medsafe website [here](#) and take caution around the use of Arthrem or any other grape seed oil preparation. It is important for patients to be made aware of the risk associated with these products.

APC applications online from 1 March 2018

Last year, Council introduced its online application process for annual practising certificates and non-renewals. Feedback from pharmacists confirmed that applying for annual recertification was straightforward and speedy. At Council offices, processing of over 4000 applications was much more streamlined without reams of paper. We are looking forward to the same again this year. Online applications opened on 1 March 2018.

Pharmacists have already set up their online login from the Council's website and have been able to commence the application process as soon as they have their CPD recorded in ENHANCE and their details to hand. Council's email to all pharmacists in February contained important information for getting started on your application. Our website also has a page dedicated to [frequently asked questions](#) on process, payment, technology and the options that are available to you as you progress through the online application. We urge all pharmacists to familiarise themselves with this information before beginning.

A reminder that applications must be submitted prior to midnight on 31 March 2018 for you to be able to legally practise on 1 April 2018.

Council welcomes new pharmacists

Congratulations to the 215 newly registered pharmacists who joined the profession at the end of 2017.

Hearing from some who have completed their intern training year, they say that ...

Wadza (pictured right) says *"Being a pharmacist is awesome. It is really satisfying to apply my knowledge to everyday cases in order to help people. I look forward to the challenges of the ever-evolving pharmacy world; and also having my weekends free after 4 years of busy undergraduate and the intern year!"*

Ashley, who studied at Otago University reflects, *"As I start my career, I have most enjoyed interacting with patients and feeling like I am able to make a difference. I have also really enjoyed working alongside amazing pharmacy staff and being able to learn and be inspired by them throughout my internship."*

I am relishing the challenges that come with being a pharmacist and I am looking forward to completing all my additional training so I can offer as much as I possibly can to my patients."



New Registrants The following are newly registered pharmacists (both BPharm graduates and previously registered overseas trained pharmacists) who successfully completed the requirements for registration in December 2017.

Riham Abdalla	Elizabeth Collings	Elliot Harris	Chae Rin Lee
Shalini Abeykoon	Laura Copland	Jay Hart	Ga Hee Lee
Miyar Abumaree	Ashley Cronin	Alice Hengst	Helen Lee
Mohamad Al-Attar	Ma Celina Cura	Yen Qi Hew	Jenny Lee
Reema Alkarbouli	Mohamed Yusuf Dalal	Jordan Hinton	Jeongin Lee
Malali Amad	Anita de Borst	Mei Ho	Jun Su Lee
Anju Anil	Miles Denton	Aden Holmes	Ka Yin Lee
Hannah Arnold	Ashleigh Dick	Karena Houghton	Sea Jun Lee
Chong Heon Bae	Sudad Dragh	Aron Huang	Selena Lemmens
Cyril Bagic	Anusha Dravid	Jimin Hwang	Mark Li
Ashleigh Beech	Sean D'Souza	Michelle Jeon	Yiyang Li
Sheetal Ben	Jake Duval-Smith	Ruby Jeon	Zheng Li
Jing Bian	Michaela Ellis	Ritesh Jesani	Georgia Lidstone
Ji Hye Bing	Reuben Evans Pollock	Tianwen Jiang	Sohee Lim
Phoebe Bint	Abbey Evison	Gavin Jones	Zi Han Lin
Tessa Black	Shiqing Fan	Ameer Kafilhussain	Crystal Ling
Tayla Bowers	Kate Farmer	Kyu Hye Kang	Chia-Yu Liu
Holly Boyle	Jiawei Feng	Anna Katavich	Raymond Lo
Thi Bui	Louise Fisher	Rumbidzai Kavhumbura	Jamiee Lovegrove
Philip Cabasag	Natalie Fleming	Sarah Kearns	Jason Lowe
Abigail Cadwallader	Bridget France	Danielle Kennedy	Jocelyn Luo
Stephen Chai	Hayleigh Frost	Jihyun Kim	Vicky Ma
Ka Kei Chan	Kendall Fryer	Min Kyung Kim	Lucinda Mak
Rosalie Chang	Olivia Gambitsis	Narae Kim	Brittany Marshall
Young Eun Chang	Rukshar Gobarani	Jin Kim	Gemma Martin
Tim Chen	Shelby Goddard	Liang Kooi Kok	Jerril Mathew
Hye-kyung Choi	Max Goodman	Ha Young Kweon	Duncan McGill
Ji Hyun Choi	Kitty Hadley	Youngjun Kwon	Fion McKibben
Lynette Chua	Stacey Hales	Claudia On-Ting Lau	Lynn Mensah
Olivia Coe	Zahra Hamandi	Alvis Lee	Cherry Millare

Robert Morgan
Abbie Muir
Wadzanayi Munatswa
Madoka Murayasu
Anne-Maree Murphy
Dhivya Nair Gopal
Pratik Narayan
Cohen Nash
Jacintha Nellipudi
Choi Shen Ng
See Nee Ng
Sophie Oliff
Nigel Rae Ong
Kimberley Oosterbeek
Rose Osborne
Hongkyu Park
Hiren Patel
Shambhavi Patil
Abigail Paul
Balsa Pavicevic
Surina Puri
Akhila Puthigae
Jiaxing Qu
Michelle Quin
Monica Ranchhod
Rasneka Ratnayake
Jack Rea
Din Redzepagic
Tracey Reyburn
Leah Richardson
Agnellar Rushizha
Prema Samarasan
Bhavani Selvarasu
Jeong Hoon Seong
Manjli Sharma
Jiawen Shi

Hazel Sibanda
Rosalie Simich
Rebecca Simpson
Avishaal Singh
Ashna Siraj
Laura Skidmore
Emily Smith
Jared Solloway
Ziqi Song
Jemma Stirling
Sandra Sullivan
Anuradha Sureshchandra
Stephen Sutjipto
Sally Hue Phuong Ta
Carol Tai
David Tan
Eunice Tan
Gaius Tan
Harumi Tanimura
Gabriella Tennant
Neoh Theng
Henissa Tong
Kathleen Tong
Hei Tsun Tsang
Rong Qin Tsao
Sean Turner
Yih Huey Kim Tzou
Susan Ung
Megan Veail
Rachel Voss
Chung-Hsi Wang
Cindy Wang
Joyce Wang
Gabrielle Watt
Jane Wei
Youri Wijland

Polly Wilcox
William Williams
Ewen Wong
Lucy Wong
Daphne Chi-hang Yeung
Cameron Young
Fang Yu
Sally Zhu

Welcome also to these newly registered pharmacists who were previously registered in Australia, Canada, Ireland, the UK, or the USA:

Rachael Baker
Abbey Butler
Trevor Chan
Angela Christmas
Samantha Clitheroe
Karen Cookson
Joanne Gattuso
Brian Jeong
Hayley Kong
Hee Jun Lee
Leonard Lee
Ivy Lin
Emily McCulloch
Tara McEnteggart
Stella Voo