

4 June 2021

Joan Simeon  
Chief Executive  
Medical Council of New Zealand

By email: [consultation@mcnz.org.nz](mailto:consultation@mcnz.org.nz)

### **Statement on conducting medical assessments for third parties**

Dear Joan,

Thank you for inviting the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) to provide feedback on the above consultation. 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 and Advisory Councils.

Conducting medical assessments for third parties is a tricky area of medicine requiring standards that need to be clear. We note that the updated draft statement retains the content from the 2010 statement but has been re-organised and re-written for better clarity and navigation. Our view is that the updated statement is well written with a tone and format that is very good and clear.

While the 2010 statement included the NZMA Code of Ethics as a relevant resource, the draft updated statement does not mention this resource. We suggest that Council retain reference to the Code of Ethics in the updated statement. Recommendation 16 in the Code of Ethics relates specifically to performing an assessment on behalf of a third party, and states the following:<sup>1</sup>

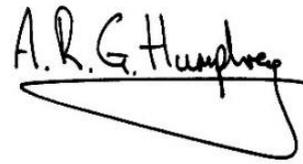
*Where a doctor is performing an assessment on behalf of a third party, the patient must be clearly informed of the identity of the third party, the purpose of the assessment and the limits of confidentiality. Where the assessment occurs in the context of a treating relationship, the patient should be made aware that the doctor is ethically obliged to provide a complete and professional report.*

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<sup>1</sup> NZMA. Code of Ethics for the New Zealand Medical Profession. June 2020. Available from <https://www.nzma.org.nz/publications/code-of-ethics>

We have no further feedback on this statement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. R. G. Humphrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right and then loops back under the "y".

Dr Alistair Humphrey  
NZMA Chair