



Dietitians Board

Te Mana Mātanga Mātai Kai

Unite
against
COVID-19

24 April 2020

ALERT LEVEL 3 UPDATE

MoH Information for Allied Health Professionals

Dietitians working **within** essential services continue to work as they did during Level 4.

Dietitians working in a **non-DHB environment** are required to provide dietetic services and care via virtual appointments. In-person appointments may be provided for **urgent care** only so long as dietitians can take appropriate measures to manage public health. Refer to the **Decision Tree**.

DHB's will have their own set of guidelines and protocols that DHB dietitians will need to follow.

Ministry of Health Guidance for Community Allied Health Services – Letter from Dr Martin Chadwick, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer.

Urgent Care – Community Allied Health Professionals

For those of you working in the community, the Ministry of Health has advised that “urgent care” for community allied health professionals is defined as:

1. a condition which is life or limb threatening **OR**
2. treatment required to maintain the basic necessities of life **OR**
3. treatment that cannot be delayed or carried out remotely without risk of significant harm or permanent and/or significant disability

Any or all of which cannot be delivered by a service which is currently operating, or by health professionals that are already in contact with the patient.

Am I able to provide dietetic services?

Registered Dietitians can deliver telehealth services remotely **at any COVID-19 Alert Level**. The practitioner must maintain their 'bubble' by meeting virtually (not physically) with patients/clients and their whānau. At Alert **Levels 3 and 4**, virtual consultations are the preferred method of service delivery.

The Decision Tree will assist practitioners to determine whether a patient/client requires an in-person consultation during Alert Levels 3 and 4.

At **Alert Level 4**, only dietitians working **within** essential services are allowed to work onsite and meet with patients/clients in-person to provide **urgent care**.

At **Alert Level 3**, a broader group of dietitians are allowed to provide urgent dietetic care in-person. The Board expects dietitians to use a high level of clinical judgement when considering whether a patient/client meets the urgent care criteria for an in-person consultation and takes appropriate measures to manage public health risks.

How do I prescribe remotely?

For those of you who prescribe and are working remotely the MoH has published [frequently asked questions about remote prescribing](#) on its website. Other useful information can be found via the links provided below:

- [e-prescription services](#)
- [New rules for electronic prescriptions to support virtual care in the community](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions – Secure Messaging](#)
- [Telehealth prescribing in New Zealand](#)
- [Prescribing Flowchart](#)

Where can I find information about providing dietetic services virtually?

The Dietitians Board [Guidelines on Telehealth](#) is a good source of information and resource as is [New Zealand Telehealth Forum and Resource Centre](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

Information can be found [HERE](#) about the following:

- Changing between Alert Levels
- Assessing patients/clients
- Limiting transmission
- Future practice

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Driving the creation of a workforce that is responsive to the health and wellbeing needs of New Zealanders
Our Values: Professional – Integrity – Fairness – Excellence - Kaitiaki

DDI: (+64) 4 474 0746

Level 5, 22 Willeston St (courier deliveries)

PO Box 9644, Wellington 6141, NEW ZEALAND

Email: dietitians@dietitiansboard.org.nz

Website: www.dietitiansboard.org.nz