

8 April 2021

Kanny Ooi
Senior Policy Adviser & Researcher
Medical Council of New Zealand

By email: consultation@mcnz.org.nz

Review of statement on a doctor's duty to help in a medical emergency

Dear Kanny

Thank you for inviting the NZMA to provide feedback on Council's draft updated statement on a doctor's duty to help in a medical emergency. As you know, the NZMA is New Zealand's largest medical organisation, with about 5,000 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. Our submission has been informed by feedback from our Board, Advisory Councils and members.

We welcome Council's review and update of its 2006 statement. We note the main changes Council is proposing include the following:

- re-ordering of some paragraphs and re-written in plain language
- describing what a medical emergency is for the purposes of the statement
- clarifying a doctor's obligations in a medical emergency
- addition of a new section on debriefing after the event.

We are supportive of Council's proposed changes to the 2006 statement which we believe strengthen and improve the document. We particularly welcome the addition of a new section on debriefing after the event. Our main suggestion relates to the specific scenario of a medical emergency on an international flight where there is some uncertainty over jurisdiction. We believe that it would be useful for the statement to provide some guidance to help doctors who find themselves in this situation. Finally, we also suggest Council use gender neutral pronouns such as 'they' instead of 'he' or 'she' in this as well as in future statements.

We hope our feedback is helpful and look forward to seeing the finalised statement.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kate Baddock
NZMA Chair