New Zealand Approved Quality Assurance Activity Status

New Zealand cases cannot be entered until protection as an Approved Quality Assurance Activity under New Zealand legislation is again in place. This is expected to be in early May 2019.

You can view/edit existing cases but not add a new episode, or add a new patient.

An extension to the end-April data submission deadline will be provided for NZ surgeons.

We will let you know when data can again be added.

Why is this happening?

The protection of audit data is of utmost concern to the audit, and a key part of this is the legal protection afforded to the audit. As you are likely aware, the BQA has long been approved by the New Zealand government as an Approved Quality Assurance Activity. This means that audit findings (chiefly the KPI results) are not subject to subpoena, and hence full and open participation in the audit cannot be used against an individual surgeon (in the event an individual does not meet the KPIs).

Unfortunately, the protection provided by the New Zealand government has lapsed. Protection is provided in five-year periods and the current protection expired 3 April. A reapplication was submitted to the New Zealand government in good time, in 2018. However there have been delays by the New Zealand government in assessing and reapproving this.

We understand the reapplication has been approved, however it still needs to go through the final legal steps to make it officially in force. The current protection has lapsed as these final legal steps are being undertaken by the New Zealand government.

The protection when it is reinstated will not be retrospective; any data submitted during the lapse period will remain unprotected. