

Pharmacist Prescriber Competence Standards Expert Working and Advisory Group (PS-WAG)

Terms of Reference

Purpose

1. The purpose of the Pharmacist Prescriber Competence Standards Expert Working and Advisory Group (PS-WAG) is to support Te Pou Whakamana Kaimatū o Aotearoa | Pharmacy Council of New Zealand (Council) establish and deliver a high-quality set of competence standards for pharmacist prescribers that authentically give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and embed cultural safety for 2023 and the foreseeable future.

Context

2. The Council is responsible for prescribing the qualifications required for scopes of practice and setting standards of clinical competence, cultural competence (including competencies that will enable effective and respectful interaction with Māori), and ethical conduct to be observed by health practitioners of the profession.¹
3. Scopes of practice and professional competence standards provide the platform by which other regulatory tools (e.g. accreditation standards, compliance, recertification) are based upon and operationalised and so are key foundational regulatory tools for Council.
4. The Council has three scopes of practice; Intern Pharmacist, Pharmacist and Pharmacist Prescriber.²
5. All practising pharmacists, regardless of the scope of practice they are registered under, must meet Professional Competence Standards for the Pharmacists' scope of practice.
6. In addition, health practitioners registered under the pharmacist prescriber scope of practice must meet Professional Competence Standards for the Pharmacist Prescriber scope of practice.
7. The current Professional Competence Standards for the Pharmacist Prescriber Scope of Practice was published in 2013.³
8. As part of good regulatory practice, to give greater effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and support the achievement of health equity and to ensure competence standards remain relevant and fit-for-purpose for contemporary pharmacy practice and healthcare, Council is undertaking work to update and refresh the 2013 standards.

¹ Health Practitioner Competence Assurance Act (HPCAA) 2003, [section 118\(a\) and \(i\)](#).

² Scopes of Practice: [Pharmacist scopes of practice - Pharmacy Council NZ - Public Site](#)

³ Standards and Guidance for Pharmacist Prescribers: www.pharmacycouncil.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Pharmacist_Prescriber_Standards_July20138dd8.pdf

Work done so far

9. Beginning 2019, work undertaken includes but is not limited to:
 - **Environmental scanning and critical reflection** to identify further opportunities for improvement to the 2013 Standards. Environmental scans were also undertaken with the 2013 standards compared against those set by international peers in the United Kingdom and Australia.
 - **Engaging and understanding of relevancy and areas for improvement** from current pharmacist prescribers and the Auckland and Otago Schools of Pharmacy on the 2013 standards
 - **Whakawhanaungatanga and collaborating** with professional associations and groups to establish effective and appropriate engagement & feedback mechanisms to enable iterative improvement.
 - **Partnering and working** with Māori and independent expert contractors to develop “strawperson” working drafts of the competence standards which give greater effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
10. Building on the 2013 standards and mahi undertaken since, the aim for 2022 is to deliver a high-quality set of Pharmacist Prescriber competence standards for 2023 and the foreseeable future.
11. In addition to separate mechanisms for stakeholder feedback and engagement, the Council is establishing an independent prescribing competence standards expert working and advisory group (PS-WAG) to support the development of a 2022 refreshed set of competence standards.
12. See Figure 1 for overall project management model and initial timelines

Functions

13. The PS-WAG functions are to:
 - a. **Advise:** work closely with Council team members to provide objective and independent subject matter insight, expertise, and experience to develop and deliver high quality Competence standards.
 - b. **Assure:** provide a level of assurance to Council and the Māori Advisory Group (MAG – who partners with and supports Council to give authentic effect to Te Tiriti and support the achievement of health equity) – see Figure 1- on the development of high-quality & authentically partnered competence standards.
 - c. **Synthesise:** provide objective, independent, and critical value-add analysis and advice on stakeholder feedback received in relation to the developed Competence standards.

Appointment

14. Appointment of up to four individual members with substantial expertise and experience in areas such as:
 - Competence standards development
 - Pharmacist prescribing
 - Prescribing

- Cultural safety
 - Te Tiriti o Waitangi
 - Health equity
 - Regulatory practice.
15. **Selection criteria:** Council welcomes applications and suggestions for relevant experts to be considered for PS-WAG appointment. Preference will be given to individuals who have expertise which complement the team mix and where there are relatively less perceived and/or real conflicts of interests and ideally with at least two of the four members of the group being Māori to enable a culturally safe environment and to ensure the inclusion of critical Māori voice. Experts in substantive roles within existing professional associations or education providers are invited to provide their views, suggestions, and feedback via their respective organisations as part of the planned external stakeholder engagement processes.
 16. **Selection process:** Appointment will be made by a selection panel comprising of Council team members, MAG members and independently contracted expertise in Te Tiriti and relevant competence standards fields.
 17. **Term of appointment:** The PS-WAG Members will be appointed for the duration of the development and delivery of Council's competence standards however there is potential for a permanent Competence Standards Committee (or equivalent) to be established in the future. The role will require the appointed expert to work as part of the PS-WAG team to review and iteratively improve the competence standards based on feedback received. Note: Timelines and dates are approximate only and are subject to change, but these will be communicated with and agreed upon with the group.

