



Veterinary Council Update 5th July 2014

1. Veterinary Workforce Issues – Your views sought

The Veterinary Council convened a one day workshop in November 2013 on the issues the veterinary workforce in New Zealand faces.

The groups represented at the workshop included VCNZ, NZVA, Massey University, Federated Farmers, MPI, Landcorp, Fonterra, VetSouth, Taranaki Vet Centre, Pet Drs, Health Workforce (Ministry of Health), and the Australian Veterinary Association.

Very valuable data on the NZ veterinary workforce is generated from the survey vets complete with their Annual Practising Certificate renewal documentation. The 2012/13 Workforce Analysis, available [here](#), informed the workshop discussions.

The write-up from the workshop is available [here](#).

The Council would appreciate receiving your comments on the questions posed, issues raised and actions proposed in the write up. In particular the Council would like the views of individuals and groups not represented at the workshop.

Please send your comments by email to registrar@vetcouncil.org.nz or post to:

The Registrar
Veterinary Council of New Zealand
P O Box 10-563
Wellington 6143

The deadline for receipt of comments is **5 pm, Friday 1 August**.

2. NZVA Guide to Veterinary Authorising (Prescribing) and Dispensing

The previous ACVM approved Code of Practice for Veterinarians writing Prescriptions (Appendix 3 of the 2007 version of the Code of Professional Conduct) lapsed following changes to the ACVM legislation.

NZVA has subsequently developed very useful guidance for veterinarians in this area. You can view this [here](#). The guide contains detail on the obligations of veterinarians when authorising (prescribing) and dispensing (human) prescription medicines and restricted veterinary medicines and how to comply with these obligations.

The Council considers that this is a valuable resource for practising veterinarians and seeks your views to inform its decision to endorse the document.

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3. Importation of Restricted Veterinary Medicines (RVMs) using a Veterinary Script

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has noticed an increase in the ordering of RVMs from overseas by members of the general public by way of a valid veterinary "prescription".

New Zealand veterinarians can only authorise the purchase of RVMs from another veterinary clinic or an approved RVM seller in New Zealand.

MPI asks that veterinarians issuing authorisations make it very clear to the client at the point of providing the "script" that it is illegal for them to order any RVM from overseas, and that any attempt to do so will result in the drug being seized at the border. Seized drugs will incur costs to either have the drug returned to the sender or have the drug destroyed.

If a veterinarian wishes to authorise an RVM not available in New Zealand, the veterinarian must apply for an Approval in Special Circumstances from MPI and manage the importation of the product themselves. Even with an Approval in Special Circumstances, clients must not directly import products that require veterinary control.