



Health Practitioners (Quality Assurance Activities—Southern DHB) Notice 2010

Pursuant to section 54 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the Minister of Health, being satisfied of the matters set out in section 54(3) of that Act, gives the following notice.

Contents

		Page
1	Title	1
2	Commencement	1
3	Interpretation	2
4	Declaration of protected quality assurance activities	2
5	Revocation	2
	Schedule	2
	Description of Southern DHB Quality Assurance Activities	

Notice

- 1 Title**
This notice is the Health Practitioners (Quality Assurance Activities—Southern DHB) Notice 2010.
- 2 Commencement**
This notice comes into force on the day after the date of its notification in the *Gazette*.

3 Interpretation

In this notice, **Southern DHB** means the Southern District Health Board established under section 19 of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000.

4 Declaration of protected quality assurance activities

Each of the following quality assurance activities described in the Schedule is a protected quality assurance activity:

- (a) Southern DHB Clinical Audit Activity;
- (b) Southern DHB Morbidity and Mortality Review Activity;
- (c) Southern DHB Peer Review Activity.

5 Revocation

The Health Practitioners (Quality Assurance Activities—Otago District Health Board) Notice 2009 (SR 2009/156) is revoked.

Schedule

cl 4

Description of Southern DHB Quality Assurance Activities**1 Objective**

The objective of each of the quality assurance activities is to improve the practices and competence of health practitioners engaged in the activity by assessing the health services performed by those health practitioners.

2 Information

The quality assurance activities are based on information derived from health practitioners who provide health services on behalf of Southern DHB and who—

- (a) are employed by Southern DHB; or
- (b) are authorised by Southern DHB to provide health services; or
- (c) have an access agreement with Southern DHB.

3 Southern DHB Clinical Audit Activity

The Southern DHB Clinical Audit Activity involves—

- (a) conducting clinical audits on specific topics to review the clinical practices of multi-disciplinary health practitioner teams, including review of—
 - (i) diagnostic procedures; and
 - (ii) treatment decisions; and
 - (iii) resource allocations and usage; and
 - (iv) patient care processes; and
 - (v) outcomes of treatment and care for patients; and
- (b) comparing the results of clinical audits with relevant internal and external benchmarking standards; and
- (c) identifying clinical practices that do not conform with the benchmarking standards referred to in paragraph (b); and
- (d) introducing initiatives aimed at improving clinical practice to better ensure the benchmarking standards referred to in paragraph (b) are achieved.

4 Southern DHB Morbidity and Mortality Review Activity

The Southern DHB Morbidity and Mortality Review Activity involves the holding of meetings to—

- (a) discuss processes and practices that result in an outcome for patients that may, but need not, be an adverse outcome; and
- (b) make recommendations on how the health practitioners 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 outcomes; and
- (c) facilitate and monitor the implementation of any such recommendations.

5 Southern DHB Peer Review Activity

The Southern DHB Peer Review Activity involves—

- (a) holding peer review meetings to review the competence of health practitioners who are engaging in the activity; and

- (b) making recommendations on how any, or all, of the health practitioners engaging in the activity may improve their performance so as to—
 - (i) improve the quality of care they provide; and
 - (ii) reduce the incidence of adverse outcomes.

Dated at Wellington this 20th day of May 2010.

Hon Tony Ryall,
Minister of Health.

Explanatory note

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

This notice, which comes into force on the day after the date of its notification in the *Gazette*, declares 3 quality assurance activities sponsored by Southern DHB to be protected quality assurance activities. The effect of this declaration is that—

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

The protections afforded by this notice are subject to certain statutory exceptions. For example, this notice does not prohibit the disclosure of information that does not identify, either expressly or by implication, a particular individual.

This notice remains in force for a period of 5 years after the date on which it is issued, unless it is sooner revoked.

Southern DHB was established on the close of 30 April 2010 as a result of the merger of Southland DHB and Otago DHB. The notice declaring the protected quality assurance activities of Southland

DHB expired on 28 April 2010. The notice declaring the protected quality assurance activities of Otago DHB is revoked by this notice.

Issued under the authority of the Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989.
Date of notification in *Gazette*: 3 June 2010.
This notice is administered by the Ministry of Health.
