



MCNZ Statement on Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Summary of proposed changes

31 July 2017

The Medical Council is revising its statement on complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), and is seeking input. The **key proposed changes** are:

1. Adding a clause stating that CAM must be practiced according to the professional, legal and ethical obligations as a doctor.
2. Highlighting the importance of documenting all CAM therapies used.
3. Acknowledging specific cultural contexts for CAM, such as Rongoā, and patients' rights to be treated with respect.
4. Adding a section called "Ensuring patients make informed choices", emphasising the importance of good communication and professional manner, and expanding on approaches to discussing CAM helping patients evaluate assumptions about its benefits.
5. For those doctors who practice CAM:
 - Emphasising the caution to be taken in interpreting, and potentially misrepresenting, published data.
 - Adding guidance on the need to discuss comprehensively the benefits, side effects, history, and nature of CAM therapies, and how CAM is funded.
6. Adding a new section to provide guidance for doctors who are associated or are considering becoming associated with a CAM clinic, highlighting the importance of adhering both to MCNZ's statement on CAM and to NZ legislative standards.

Specific **changes to wording** are also being proposed, and the MCNZ also plans to **reorganise the clauses** in the statement to improve its flow.

You can read the MCNZ's full consultation paper, and a copy of the proposed revised statement (with track changes), on the NZRDA website [here](#)>

Questions and submissions on this consultation document can be addressed to Kanny Ooi (kooi@mcnz.org.nz or +64 4 381 6793) at MCNZ, or to us here at NZRDA (ask@nzrda.org.nz) to incorporate into a collective submission. Deadline for submissions is 29 September.

