

NEWS FLASH

B. Changes to the Board's Requirements for NZ Registration of United Kingdom Trained and Registered Dietitians

Although dietitians trained and registered in the United Kingdom (UK) do not have exactly the same training as recent New Zealand graduate dietitians, they do however make a significant contribution in a clinical domain of practice.

Following the Board's changes of two years ago to the certification and examination of overseas trained dietitians, (allowing some overseas trained dietitians to sit a part Overseas Candidates Registration Examination (OCRE), and to work in a specific domain of practice), the Board has made further changes to the policy for the registration and certification/examination requirements for dietitians from the United Kingdom.

UK trained and registered dietitians wishing to practise dietetics in New Zealand will continue to be assessed according to the fitness, qualifications and competency requirements of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act). UK dietitians, whose education and training is assessed as sufficiently equivalent, will be encouraged to sit the whole OCRE, to become eligible for an Annual Practising Certificate (APC) with no conditions limiting their domain of practice.

However, the Board will now allow UK trained and registered dietitians, who meet the Board's criteria to be eligible to be registered and work under an APC with conditions limiting them to the domain of clinical dietetics only, without sitting the OCRE.

The criteria for UK trained and registered dietitians to be eligible under the new policy is that they must:

- a. Have completed both their undergraduate nutrition and postgraduate dietetic training in the United Kingdom, i.e. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.*
- b. Be currently registered and certified with the Health Professions Council (HPC), in UK.*
- c. Have completed a training course of at least four years in nutrition and dietetics.*
- d. Have practised as a dietitian for a minimum of one year in the UK.*
- e. Have practised as a dietitian in the UK within the last 3 years.*

All applications will be considered on a case by case basis. The Board reserves the right to require an applicant to undertake further study or sit the examination if deemed necessary.

Details of the new policy, options and procedures can be read on the Board's website: www.dietitiansboard.org.nz

C. Review of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act)

The review of the HPCA Act by the Ministry of Health has nearly been completed. The Board, along with the NZ Dietetic Association and other stakeholders, has made submissions related to this review.

The Board will advise you of any changes when these are received.

D. Maori Dietitians Network

“Taawhiti rawa toou haerenga ake te kore haere tonu; nui rawa oou mahi te kore mahi nui tonu. We have come too far not to go further; we have done too much not to do more”

– Sir James Henare.

A Maori Dietitians Network has been formed as part of the NZDA. The Dietitians Board congratulates the NZDA on the formation of this group and looks forward to partnering with this group on a number of initiatives in the future. Twenty-one dietitians identifying as Maori have graduated since 1994, and four more are in training this year. This steady increase is great. The Dietitians Board supports the need for more Maori Dietitians – a strong Maori Dietitian workforce is a vital part of supporting the improvement of Maori Health.

If you would like to know more, please contact any of the following key contacts:

Eruera Maxted

eruera.maxted@northlanddhb.org.nz

Hiki Pihema

Hiki.Pihema@tdh.org.nz

Sian Warriner

Sian.Warriner@middlemore.co.nz

Tim Brosnahan

tbrosnahan@timhosp.co.nz

Makuini McKerchar

makuini@kaitahu.maori.nz

E. Continuing Competency (CC) Matters

1. **APC Renewals:** Thank you to the majority of the dietitians who sent in their applications for APC Renewals with the documents completed, correctly signed and on time.

Dietitians are reminded that they must have a current APC (or Interim Practising Certificate – IPC), to be able to practise legally. Section 8(1) of the HPCA Act states:

“Every health practitioner who practises the profession in respect of which he or she is registered must have a current practising certificate issued by the responsible authority”.

2. **CC Survey:** The Board had an excellent response to the recent Continuing Competency Programme (CCP) survey. Thank you – your feedback will be useful for discussion on how the CCP may be modified in the future to meet the needs of the profession. The Board will inform you once further work has been done regarding this.
3. **CC Audit:** The Board’s tenth audit takes place on 30 April. All currently practising dietitians, who have been working in NZ for a minimum of one year, should now have been audited, or selected for the April 2009 audit. The dietitians selected for the next audit (October 2009), including those who were audited in October 2004, will be notified in early August.
4. **Cultural Competency:** You are reminded that participation in Cultural Competency activities is compulsory and expected as part of your CCP audit from October 2009, i.e. five years after the HPCA Act was enacted.

Cultural competency requirements are met by:

- Including one learning activity relating to Cultural Competency every year,
- Including one activity relating to, or demonstrating application of, Treaty of Waitangi issues at least once in the five year cycle.
- Cultural competency activities can be undertaken under any of the three categories.

NB: The Board’s ‘Cultural Competency Standards’ and suggestions on ‘Cultural Competency activities (page 11 of the ‘Continuing Competency Programme Manual’) are on the Board’s website under ‘Practitioners’ Information: Maintain Competency’.



F. The Differences between Registration and Certification

The Registrar would like to remind dietitians, that dietitians in New Zealand are usually only put on the register once. Unless you are removed from the Register (usually by death or by your request) dietitians without a current practising certificate, who have informed the Board that they are not practising, will remain on the register as 'Inactive'.

It is Certification, (an APC or IPC), which you must apply for annually in New Zealand, not Registration.

G. Archiving the Register

The Registrar will shortly be archiving, (but not removing, at this stage) from the Register, all those dietitians who have not applied for certification (a practising certificate) for fifteen years or more; those overseas trained dietitians who have returned to their homeland and indicated they will not return to practise in NZ; and those with whom the Board has been unable to establish contact for some time.

This means only that the names will not show on the public register. If you know someone who may object to this happening please advise the Registrar. Please note that any 'archived' name can be returned to the 'active' Register.

H. Miscellaneous

1. **Change in Area of Practice:**

You are reminded that before you significantly change your area of practice, you are required to advise the Registrar in writing.

An example of a significant change to area of practice would be a change from food service management to clinical or public health dietetics, or from clinical to public health dietetics or food service management, but not a change within a speciality.

2. **Changes of address:**

A reminder that you MUST let the Board know in writing (by email is acceptable) any changes to your postal, residential, work and email address. Section 140 (2) of the HPCA Act states that:

“(2) A health practitioner must promptly give the Registrar of the responsible authority written notice of any change in the practitioner’s postal address, residential address, and (if applicable) work address.”

3. **Board’s contact details reminders:**

Physical address (courier mail) is:

Level 3, 195-201 Willis Street, Wellington

Postal address:

PO Box 10140, Wellington 6143

Telephone: 04 474 0746 *Fax:* 04 474 0709

E-mail: dietitians@dietitiansboard.org.nz

Website: www.dietitiansboard.org.nz

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Barbara Ryan NZRD
Chairperson