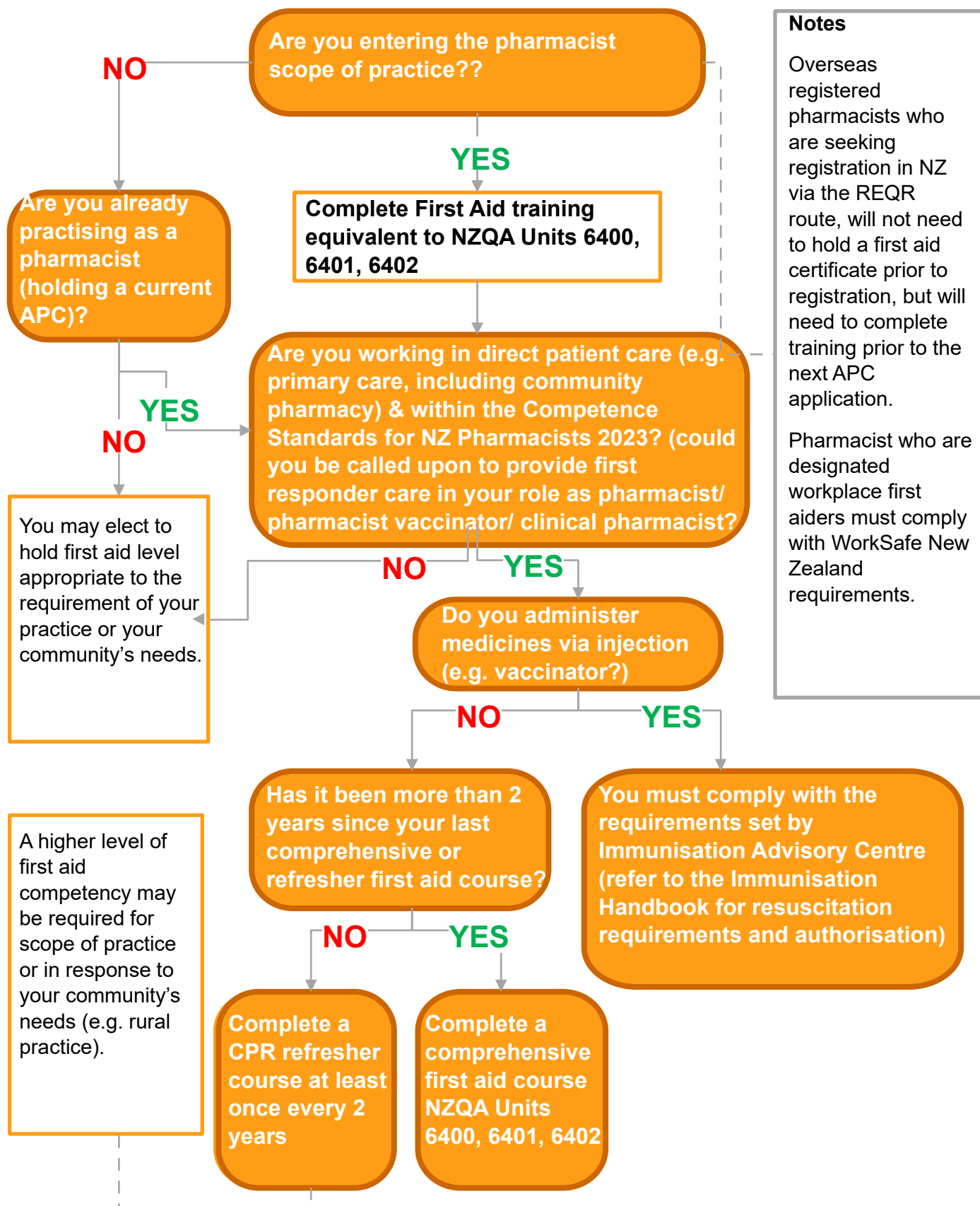


First Aid Requirements for Pharmacist: Flowchart



First Aid Requirements for Pharmacist: Questions and Answers

Q1. What first aid course should I do?

