



Health Practitioners (Protected Quality Assurance Activity—New Zealand Association of General Surgeons Practice Visit Programme) Notice 2019

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 (Protected Quality Assurance Activity—New Zealand Association of General Surgeons Practice Visit Programme) Notice 2019.

2 Commencement

This notice comes into force on the day after the date of its notification in the *Gazette*.

3 Interpretation

In this notice, **specified health practitioner** means a general surgeon who is—

- (a) registered with the New Zealand Association of General Surgeons; and
- (b) practising in New Zealand.

4 Declaration of protected quality assurance activity

- (1) The quality assurance activities set out in subclause (2) are protected to the extent that they are undertaken by the New Zealand Association of General Surgeons in relation to specified health practitioners.

- (2) The activities comprise collegial peer review of specified health practitioners, within their surgical work environment, and consist of—
- (a) a preliminary surgical audit; and
 - (b) a patient satisfaction questionnaire; and
 - (c) a practice profile survey; and
 - (d) observation of procedures; and
 - (e) a peer visit (which includes two-way feedback on the day, subsequently in writing, and a follow-up questionnaire); and
 - (f) interviews with colleagues and other staff; and
 - (g) a record review.

Dated at Wellington this 25th day of July 2019.

Hon Dr David Clark,
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 4* to be protected. Quality assurance activities are activities that are 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 purposes 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 remains in force for 5 years unless sooner revoked.

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**Health Practitioners (Protected Quality Assurance
Activity—New Zealand Association of General
Surgeons Practice Visit Programme) Notice 2019**

Issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2012.
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This notice is administered by the Ministry of Health.

Wellington, New Zealand:

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