



Te Kaunihera
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Aotearoa

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Tēnā koe Anne

Recognition of Genetic Pathology as a new field of specialty practice

Thank you for inviting Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa | Medical Council of New Zealand to provide feedback on the proposal for the recognition of Genetic Pathology as a new field of specialty practice.

We note that the regulatory systems for medical practitioners in Australia and New Zealand are different. While Australia regulates medical practitioners by title, in New Zealand, we regulate doctors by approval of defined scopes of practice.

Pathology is a broad area of medicine encompassing several disciplines. While these all fall under a single broad vocational scope of Pathology in New Zealand, I understand that Australia recognises several fields of specialty practice within Pathology.

We are interested in the current proposal to recognise Genetic Pathology as a new field of specialty practice within Pathology in Australia. Genetics and genomics are areas of practice that are expanding and rapidly changing and we look forward to learning the outcome of this consultation.

You may be interested in the approach we take in New Zealand to registering doctors that have completed vocational training and subsequently gained a postgraduate qualification in Pathology. This approach involves placing a limitation on the doctor's scope of practice to the specific area of Pathology they have trained and specialised in. By way of example, an Anatomical Pathologist would be registered in the broad vocational scope of pathology with a condition stating that their *vocational scope of practice is limited to anatomical pathology*. The condition is recorded on the doctor's practising certificate and is also published on Council's online medical register, to provide transparency to the public.

Should Genetic Pathology be approved as a new field of specialty practice in Australia, this is the approach we would take to a Specialist Genetic Pathologist seeking to practise in New Zealand. I hope our response is helpful.

Nāku noa, nā



Manukura | Chief Executive

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te whakatairanga pai i te mahi
e pā ana ki te taha rongoā

Protecting the public,
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