



Health Practitioners (Protected Quality Assurance Activity—University of Otago SAMM Kids Audit) Notice 2015

Pursuant to section 54(3) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the Minister of Health, being satisfied of the matters set out in that subsection, gives the following notice.

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Notice

1 Title

This notice is the Health Practitioners (Protected Quality Assurance Activity—University of Otago SAMM Kids Audit) Notice 2015.

2 Commencement

This notice comes into force on the day after the date of its notification in the *Gazette*.

3 Revocation of this notice

This notice is revoked on 12 August 2020.

4 Interpretation

In this notice,—

DHB has the meaning given to it in section 6(1) of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000

specified health practitioners means health practitioners involved in the provision of maternity and neonatal care in all DHBs in New Zealand.

5 Declaration of protected quality assurance activities

The following quality assurance activities are protected to the extent that they are undertaken by the Women's Health Research Centre at the University of Otago in relation to specified health practitioners:

- (a) receiving and reviewing copies of the clinical case notes of all infants of maternity patients who were admitted to an intensive care unit—
 - (i) at any time while pregnant; or
 - (ii) within 42 days after giving birth; and
- (b) collecting further details relating to the care and management of those maternity patients and infants during the delivery and immediate neonatal period; and
- (c) identifying from the information obtained under paragraphs (a) and (b)—
 - (i) descriptions of the maternal clinical and socio-demographic characteristics in each case; and
 - (ii) any process or practice that resulted in an outcome for an infant that may have been, but need not have been, an adverse outcome; and
- (d) case study reviews by multidisciplinary panels of independent experts in maternal and neonatal care (who may include neonatologists, maternal and foetal specialists, obstetricians, neonatal nurses, perinatal pathologists, and other health practitioners involved in maternity care such as general practitioners and pathologists) to assess—
 - (i) whether any adverse outcome suffered by an infant was potentially preventable; and
 - (ii) what system, clinical, and patient factors contributed to any adverse outcome; and
 - (iii) the quality of the maternity services provided by the specified health practitioners; and
- (e) documenting the findings under paragraphs (c) and (d); and
- (f) publishing the findings in anonymised and collated form to assist the specified health practitioners to improve their services to maternity patients and infants; and
- (g) making recommendations on how the specified health practitioners may improve their practices and processes so as to—
 - (i) improve the safety and quality of the maternity services they provide; and
 - (ii) reduce the incidence of adverse outcomes to infants; and

- (h) facilitating and monitoring the adoption of any recommendations made under paragraph (g).

Dated at Wellington this 20th day of August 2015.

Hon Jonathan Coleman,
Minister of Health.

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the notice, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This is the second notice relating to research undertaken by the Women's Health Research Centre at the University of Otago about severe acute maternal morbidity. The first notice came into force on 6 September 2013 and focuses on quality assurance activities in relation to the care provided to maternity patients. This notice comes into force on the day after the date of its notification in the *Gazette* and focuses on quality assurance activities in relation to the infants of maternity patients. Quality assurance activities are activities that are undertaken to improve the practices or competence of health practitioners by assessing the health services performed by those practitioners. The effect of protecting a quality assurance activity is that—

- any information that becomes known solely as a result of the activity is confidential; and
- any documents brought into existence solely for the purposes of the activity are confidential; and
- the persons who engage in the activity in good faith are immune from civil liability.

The protections afforded by this notice are subject to certain statutory exceptions. For example, this notice does not prohibit the disclosure of information that does not identify, either expressly or by implication, a particular individual.

This notice is revoked on 12 August 2020.

Issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2012.
Date of notification in *Gazette*: 27 August 2015.
This notice is administered by the Ministry of Health.