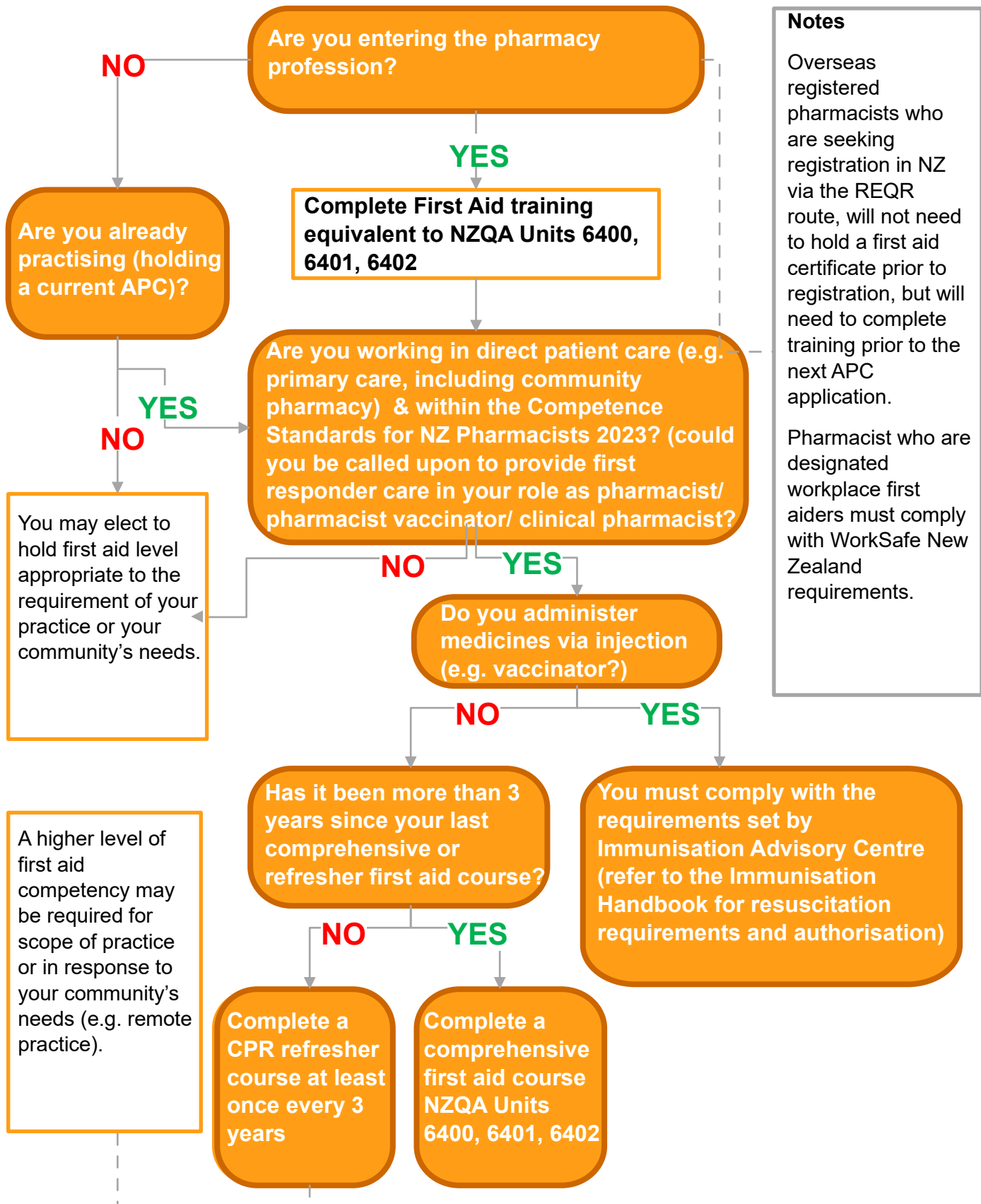


First Aid Requirements for Pharmacist: Flowchart



Notes

Overseas registered pharmacists who are seeking registration in NZ via the REQR route, will not need to hold a first aid certificate prior to registration, but will need to complete training prior to the next APC application.

Pharmacist who are designated workplace first aiders must comply with WorkSafe New Zealand requirements.

You may elect to hold first aid level appropriate to the requirement of your practice or your community's needs.

A higher level of first aid competency may be required for scope of practice or in response to your community's needs (e.g. remote practice).

First Aid Requirements for Pharmacist: Questions and Answers

Q. Which NZQA unit standards should I do my training in?

A. The two main training providers, St John and Red Cross, do first aid and resuscitation courses based on unit standards 6400, 6401 and 6402.

Q. Red Cross has said my certificate will expire if I don't renew it every two years. What is the difference between St John/Red Cross requirements and Council Requirements?

A. You will need to have a full first aid certificate for entry into the profession. Following this, as a minimum requirement for pharmacists working in settings with direct patient contact, Council only requires you to update your CPR skills once every three years. Refer your first aid provider to the Pharmacy Council First Aid Policy.

If you need a full certificate for personal reasons e.g. for a sports team or diving or the location you are working at (e.g. remote), you will still need to complete a refresher course every two years as per the Red Cross or St John requirements.

Q. I am a pharmacist vaccinator and need information on my first aid renewal requirements?

A. Depending on your work and personal requirements, as a minimum, Council only requires you to renew your first aid requirements as a pharmacist vaccinator (refer to the Immunisation Advisory Centre Handbook on the Ministry of Health website). As this already includes CPR you do not need to do a separate CPR refresher for Council.

Q. What should my CPR refresher include?

A. Rescuers should:

- have an understanding of basic life support (DRS ABCD) – see NZ Resuscitation Council website downloadable flowchart
- have an understanding of breathing and circulatory assessment
- perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for adults, children and infants
- courses may also include management of choking and the recovery position
- many courses will also include a brief overview or demonstration of the use of a defibrillator (Automated External Defibrillator or AED).

Q. What are the requirements if I am the designated workplace first aider?

A. WorkSafe New Zealand sets these requirements – you would need to do a full first aid refresher course every two years to maintain currency.

Q. I am returning to practice after five years. Do I need to do a full course or just the CPR refresher?

A. Your certificate would be more than three years old and has expired; therefore, you will need to renew it in full. After that, you only need to update your CPR skills once every three years if you have direct patient contact and therefore, work within the scope of practice covered by Competence Standard 2023 (this includes a community pharmacist, an MUR pharmacist, an MTA pharmacist or a Clinical Pharmacist in a primary care setting).

Q. I am an intern pharmacist. What do I need to do?

A. Intern pharmacists are required to hold a current First Aid certificate (covering NZQA standards 6400, 6401 and 6402) when applying for registration in the scope of practice of a pharmacist i.e. you must provide evidence of a full certificate to your preceptor for your final Evolve appraisal and complete a self- declaration on the Society Learning Management System (LMS) confirming that your certificate will still be valid when you lodge your application to register in the Pharmacist scope of practice.

Q. I am a pharmacist from Canada. What does the Council require me to do?

A. Pharmacists applying for registration through the Recognised Equivalent Qualifications Route (REQR) are not required to hold a current certificate at the time of full registration. However, they would be expected to hold one by the next APC renewal date, if they work in direct patient care (including primary care).

A list of registered providers who can assess first aid standards in accordance with NZQA requirements is available at: [Home » NZQA](#)