



nzmsa

New Zealand Medical Students' Association

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Medical Student Registration – Position Statement

Date Published: 19/5/2011

Version: 2

Document Due For Revision: 2012

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TITLE

Medical Student Registration: this position statement was updated from the 2007 version at the May 2011 F2F meeting in Auckland by the 2011 NZMSA Executive. This position statement will be for review in 2012 or pending further information from the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ).

INTRODUCTION

The MCNZ is currently considering exploring the potential for introducing medical student registration with the MCNZ Council. A Medical Student Registration Working Group has been commissioned by the MCNZ to develop a framework to discuss the potential issues, challenges and benefits of introducing medical student registration.

NZMSA POSITION

The New Zealand Medical Students' Association (NZMSA) supports the introduction of a medical student registration process for medical students in principle, overseen by the MCNZ, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders. We believe that the medical student registration has the potential to formalise the commitment to producing medical graduates with the necessary clinical and professional skills for safe practice and widen the scope of learning opportunities afforded to final year medical students, while legally safe-guarding medical students, the Universities, patients, and health care providers.

BACKGROUND

▶ Key Issues for Medical Students

Potential benefits of medical student registration

NZMSA views some of the potential benefits of Medical Student registration as being:

1. To develop the clinical and professional competencies required of graduating doctors, whilst still in a University-regulated environment.
2. To formalize the scopes of practice within which medical students can operate, particularly with regard to independent performance of routine clinical tasks and patient interactions.
3. As a means of safe-guarding students, Universities, health care providers and patients through a formal medical student registration process that ensures a medical student's fitness to practice at an expected level.
4. To increase the awareness of the medical student to the professionalism demanded of them as they move towards becoming a doctor; strengthening the professional expectations of medical students.
5. Legitimising the role of medical students within the health team.

Potential concerns of medical student registration

NZMSA has the following concerns and cautions about of medical student registration:

- Clear delimitation of expectations between medical students and fully-qualified medical professionals.
- Confidentiality of medical students' personal information comparable to that of registered health professionals.
- That medical students must continue to be viewed as doctors-in-training and not as a service commodity.
- That the requisites for achieving medical student registration do not significantly add to the workload and the cost of the current medical student curriculum.
- That the obligations of medical students during the attachments – role, responsibilities, hours and regulation of practice – continue to be set by the universities, and not influenced by the DHBs or workforce shortages.

CONSULTATION WITH KEY GROUPS

- MCNZ Medical Student Working Group – teleconference 10/5/2011.
- No formal consultation with medical students has been undertaken.

SUPPORTING LITERATURE/RESEARCH/STATISTICS

Not Applicable

NZMSA POSITION STATEMENTS

Not Applicable

REFERENCES

None