DEATH CERTIFICATES - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

NZMA has sought clarification from the Ministry of Health and has confirmed the following information for death certificates:

Sometimes the certifying practitioner cannot identify a specific medical condition that an elderly person died from, especially when their health has been in general decline over a period of time.

In such cases it is OK to certify something along the lines of 'Inanition of old age', 'Frailty of old age', or even just 'Old age'. There is a cause of death code for old age but we don't like assigning that for people less than 80 years of age as we would expect them to have a specific medical diagnosis.
For all you need to know on medical certificate cause of death and more go to the online service accessible here.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: PGY1 POSITION ON DOCTORS IN TRAINING COUNCIL

Are you PGY1 in 2020?
Are you interested in medical policy in New Zealand?
Do you want to witness decision making processes in medical education and vocational training?
Keen to advocate for your colleagues and peers?

Your opportunity to be the PGY1 representative on our NZMA Doctors-in-Training Council (DiTC)

This role is open to all NZMA members who will be PGY1 in 2020 (i.e. trainee Interns who are graduating in November 2019). It offers a unique opportunity to experience and learn part of the work that NZMA does - a great opportunity to interact with senior colleagues from various medical and surgical fields.

Get those nominations in!

Refer to the information handbook or email for more information.

Nominations Close 4pm Friday 1 November 2019
NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR 2019/20 TEACHING AWARDS

The New Zealand Medical Association and New Zealand Medical Students' Association are pleased to open nominations for the [New Zealand Medical Teaching Awards](http://example.com).

We seek nominees who create/facilitate a positive learning environment; are innovative in teaching; are engaging in teaching; provide a unique contribution to teaching; show commitment and passion to education; exemplify professionalism; are excellent clinical role models; provide constructive feedback in an appropriate manner; go above and beyond their normal duties and actively seek feedback for continuous improvement.

Know someone like that - fill in the nomination form here.

Nominations close 4pm Friday 8 November 2019.
**DO YOU HAVE THE APPTITUDE TO INVOKE CHANGE?**
**MEDICAL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ON NZMA BOARD**

"In this position you will have the aptitude to invoke change and influence the most powerful leaders in our health system..."

*Jibi Kunnethedam, NZMA student representative*

Are you a medical student?
Are you interested in medical policy in New Zealand?
Are you keen to understand more about medical policy and medical governance?
Do you want to be part of the governance of the NZMA?

If you answered yes to the above then put your name forward to be the student representative on the NZMA Board.

**What to do.**
Write a 200 word bio on why you want to be the next student representative and what you can bring to the NZMA Board. Email this, with your contact details along with a head and shoulder image of you to [NZMA](mailto:nzma@nzma.org.nz).

**What happens next?**
If there is more than one nominee there will be an election held using Simply Voting an independent electronic ballot system.

**Nominations Close 4pm Friday 1 November 2019**

Refer to the [information handbook](https://www.nzma.org.nz/information-handbook) or [email elections](mailto:email.elections@nzma.org.nz) for more information.

---

**2019 TRAINEE INTERN PRIZE - BE IN TO WIN $500 VOUCHER**

**Calling all Trainee interns**
Upgrade your NZMA membership from TI to RMO status **before Friday 8 November 2019** and be in the draw to win one of two $500 Noel Leeming gift cards.

Only $10 per month for your PGY1 year if you sign up by direct debit payment—less than buying a coffee/tea per week.

[Sign up here](https://www.nzma.org.nz/traineeIntern) or [email to enter directly](mailto:email.elections@nzma.org.nz) and be in to win.
SUBMISSION TO THE PODIATRIST BOARD ON PROPOSAL FOR
PODIATRIST PRESCRIBING

While the NZMA is supportive, in principle, of podiatrists having the ability to
prescribe appropriate non-systemic medication for foot care, and to have access to
analgesics and local anaesthetics for procedures, we have a number of concerns with the
range of medicines that are on the list.

These concerns stem from the risks to public health and safety that could arise from
possible drug interactions with systemic medication (particularly when podiatrists may
not have access to a patient’s full medical history or drug history), fragmentation of care,
and inadequate management of underlying disease processes.

