



Health Practitioners (Quality Assurance Activity: Vascular Surgeons) Notice 2003

Pursuant to section 54 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the Minister of Health gives the following notice.

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Notice

1 Title

This notice is the Health Practitioners (Quality Assurance Activity: Vascular Surgeons) Notice 2003.

2 Commencement

This notice comes into force on the day after the date of its notification in the *Gazette*.

3 Declaration of protected quality assurance activity

The New Zealand Society of Vascular Surgery National Vascular Audit Activity described in the Schedule is a protected quality assurance activity.

4 Revocation

The Medical Practitioners (Quality Assurance Activity: Vascular Surgeons) Notice 1998 (SR 1998/359) is revoked.

Schedule

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**Description of New Zealand Society of Vascular
Surgery National Vascular Audit Activity****1 Objective**

The objective of the activity is to improve the practices and competence of health services performed by health practitioners engaged in the activity.

2 Method

- (1) The activity is based on information derived from members of the New Zealand Society of Vascular Surgery.
- (2) The activity involves—
 - (a) the study of reports made by vascular surgeons about incidents and outcomes that have taken place during or resulted from vascular surgery; and
 - (b) the analysis of those incidents and outcomes; and
 - (c) the discussion of the identified incidents and outcomes in the Departments of Surgery of the hospitals where they occurred, as part of auditing—
 - (i) surgical processes; and
 - (ii) incidents of morbidity and mortality; and
 - (d) the making of recommendations on how vascular surgeons who are engaging in the activity can improve their performance so as to—
 - (i) improve the quality of care they provide; and
 - (ii) reduce the incidence of adverse incidents and outcomes; and
 - (e) the compilation of information obtained from the reports to create a national database of incidents and outcomes; and
 - (f) the reporting back to vascular surgeons at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Vascular Surgeons on—
 - (i) trends in the information collected in the database; and
 - (ii) any changes in the practices of vascular surgeons that are desirable in order to respond to the trends and outcomes.

Dated at Wellington this 19th day of December 2003.

Hon Annette King,
Minister of Health.

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the notice, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This notice declares the quality assurance activity called the New Zealand Society of Vascular Surgery National Vascular Audit Activity to be a protected quality assurance activity. The effect of this declaration is that, subject to certain exceptions,—

- any information that becomes known solely as a result of the activity is confidential; and
- any documents brought into existence solely for the purposes of the activity are confidential; and
- the persons who engage in the activity in good faith are immune from civil liability.

Under section 54(4) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, this notice remains in force for a period of 5 years after the date on which it is issued, unless it is sooner revoked.

This notice revokes the earlier expired medical practitioners quality assurance activity notice that declared the New Zealand Society of Vascular Surgeons National Vascular Audit Activity to be a quality assurance activity for the purposes of the quality assurance provisions of the Medical Practitioners Act 1995, which have been repealed by the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

Issued under the authority of the Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989.
Date of notification in *Gazette*: 8 January 2004.
This notice is administered in the Ministry of Health.
