



Policy on authorisations to provide secondary maternity services

Policy statement

This policy explains the requirements to be met to allow doctors with vocational registration in Rural Hospital Medicine or General Practice to obtain an authorisation to provide secondary maternity services, in addition to the practice permitted within their vocational scope of practice.

In all cases, the doctor would need to be credentialed as being competent, skilled and experienced to provide the particular services.

Background

The rural generalist model is based on two key elements:

1. doctors with existing vocational registration in Rural Hospital Medicine or General Practice acquiring an advanced RANZCOG qualification (DRANZCOG Advanced); and
2. Council 'authorising' doctors with this additional qualification to provide secondary maternity services, in addition to the practice permitted within their vocational scope of practice.

What services does an authorisation allow?

Doctors granted the authorisation may undertake secondary maternity service delivery in the absence of an onsite Obstetrician and Gynaecologist as part of an obstetrics and gynaecology service. This could include complex deliveries, emergency gynaecological procedures and basic early and late pregnancy ultrasound scanning.

The doctor would need to be credentialed as being competent, skilled and experienced to provide the particular services. 'Rural generalists' credentialed with an enhanced skill set in Procedural Obstetrics would be able to practise procedural obstetrics when providing secondary maternity services.

What qualification is required

To be approved, doctors are required to have either Advanced DRANZCOG skills or some other formally recognised training in procedural obstetrics approved by Council for the purposes of this policy. The DRANZCOG Advanced is a postgraduate diploma awarded by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG).

Recertification programme requirements

Doctors with this authorisation must satisfy any continuing education programme requirements of their respective colleges related to this authorisation*, in addition to the recertification requirements expected of doctors registered in their vocational scope of practice.

Register

Details relating to an amended scope of practice will be published on the online register in the following format:

Vocational Scope of Practice

Dr [Name] is participating in an approved recertification programme relevant to the vocational scope of General Practice.

Conditions

Under section 21 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003: Effective from [date]: Dr [Name]'s vocational scope of general practice is extended to allow Dr [Name] to provide secondary maternity services in accordance with the relevant Council policy and recertification requirements.

Annual authorisation required

Authorisations under this policy will only be valid for one year. At the end of the year further application to Council is required. Application requirements include evidence that the applicant has maintained compliance with the recertification requirements outlined above.

* Currently RANZCOG maintenance of competence is achieved through the following steps:

1. A block of clinical activity on Birthing Suite of Christchurch Women's Hospital every 8-12 weeks for all RG's working in procedural obstetrics at WCDHB
2. A nominated peer (along the lines of a collegial relationship) who is a vocationally registered O&G at CWH
3. Participation in relevant aspects of the RANZCOG accredited recertification programme for this SOP2

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