Read the full submission here.

SUBMISSIONS: PHARMAC APPROVES

PHARMAC’s proposal for widened access to LIUS has been approved. The NZMA strongly
supported this proposal in a recent submission. This means that from 1 November 2019:

- The Special Authority and Hospital restrictions for LIUS 52 mg (Mirena) will be
  removed, meaning that women will be able to access funded LIUS 52 mg for any
  use, including contraception.
- A new LIUS 13.5 mg (Jaydess) will be funded with no restriction.

You can find out more about this decision and the consultation feedback received in the
notification, which is available on the PHARMAC website.
TOOLKIT ENCOURAGES STAFF AND SENIOR LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT IN INFECTION PREVENTION

This International Infection Prevention and Control Week (13–19 October 2019), the Health Quality & Safety Commission is encouraging hospital staff and senior leaders in infection prevention and control (IPC) to take part in walk rounds.

The Commission has published a toolkit and implementation guide to support district health boards (DHBs) to introduce IPC walk rounds because of their many benefits.

The toolkit and guide are designed to help hospital staff plan and engage executive and senior leaders in IPC walk rounds, capture issues and suggestions, and develop and implement improvements.

More information about the IPC walk rounds toolkit and implement guide can be found on the Commission website.

MEASLES UPDATE

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education have signed a memorandum of understanding, so they can work together to help prevent the spread of measles in schools.

There have been more than 1800 cases of measles in New Zealand since the start of 2019 and most of these cases have been in unvaccinated people, or in those who do not know their vaccination status.

The memorandum of understanding will allow information on schools' overall vaccination rates - the number and percentage of students in schools who are fully
vaccinated against measles - to be calculated by the Ministry of Health using the National Immunisation Register and shared with local public health officers. This will give them a better understanding of schools' overall rates of immunity against measles.

"Our top priority is to stop this measles outbreak and protect our most vulnerable. Effectively containing the spread of measles requires information and planning, including understanding of potential sources of infection, says the Ministry of Health's Director of Public Health, Dr Caroline McElnay.

PHASE TWO OF THE HEALTH AND DISABILITY SYSTEM REVIEW

Victoria University of Wellington recently hosted a seminar with Professor Peter Crampton talking on Phase Two of the Health and Disability System Review. Unfortunately the session was unable to be recorded - however you can access the presentation here.

GP STRAWMAN & HEALTH AND DISABILITY REVIEW

For some time now the sector has been debating various funding and business models for General Practice. NZMA has sought the views of GP members along the way and preferred options have ranged from the status quo, to minor modifications and radical change.

The Health and Disability Sector System Review gives us further opportunity to consider options in an environment where change is not only possible but being championed.

GP Strawman Scenarios

We have developed three ‘strawman’ scenarios for discussion and critique. In this way we can be more focused on what might be possible as opposed to just discussing the limitations or otherwise of the current model.

We ask our GP members to review the three ‘strawman’ options and let us know what you think. If you don’t have time to add any narrative a simple statement of support or
opposition for each would also be helpful.

You can access the word document here - this document is set to A3 sizing for ease of reading, and you may wish to adjust your printer if you want to print A4. You may find the document downloads in the bottom left corner as opposed to a tab at the top.

Please add your comments at the bottom of the table, save the document and email back to NZMA or if you cannot download the document email us at NZMA and we can email you the word document.

---

**Quote of the week**

*It's not the mountain we conquer but ourselves.*

*Sir Edmund Hillary*

---

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

and situations vacant

NZMA offers members free classifieds and vacancy advertisements. Check out NZMJ website’s Vacancies page and you may just find your dream opportunity.

