



VCNZ e-update: July 2015

1. Council Survey

Council is seeking your views on its performance and how we communicate with you. Feedback from the survey will help inform Council's strategic planning. Please take the time to tell us what you think about how we're doing.

You can complete the survey online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/vetcouncil>

Or download a copy from our website News & Issues page [here](#)

If you would like a paper copy posted to you, please contact helen.shanks@vetcouncil.org.nz

The survey closes on **Monday 3 August**.

2. Tweaks to the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Framework

a) Returning to annual CPD declarations for the previous calendar year

Vets are used to declaring their CPD for the previous calendar year in applications for a practising certificate.

This year, for reasons that were valid at the time, we asked you to declare the number of CPD points collected in the previous 3 year period ending 30 June.

This was a mistake. The change to the CPD year was confusing and many vets continued to provide CPD information for one year only resulting in 'not achieved' messages from the online system.

We've listened to your feedback and plan to return to annual CPD declarations for the previous calendar year in the next APC renewal round.

If you disagree, please let us know by emailing [vet@vetcouncil.org.nz](mailto:veter@vetcouncil.org.nz) by **17 July**.

b) CPD compliance monitoring

Reverting to a calendar year means that auditing (of the CPD undertaken in the 3 previous years) will now take place in February and March. If necessary, we can extend the validity of APCs if the audit process is not complete by the renewal date (1 April).

The selection criteria for audit will continue to be:

- 50% randomly selected
- 50% selected from a targeted pool made up of those with a history of minimal CPD and/or those who have had upskilling recommendations made following a recent complaint or concern notification.

We will be phoning some of you later in the year to let you know you've been selected to have your CPD records audited and will follow up with an emailed letter and detailed instructions.

In the meantime, please make sure you can easily provide details and verifying evidence of your CPD if called upon to do so. Remember that for audit purposes you only need to show compliance with the minimum requirements. We prefer that you record all of your CPD; but if selected for audit you don't need to provide verification for activities you've completed beyond the minimum points requirements. But do allow some leeway; in case your auditor questions some of the activities you've recorded.

c) Review of CPD framework

In the four years since the introduction of the compulsory CPD framework there have been a number of developments in NZ and overseas on ways to maintain and enhance performance. We've also received a lot of suggestions from veterinarians on how the current system could be enhanced, or better cater to their individual situations.

Rather than address these on a piecemeal basis, we are planning a review of the current CPD framework in 2016/17, by a working party which will include NZVA, IVABs and MPI representation. We will ask for your feedback at that time.

3. s29 medicines: Essential animal welfare medications

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Group has recently adjusted its rules for the approval process for Section 29 medicines. The change is the result of collaboration between ACVM, VCNZ and NZVA.

Essential animal welfare medications are products MPI and the veterinary community consider:

- are needed to avoid unnecessary or unreasonable pain or distress (i.e. animal is likely to die, have to be euthanized, or will suffer significant pain or distress without medication)
- must be available for immediate use when cases arise
- there is not likely to be any party who is prepared to register them as a trade name product in New Zealand
- there is no practical alternative registered veterinary medicine or consented human medicine available in New Zealand.

To address the immediate animal welfare problem the rules have been amended and veterinarians can now apply for an approval in special circumstances to import and hold any of the specific essential animal welfare medications listed below:

- Doxapram (Dopram) 20mg/ml, 5ml injection
- Phenobarbital (Phenobarbitone) 200mg/ml injection
- Piroxicam 10mg tablets
- Prednisolone 5mg tablets (28s)
- Selegiline (Apo Selegine) 5mg tablets
- Trazadone tablets (Desyrel) 50mg and 150mg capsules
- Zonisamide (Zonegran) 100mg capsules

The veterinarian granted the approval will be responsible for:

- importing the medication and controlling its storage and security;
- use of the medication in the practice (including use by any other veterinarian in the same practice);
- reconciliation of use/stock; and
- disposal after expiry.

The responsible veterinarian must keep records and those records must be made available to MPI if requested.

To find out more see [Essential Animal Welfare Medications in the ACVM June News and Views](#)

VCNZ is continuing to work MPI and NZVA on further ways to improve veterinary access to these products.

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