You need to do a comprehensive first aid training course (including CPR) that is based on/equivalent to NZQA Unit Standards 6400, 6401 and 6402.

You can choose any training provider. Just make sure you check their website and/or course content information and confirm the course you intend to do meets the above NZQA standards. If unsure, ask the training provider to confirm this before you book.

Q2. I am an intern pharmacist. What do I need to do?

When it comes time to register in the Pharmacist Scope of Practice you will need to upload proof with your application to confirm you have current first aid training.

You need to upload a certificate to prove you have done comprehensive first aid training (including CPR) that covers all required NZQA standards (6400, 6401 and 6402) that this is current (not expired) at the point of application.

If you completed your comprehensive first aid training some time ago and have done refresher courses, you'll need to upload your most recent certification to show that your training is current when you apply.

See question Q4 below for what is valid for a refresher. First aid completed as part of vaccinator training may not meet this requirement – see question Q7.

Once registered, all pharmacists should renew/refresh their training every two years if they continue to work in patient care settings that require direct patient care.

Q3. I am a pharmacist from Australia or a recognised country (Canada, USA, Ireland, UK) – what do I do?

If you are a pharmacist who applied for registration through the Recognised Equivalent Qualifications Route (REQR) or the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act (TTMRA), and you will be working in a direct patient care setting (including primary care), you can complete the comprehensive first aid training after registration, once you are in New Zealand. You should get this done by the time you are due to renew your Annual Practising Certificate (APC) for the next practising year. You can renew and refresh your first aid training as needed thereafter.

Q4. Why do I need to do a refresher course every two years?

Because first aid certificates have an expiry date. Skills can fade over time and guidelines often evolve, so regular refreshers help ensure that over time you retain critical knowledge, stay up to date with best practice, and are ready to respond effectively in emergencies.

You will need to have a full and current first aid certificate for entry into the pharmacist scope of practice. Following this, pharmacists working in settings with direct patient contact, need to do refresher courses every two years (generally before the certificate expires) to ensure they are keeping their skills and knowledge up to date.

Q5. If my first aid certificate just expired recently, can I do a refresher?

No. Refresher courses are for maintenance and so need to be done at least one month before your existing certificate(s) expire to be valid 'refreshers'.

Once your certificate expires (previous full or refresher), you will need to complete a full course, with the required NZQA standards again.

Q6. What should refresher training include?

Refresher course will include, but are not limited to elements of first aid, CPR and life support.

As a minimum, pharmacist practising in primary care with direct patient contact must maintain competence in providing emergency first aid through completion of a refresher courses that include CPR equivalent to New Zealand Resuscitation Council (NZRC) Level 2 or NZQA Unit Standard 6402.

The areas you need to be aware of are that 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).

Q7. I am a qualified vaccinator, does this impact my first aid requirements?

The requirements for first aid/ resuscitation in vaccinator training (authorisation processes) are separate to Council's policy requirements.

You need to have done a comprehensive course/ refresher to meet Council's first aid policy (all NZQA standards). Alongside this, if you are a vaccinator, depending on your work and personal requirements, you will also need to make sure you renew your first aid requirements as per the [Immunisation Handbook](#).

Q8. What are the requirements if I am the designated workplace first aider?

WorkSafe New Zealand sets the requirements for designated workplace first aiders (DWFA). Refer to their requirements if you are completing training for that purpose and do refresher courses every two years to maintain currency as needed.

This role is separate to Council requirements and processes for our First Aid policy for registration. If you've done relevant training as part of being a DWFA and want to use that evidence for registration purposes with us you can – as long as the training meets our requirements also per Q1 (all NZQA standards, current at point of applying etc).

Q9. I am returning to practice after >3 years. What do I need to do?

See Q1 and Q5 above.

If you are going to be practising in a setting with direct patient care, you must have a current (not expired) first aid certificate from a comprehensive training course that covers all required NZQA Unit Standards.

If you don't have either a current comprehensive certificate or valid refreshers, you'll need to complete a new comprehensive training course that meets all NZQA standards.

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