Latest vacancies and classifieds include the following - just click on the vacancy/classified ad to be taken to the full ad:

- Locum GP wanted | Auckland (Closes 4 November 2019)
- Contacts and Growth Manager | Auckland (Closes 6 November 2019)
- GP Required | Te Puke (Closes 20 November 2019)
- Medical Practitioner, Royal Flying Doctor Service | Australia (Closes 18 October)
- Consultant Physician | New Plymouth (Closes 30 November 2019)
- Part-Time GP Required | Mapua, Nelson (Closes 31 October 2019)

**Classifieds**

For Sale | GP Practice Central Auckland Suburb

Members advertise for free - classifieds and/or vacancies via Hotline.
UPCOMING EVENTS

View our upcoming health sector events - go to the NZMA events page on our website for the full list.

DOCTORS WELLNESS RETREAT AT FALCONS RISE ALPACA FARM

21-24 November 2019

The Doctors Wellness Retreat at Falcons Rise Alpaca Farm is a three-day programme designed by health professionals for health professionals. The venue is a 30-acre alpaca farm set high above the vineyards in Marlborough, New Zealand in which to interact with a small group of up to five doctors from a range of specialties. Issues which confront medical practitioners in today’s environment are discussed with a focus on learning practical tools to reduce stress and to enhance well-being. There is a diverse range of interactive sessions and activities including discussions on values, burnout, vicarious trauma and self-care, with practical sessions including yoga, mindfulness, art and bushwalking, leading to the development of individual wellness plans.

Dr Helen Austin leads the Retreat team and is a consultant psychiatrist with a long-standing interest in the areas of reflective supervision and physician health, and all the facilitators are mental health professionals with health and wellbeing qualifications.
MENTAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

4 - 5 December 2019, Te Wharewaka Tapere, Wellington

Gain practical insights from the Conference on how to:

- Set your own organisational journey & vision on mental health and addiction
- Create a strategic vision around the recommended standards and Inquiry implementations
- Build from the ground up with synergy across the sector
- Strengthen personal identity and connection to community for Maori & Pacific Communities.

Including specific case studies about:

- Building links between addiction, mental health and social disconnection
- Increasing diversion from criminal justice to MH & addiction related pathways
- Building ongoing relationships with a new type of mental health patient
- Digital Health & Patient Panel – get to know the other side.

[Click here](https://www.falconsrise.com) for more information or to Register.

Visit [www.falconsrise.com](https://www.falconsrise.com) for further information, to book your place or to express interest in future Retreats.
NZMA MEMBERS NO COST ADVERTISING

NZMA offers members the opportunity to place vacancies for personnel in the NZMJ and Vital Signs free of charge.

Reach the medical professionals you want as many do week on week.

NZMA MEMBER WESTPAC PERSONAL AND BUSINESS BANKING BENEFITS

Westpac’s long partnership with the NZMA to support the financial wellbeing of New Zealand’s medical professionals provides our members with a range of benefits including:

- an all-in-one, low cost business banking option
- discounted merchant rates
- a range of personal banking benefits including discounted home loans

To find out more about Westpac and their NZMA Banking Package deals for business and personal banking visit the financial benefits section of our website.

Are you employing new staff?

The Employment Relations Act sets out a process that an employer must follow when employing new staff. This process differs depending on whether the employer uses a collective employment agreement in their business or not, and whether the employee is a union member. The NZMA has a member resource on these processes.

Also, all employees must have a written employment agreement. If you employ staff that are not covered under the Primary Health Care Multi Employer Collective Agreement (PHC MECA) we have a generic individual employment agreement with explanatory
notes and a casual individual employment agreement.

These advisory service flyers are available for NZMA members to download from our website. You must be logged in to view and/or download the following advisory service resources.

- New Employee Checklist
- Sample employment agreements

Or you can email Robyn Fell for copies.

- Employment Agreements for New Employees
- Individual Employment Agreement and Explanatory notes
- Casual Employment Agreement

Vital Signs is your weekly bulletin about the NZMA and 'what's hot'.

unsubscribe | update subscription preferences

New Zealand Medical Association
Level 5 NZMA House, 26 The Terrace
Wellington, Wellington 6140
New Zealand

Add us to your address book
| Ph (04) 472 4741 | Fax (04) 471 0838

Email: communications@nzma.org.nz | Visit our website: www.nzma.org.nz