

Briefing

Removing emergency medical technicians from the immigration Green List

Date due to MO:	N/A	Action required by:	12 May 2023
Security level:	IN CONFIDENCE	Health Report number:	HR2023024868
To:	Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, Minister of Health Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Immigration		
Consulted:	Health New Zealand: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Māori Health Authority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
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Minister's office to complete:

- Approved
- Decline
- Noted
- Needs change
- Seen
- Overtaken by events
- See Minister's Notes
- Withdrawn

Comment:

Removing emergency medical technicians from the immigration Green List

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE **Date:** 10 May 2023

To: Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, Minister of Health
Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Immigration

Purpose of report

1. This briefing seeks your agreement to remove emergency medical technicians from the immigration Green List. This report discloses all relevant information and implications.

Context

2. On 11 April 2023, Cabinet agreed to add 32 health professions to the immigration Green List pathways [CAB-23-MIN-0126 refers].
3. Cabinet noted that these decisions would be implemented in May 2023. Officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and the Ministry of Health have been working to draft immigration instructions that give effect to this policy decision.

Emergency medical technicians do not meet the Green List requirements

4. Cabinet also agreed to the criteria for additions to the Green List. The primary applicant must be regulated under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 or be self-regulated by a professional body, and be defined by health agencies as being critical to the delivery of health services in New Zealand.
5. Whilst drafting the registration requirements, officials found an error in the list of health professions added to the Green List. One of the health roles that were added was listed as:
 - Paramedic/emergency medicine technician
6. When drafting the registration requirements to inform immigration instructions, it was discovered that emergency medicine technicians are not regulated by the Paramedic Council, do not have a self-regulating body, and perform a different role to a paramedic.
7. Officials understood that emergency medical technicians and paramedics performed a very similar role within the health sector as they are often grouped together. This formed part of the recommendation they be added to the Green List earlier this year alongside paramedics. However, this is not the case and health agencies do not recommend emergency medical technicians be included as a distinct and separate role requiring an attractive immigration pathway.

8. The emergency medical technician does not meet the requirements for a health role to be included on the Green List. Without a regulatory body and corresponding registration requirements, officials cannot operationalise the policy decision to add emergency medicine technicians to the Green List.
9. To resolve this issue, officials recommend you agree to remove emergency medicine technicians from the Green List. This would mean that only paramedic is listed and does not change the number of health professions on the Green List overall. Appendix 1 shows the updated Green List changes for health sector roles, removing the reference to emergency medical technicians.
10. There is an opportunity now to make this change before Immigration New Zealand operationalises the Green List changes agreed earlier this year. This will prevent internationally based emergency medical technicians from failing to meet requirements part way through a residency or working visa application, and clearly indicates that the Green List does not offer a residency pathway for this profession.

Next steps

11. Subject to your agreement, emergency medical technicians will not be added to the immigration Green List. Officials will communicate this change to the sector prior to the changes going live at the end of May 2023.

Recommendations

We recommend you:

- a) **Note** emergency medical technicians do not meet the criteria for a health role to be included on the immigration Green List
- b) **Agree** that emergency medical technicians will not be added to the **Yes/No** immigration Green List
- c) **Note** officials will communicate this change to the sector following your agreement



Maree Roberts

Deputy Director-General of Health
Strategy Policy and Legislation

Date: 10/5/23

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

Minister of Health

Date:

Hon Michael Wood

Minister of Immigration

Date:

Appendix 1: Updated Green List changes for health professions

List of health professions going on the Green List Straight to Residence pathway	Existing roles on Green List Work to Residence moving to Straight to Residence pathway	Existing roles on the Green List Straight to Residence pathway
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Addiction practitioner/alcohol & drug clinician 2. Audiometrist 3. Chiropractor 4. Clinical dental technician 5. Clinical physiologists (sleep, renal, exercise, respiratory, neurology, and cardiac) 6. Counsellor 7. Dental specialists 8. Dental technician 9. Dental therapist 10. Dentist 11. Dietician 12. Dispensing optician 13. Drug and alcohol counsellor 14. Enrolled nurse 15. Genetic counsellor 16. Medical laboratory pre-analytical technician 17. Medical resonance imaging technologist 18. Nuclear medicine technologist 19. Nurse practitioner 20. Optometrist 21. Oral health therapist 22. Orthotic and prosthetic technician 23. Orthotist/prosthetist 24. Osteopath 25. Paramedic 26. Perfusionist (cardiac) 27. Pharmacist 28. Physiotherapist 29. Play therapist (hospital) 30. Social worker 31. Speech language therapist 32. Sterile processing technician 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anaesthetic technician 2. Audiologist 3. Medical imaging technologist 4. Medical laboratory technician 5. Medical radiation therapist 6. Occupational therapist 7. Podiatrist 8. Sonographer 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical psychologists 2. Medical laboratory scientist 3. Medical practitioners 4. Midwife 5. Orthoptist 6. Physicist (medical) 7. Psychologists 8. Registered nurse

Minister's Notes

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

