

27 May 2016

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### **Draft Health and Safety at Work Guidelines for Specialists**

Dear Rose

Thank you for inviting the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) to provide feedback on the above document. The NZMA is New Zealand's largest medical organisation, with more than 5,500 members from all areas of medicine. The NZMA aims to provide leadership of the medical profession, and to promote professional unity and values, and the health of all New Zealanders.

We welcome the development of the above guidelines and consider them to be reasonable. Our main suggestion is for the addition of wording which recommends that all staff in a private hospital, including visiting specialists, are properly inducted into the workplace. They need to be made aware of correct health and safety procedures and advised of obvious hazards. Such advice could be incorporated as part of paragraph 21 in the existing draft. We also note that there is some wording missing prior to the word 'who' in the first sentence of paragraph 22. A suggestion has also been made that paragraph 13 could make reference to the worksafe template for hazard identification to assist specialists in maintaining a hazard register.

Finally, we consider that the draft guidelines would benefit from a concluding statement emphasising the importance of embedding health and safety into the culture of the workplace. Suggested wording could be along the following lines: *"This isn't just about the legislation. It is about the proper care of your staff, your patients and yourselves. Good health and safety practices should be embedded into the culture of your workplace"*.

We hope that our feedback has been helpful and look forward to seeing the finalised guidelines.

Yours sincerely



Dr Stephen Child  
NZMA Chair