



Health Practitioners (Quality Assurance Activity— Southern DHB) Notice 2016

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 (Quality Assurance Activity—Southern DHB) Notice 2016.

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 25 March 2021.

4 Interpretation

In this notice,—

Southern DHB means the Southern District Health Board established under section 19(1) of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000

specified health practitioner means a health practitioner who provides health services on behalf of Southern DHB and who—

- (a) is employed by Southern DHB; or

- (b) is authorised by Southern DHB to provide health services; or
- (c) has an access agreement with Southern DHB.

5 Declaration of protected quality assurance activity

The following quality assurance activities are protected to the extent that they are undertaken by Southern DHB in relation to specified health practitioners:

- (a) conducting clinical audits to review the clinical practices of specified health practitioners, including the review of—
 - (i) diagnostic procedures; and
 - (ii) treatment decisions; and
 - (iii) resource allocations and usage; and
 - (iv) patient care processes; and
 - (v) outcomes of treatment and care for patients; and
- (b) comparing the results of clinical audits with relevant internal and external benchmarking standards (**benchmarking standards**); and
- (c) identifying clinical practices that do not conform with benchmarking standards; and
- (d) introducing initiatives aimed at improving clinical practice to better ensure benchmarking standards are achieved; and
- (e) holding meetings to discuss processes and practices that may, but need not, have resulted in an adverse outcome for patients; and
- (f) holding peer review meetings to review the competence of specified health practitioners; and
- (g) making recommendations on how specified health practitioners can improve their performance so as to—
 - (i) improve the quality of health services they provide; and
 - (ii) reduce the incidence of adverse outcomes; and
- (h) facilitating and monitoring the implementation of recommendations described in paragraph (g).

Dated at Wellington this 14th day of April 2016.

Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman,
Minister of Health.

Explanatory note

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

This notice comes into force on the day after the date of its notification in the *Gazette*. It declares the quality assurance activities described in *clause 5* to be protected. Quality assurance activities are activities 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 purpose 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 25 March 2021.

Issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2012.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 21 April 2016.

This notice is administered by the Ministry of Health.