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Dr Nick Chamberlain
Chair of the National DHB Chief Executives
C/- Northland DHB
Private Bag 9742
WHANGAREI 0148

By email: Nick.Chamberlain@northlanddhb.org.nz

Tēna Koe Dr Nick Chamberlain

New Zealand COVID-19 Vaccine immunisation Service Standards compatibility with the RNZCGP Quality Programmes.

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (the College) is the largest medical college in New Zealand. Our membership of 5,500 general practitioners comprises almost 40 percent of New Zealand's specialist medical workforce. Our kaupapa is to set and maintain education and quality standards for general practice, and to support our members to provide competent and equitable patient care.

To assist the Ministry of Health with a general practice rollout of Covid-19 Vaccinations, the College recently completed a mapping exercise between its current Foundation Standard and the New Zealand COVID-19 Vaccine immunisation Service Standards (NZCVIS Standard) (appendix A). The exercise demonstrated equivalency/overlap/comparability of the Foundation Standard to the NZCVIS Standard, except for areas directly related to COVID-19 vaccination administration, management and storage.

For a successful COVID-19 vaccination roll out, it is critical that general practices are able to vaccinate their patients.

Practices who hold RNZCGP Foundation Standard meet the standards required for all other vaccinations. PHOs assess practices against these standards to ensure that they are met on an on-going basis. The College has met with the MOH to discuss where these standards align with the Covid Vaccine Immunisation Programme standards and we have identified the small number of additional requirements that exist. It is the College's expectation that where a practice can demonstrate that it has met Foundation Standards, DHBs will not require those aspects of the programme standards that align, to be re-evidenced.

The Foundation Standard provides a robust framework, to enable compliance against standards and enables general practices to demonstrate that they deliver a variety of procedures and services safely, competently and collaboratively. If practices are required to complete the NZCVIS Standard, then it would be a duplication of a validated standard. Being hindered by excessive requirements will impede the vaccine implementation process in general practice. The College has verified that Foundation Standard Certified practices meet the standard to deliver safe, equitable and high quality COVID19 vaccination services.

Vaccination programmes are an integral part of general practice. General practice staff are well versed in the range of processes, skills and resources needed to vaccinate large percentages of the population. With the high trust relationship between patients and their general practitioner, patients have voiced their preference for receiving COVID-19 vaccines at their general practice.

Specific patient procedures, vaccinations or services are not defined within the Foundation Standard, instead, General Practices are equipped with the tools and skills to develop relevant policies/protocols and procedures as required. Consequently, elements such as infection control, health and safety, equity, cultural safety, patient engagement, auditing, clinical governance, privacy and security and the Code of Rights are implicit in all activities across general practice.

We look forward to working together on the COVID19 Vaccination roll out for general practices.

Appendices:

1. The College's Quality Programmes.
2. Comparative summary between the Foundation Standard and the New Zealand Covid-19 Vaccine immunisation Service Standards.
3. The original mapping exercise between the College's Foundation Standard and the New Zealand Covid-19 Vaccine immunisation Service Standards.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Bryan Betty
MBChB, FRNZCGP, FACRRM
Medical Director | Mātanga Hauora

