

Practitioner Competencies

Throughout the handbook personnel considered appropriate to deliver each component of care are described. These include Lead Maternity Carers, well child providers, general practice teams, vision hearing screeners and authorised vaccinators.

It is the employer's responsibility to ensure practitioners are competent to deliver well child care. In particular, well child providers must ensure registered nurses and/or general practitioners form part of their team and that these practitioners have met the competency requirements of their professional bodies as outlined below. All other well child practitioners within the team must have received education relevant to the component of care they are providing and must receive guidance and supervision of their practice from the registered nurse or general practitioner.

Participation in relevant ongoing professional development as well as regular professional supervision is fundamental to maintaining current competence in well child care and is the responsibility of the employer, the practitioner and their professional body.

It is expected that all practitioners will have received specific education in:

- the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and its implementation in achieving positive health gains for Māori
- how to identify, support and refer victims of interpersonal violence with a particular focus on child abuse and on partner abuse. The service must have protocols in place to ensure safety of children and to support staff in this intervention
- disability awareness to ensure disabled children and disabled carers are given appropriate access and support.

Practitioners also require competencies in assessment skills. Assessment of health need, and assessment of child health, are distinctive components of a health care model and take into account the environment, the community, and the family situation as this impacts on the health and development of the child. So that practitioners can develop such competencies, baseline knowledge of community health is required.

Lead Maternity Carer (LMC)

- an authorised practitioner who is vocationally registered as an obstetrician in the register of medical practitioners maintained by the Medical Council of New Zealand and who holds an a current annual practising certificate issued by that Council
- or**
- an authorised practitioner who is vocationally registered as a general practitioner in the register of medical practitioners maintained by the Medical Council of New Zealand (or its successor) and who holds a current annual practising certificate issued by that Council
- or**
- an authorised practitioner who is a midwife whose name is included in the register maintained by the Nursing Council of New Zealand and who holds an a current annual practising certificate issued by that Council

Paediatrician

- paediatrician who is a fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (or is working under supervision until competencies are achieved)

General Practice Team (GPT)

- general medical practitioner who has met the competencies for Child Health/Well Child approved by the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (or is working under supervision until competencies are achieved)
or
- registered general and obstetric nurse, or registered comprehensive nurse who has met the competencies for Child Health/Well Child approved by the Nursing Council (or is working under supervision with a person with these competencies until competencies are achieved)

Well Child Provider Team (WCPT)

- general medical practitioner who has met the competencies for Child Health/Well Child approved by the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (or is working under supervision until competencies are achieved)
or
- registered general and obstetric nurse, or registered comprehensive nurse who has met the competencies for Child Health/Well Child approved by the Nursing Council (or is working under supervision with a person with these competencies until competencies are achieved)
and
- community health worker or social worker if topics outlined in this handbook have been included in their qualification and they are, as a result of this education, competent to deliver certain components of care within a team that includes either of the two professionals outlined above
or
- Plunket 'Karitane', 'Kaiawhina' if topics outlined in this handbook have been included in their qualification and they are, as a result of this education, competent to deliver components of care within a team that includes either of the two professionals outlined above

Authorised Vaccinator

- a practitioner who has undertaken a formal vaccinator training programme, who undertakes regular re-accreditation, and has been approved by the Medical Officer of Health

Vision Hearing Tester

- vision Hearing Tester who meets Vision Hearing Screening National Protocol through the National Audiology Centre

Quality Requirements

The Well Child-Tamariki Ora service provider is required to comply with the General Terms and Conditions of the Ministry of Health and the Provider Quality Specification, or the Maternity Services Section 88 of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000.

The following specific requirements also apply:

- informed consent from parents/guardians for the medical examination of children
- the Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights 1996
- the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1989
- Immunisation Standards 2002
- Section 125 of the Health Act 1956 with respect to the medical examination of children.

