

CONSULTATION – PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE CARDIO PULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR) IN RECERTIFICATION PROGRAMMES FOR DISPENSING OPTICIANS & OPTOMETRISTS

Released: 26 June 2020

Submissions Due: 7 August 2020

Introduction

- 1 The principal purpose of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) is to protect public health and safety by ensuring health practitioners are competent and fit to practise.
- 2 Section 41 of the Act sets out that for the purpose of ensuring that health practitioners are competent to practise within the scopes of practice in respect of which they are registered, each authority may from time to time set or recognise recertification programmes for practitioners who are registered with the authority. A recertification programme may require a practitioner to do any one or more of the following:
 - (a) pass any examinations or assessments, or both:
 - (b) complete a period of practical training:
 - (c) undertake a course of instruction:
 - (d) permit a health practitioner specified by the authority to examine—
 - (i) any or all of his or her clinical and other practices:
 - (ii) any or all of his or her relations with other health practitioners:
 - (iii) any or all of the clinical records of the practitioner in relation to his or her patients or clients:
 - (e) undergo an inspection:
 - (f) adopt and undertake a systematic process for ensuring that the services provided by the practitioner meet the required standard of competence.

- 3 If a health practitioner who is required to complete a recertification programme does not satisfy the requirements of the programme, in accordance with section 43 of the Act, the responsible authority may make either of the following orders:
- (a) that the health practitioner's scope of practice be altered—
 - (i) by changing any health services that the practitioner is permitted to perform; or
 - (ii) by including any condition or conditions that the authority considers appropriate:
 - (b) that the practitioner's registration be suspended.

Background

- 4 The Board recognises the need for practitioners to be competent in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Currently, this is an option within recertification and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points are awarded if a practitioner opts to undertake first aid training.
- 5 Over the next few years, it is the Board's intention to require all prescribed qualifications to have CPR included. New registrants will then maintain their certificate in CPR.
- 6 The need for CPR competence has increased especially as it relates to those patients who may have medications administered or prescribed. However, it also relates to the professional obligations of all health practitioners. It is the Board's position that CPR is a competence that all health practitioners should be expected to have and maintain, for the safety of the public.
7. CPR competence is best monitored by the professionals skilled in that domain. The Board considers that the granting of that competence is best left to those agencies that conduct the training in CPR and therefore the Board will withdraw from awarding CPD points for CPR. Another reason for this decision is that while contributing to overall public welfare, the satisfactory delivery of CPR does not specifically contribute to optometry-related patient outcomes.

Proposal

- 8 The Board proposes to **amend** the two current recertification programmes to add a requirement for the achievement and maintenance of certification in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The proposal is that the CPR certification must be achieved and maintained in addition to CPD and regular Board audit requirements. The evidence of CPR certification will be required at the time a practitioner renews their APC.

9. A new clause would be added to the Recertification Policy for each profession that states:

Further, the Board requires, from 1 April 2022 onwards, as part of applying for registration and on an ongoing basis, each dispensing optician or optometrist to hold and maintain a current certificate in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Holding and maintaining a certificate in CPR is not part of any CPD activity. That is, it is an extra competence that must be demonstrated and certified by an appropriate provider. If a new registrant has not gained a CPR certificate as part of any qualification, they will be given up to 6 months after the APC is issued to gain the CPR certification.

10 The Board proposes that NZQA 6401 and 6402 be the minimum standards for CPR.

11 This requirement is proposed to come into force from the practising year commencing 1 April 2022. Practitioners would therefore be required to attest on completion of their renewal for this period that they are certified in CPR.

12 The Board proposes to withdraw from awarding CPD for completion of First Aid Training (including CPR). Please see points 6 and 7 above.

Summary

13 The Board proposes to require CPR certification and ongoing maintenance of the CPR certification to the annual recertification process for an Annual Practising Certificate.

Stakeholders are now invited to provide submissions on this proposed amendment.

How to have your say

14 If you wish to make submissions, please provide them in writing **by 5.00 pm on the 7th August 2020**. The Board does not guarantee that submissions received at the Board's offices after that date will be considered.

Submissions can be sent to:

The Registrar
Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board
PO Box 9644
Wellington 6141

Email: antony.mcfelin@odob.health.nz