



NEW ZEALAND  
**CHIROPRACTIC BOARD**  
TE POARI KAIKOROHITI O AOTEAROA

## POLICY AND GUIDELINES:

NEWLY REGISTERED OVERSEAS-TRAINED PRACTITIONERS:  
RECERTIFICATION PROGRAMME

April 2020

## Associated Policy Documents

- CPD Recertification programme

## Revision Schedule

Version	Date Approved	Next Review
One	01 April 2020	April 2023

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) provides a framework for the regulation of health care providers. The principal purpose of the Act, as set out in section 3, is:

*“to protect the health and safety of members of the public by providing mechanisms to ensure that health practitioners are competent and fit to practise their professions.”*

2. Among other responsibilities set out in section 118 of the Act, it is the Chiropractic Board’s (the Board’s) role to recognise, accredit and set programmes to ensure the ongoing competence of health practitioners. These programmes are referred to as recertification programmes under section 41 of the Act.
3. The Board has identified that chiropractors who have completed their primary training in a jurisdiction other than New Zealand do not receive education in aspects of healthcare unique to New Zealand. There are public health and safety risks associated with the failure of a health practitioner to understand the legal, cultural and structural environment in which healthcare services are being provided. The Board has therefore set a recertification programme under section 41(3)(f) of the Act, requiring all chiropractors whose primary qualification was not obtained in New Zealand, and who register or re-register as a chiropractor after the date of the programme’s introduction, to complete education on practising in the New Zealand context.
4. This recertification programme is an additional requirement to the Board’s CPD recertification programme for practising chiropractors; however, education undertaken as part of this programme will count towards required hours for that programme where the individual chiropractor can link the education to a rationale and learning objective, and reviews and reflects on learning as appropriate.

## 2. NEW REGISTRANT RECERTIFICATION PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

### CORE REQUIREMENTS

1. This recertification programme applies to all chiropractors who:
  - a. did not obtain their primary chiropractic qualification in a New Zealand training institution and obtained registration with the New Zealand Chiropractic Board on or after the date that this recertification programme is implemented;
  - b. have registered via the provisions of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997 and do not hold a qualification from a New Zealand training institution;
  - c. did not obtain their primary chiropractic qualification in a New Zealand training institution and are re-registering having previously been removed from the Register for any reason more than three years prior to the date of their application for re-registration.
2. All chiropractors to whom this recertification programme applies must successfully complete the following three-training courses relevant to the practice of chiropractic in New Zealand:
  - i. [Mauriora: Foundation course in cultural competence](#)

- ii. [Clarify: Overview of the New Zealand Health Sector](#)
  - iii. [Clarify: Obligations of Health Practitioners under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003](#)
3. Costs associated with completing the requirements of this recertification programme will be met by the individual chiropractor.
  4. Evidence of completion of all three courses (by way of certificates of completion) must be provided to the Board ([admin@chiropracticboard.org.nz](mailto:admin@chiropracticboard.org.nz)) within three-months of the date of registration of the chiropractor. Chiropractors must supply all three certificates in one email.
  5. This recertification programme comes into force on 01 April 2020 and applies to all chiropractors whose registration is approved after 01 April 2020.

## CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

6. This recertification programme is a key aspect of the Board's obligations to ensure that chiropractors who did not train in New Zealand are competent to practise within the New Zealand context, having regard to the unique legal, cultural and structural elements of the provision of healthcare services in New Zealand. The Board will take a serious view of any failure to comply with requirements.
7. Under section 43 of the Act, the Board has the power to make the following orders in relation to any participant who fails to satisfy the requirements of a recertification programme:
  - a. that the chiropractors' scope of practice be altered –
  - b. by changing any health services that the chiropractor is permitted to perform; or
  - c. by including any condition or conditions that the authority considers appropriate;
  - d. that the chiropractor's registration be suspended.
8. Failure to satisfy the requirements of this recertification programme include, but are not limited to:
  - failure to successfully complete the required courses within the specified timeframe;
  - failure to provide evidence of having successfully completed the required courses within the specified timeframe.
9. Where it appears that a chiropractor has failed to satisfy the requirements of the recertification programme, the chiropractors will be invited to provide comments, and the matter will be referred to the Board for consideration of whether to exercise its powers under section 43 of the Act. The Board will consider each referral on a case-by-case basis, considering any relevant considerations regarding the individual chiropractor's circumstances and reasons for failing to meet requirements.

## 3. EXEMPTIONS

1. Section 41(5) of the Act allows the Board to exempt any chiropractor from all or any of the requirements of this recertification programme. The Board exempts all chiropractors who already hold registration on the date this recertification programme comes into force, and all

chiropractors who obtained their primary chiropractic qualification in a New Zealand training institution.

2. The Board may consider an application for an extension, or exemption from some or all requirements of the recertification programme where the applicant can provide evidence of extenuating circumstances limiting the applicant's ability to meet requirements. Exemptions are likely to be granted only in exceptional circumstances and are highly unlikely to be granted retrospectively. The Board strongly recommends that any application for exemption is made as soon as the individual becomes aware, they may have difficulty meeting requirements. The Board is generally unlikely to exempt chiropractors who register in preparation for practice in New Zealand but delay applying for a practising certificate beyond the three-month timeframe allowed by this recertification programme.

#### 4. REVIEW OF POLICY

1. The Board will review this policy periodically. Minor amendments for administrative purposes may be made without consultation, however, where the Board considers that a proposed amendment(s) amounts to a substantive change in recertification requirements, the Board will consult with stakeholders before deciding whether to implement the proposed amendment(s).