Fees

18. The PS-WAG members will be paid appropriate and reasonable fees set by the Council and actual and reasonable travel/accommodation expenses. The anticipated workload is approximately 30-50 hours in total across July to December 2022 – see Figure 1 for dates.

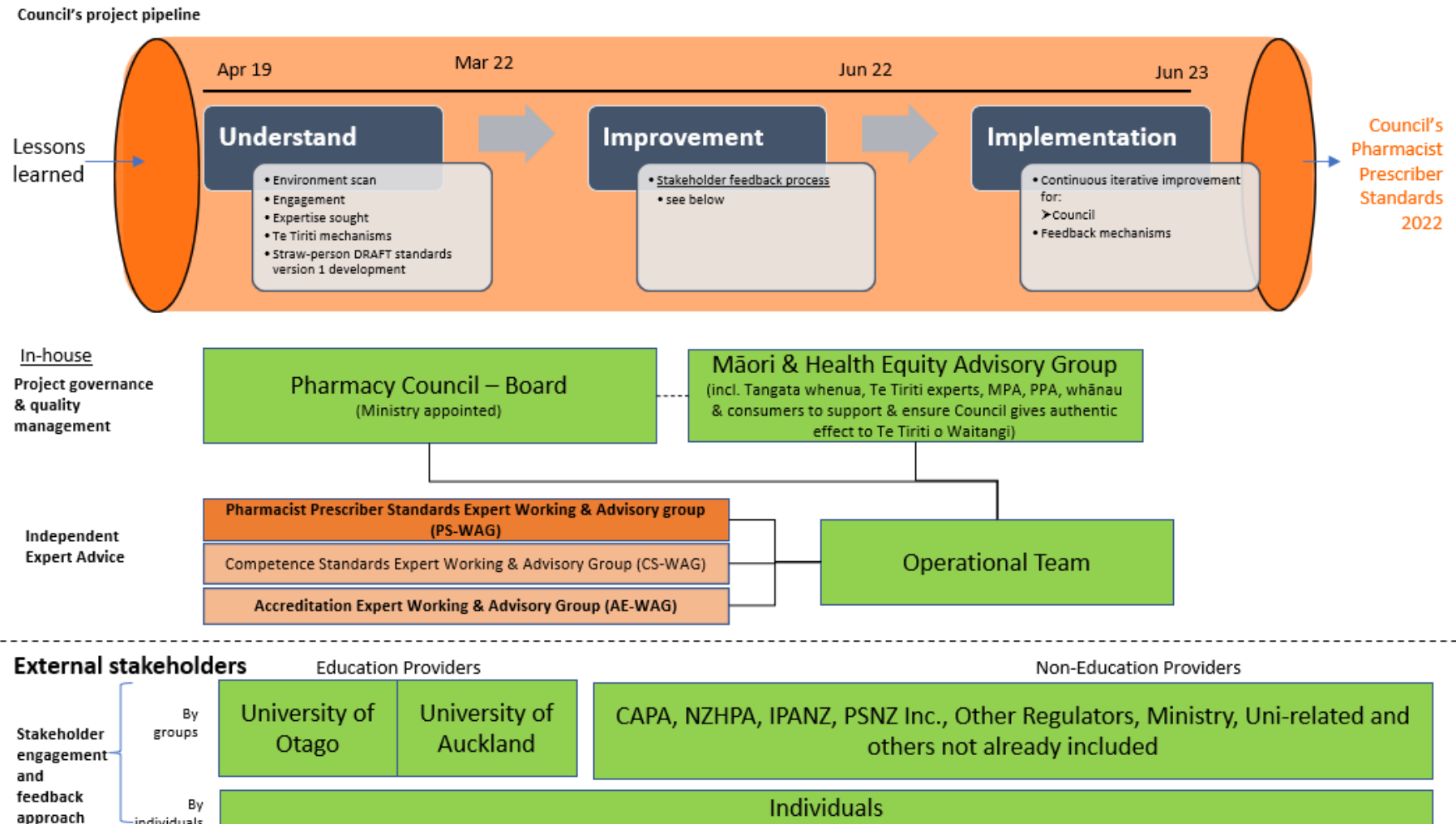
Meetings

19. Due to current COVID risks, virtual meetings will be planned for, but Council will endeavour to hold meetings kanohi ki te kanohi (face-to-face) where possible.

Confidentiality

20. PS-WAG members must not disclose to any person or entity any confidential information belonging or relating to the Council unless written approval to do so is given by the Council. NB: All material developed as part of PS-WAG will be the intellectual property of Council.
21. PS-WAG members must take all reasonable steps to prevent the unauthorised or improper use or disclosure of any confidential information, including the use of material or information for their own personal or employment benefit.

Figure 1: Pharmacist Prescriber Competence Standards project overview and governance



Stakeholder feedback process and general timelines:

- End-Aug to Early-Oct: Feedback on Pharmacist Prescriber Standards DRAFT v1
- Early Oct-Mid-Nov: Modified by PS-WAG to DRAFT version 2
- Mid-Nov to End-Dec: Version 2 for review and approval by MAG & Board

Note: Timelines and dates are approximate only and are subject to change