

Position Statement: Council expectation for Pharmacists Practising in Clinical Roles in General Practice

Principles

A pharmacist must demonstrate personal and professional integrity by working within the limits of their own professional expertise and competencies, and within the relevant scope(s) of practice¹.

A pharmacist demonstrates a commitment to continual professional and personal development to enhance pharmacy practice².

Competence

- The General Practice based Clinical Pharmacist role is within the current pharmacist scope of practice.
- Council expects that pharmacists making clinical decisions regarding optimising patient medication therapy, providing clinical recommendations to prescribers or managing complex patients should have the level of applied pharmacotherapy, communication and consultation skills to manage patient and condition complexities within the practice environment.
- Clinical pharmacists are responsible and accountable for their clinical decisions.
- It is expected that experience in patient facing pharmacy practice and Post Graduate Certificates in Pharmacy (Medicines Optimisation) or Clinical Pharmacy would provide the base level of competencies required to practice in this area.

Clinical Peer Support

Continuing professional development should include peer review of clinical decisions as part of the quality improvement process.

When practicing in a General Practice it is important to engage in regular professional and clinical case discussions with peers as part of ongoing professional development and reflection on one's own practice.

Resource tools

The Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) and the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) have published a [framework model](#) as a resource for the development and implementation of new models of integrated, person-centred practice, in which pharmacists and doctors could work with each other and other multidisciplinary team members to ensure continuity of patient care. Sitting alongside the Framework is a [Framework Workbook toolkit](#) developed by the PSNZ and NZMA.

Resource documents created by pharmacists practicing in General Practice roles to assist with safe integration into the Medical Practice collaborative team were reviewed as part of Council's work programme and significant learnings, tools, and templates have subsequently been collated by pharmacists currently practicing in General Practice roles into a single source document freely available for use by those considering or beginning practice in this area. This [document](#) is held and maintained by Clinical Advisory Pharmacists Association (CAPA).

Council supports³ the use of resource tools by pharmacists integrating into or already practicing in General Practice clinical roles as mechanisms to facilitate environments and processes to enhance patient safety.

¹ [Competence Standards for Aotearoa New Zealand Pharmacists 2024](#)

² Pharmacy Council Code of Ethics principle 6

³ When competence concerns are raised regarding pharmacist practice in General Practice the Code of Ethics, Pharmacist Competence Standards 2024 and any relevant Legislation will be relied upon during Council processes.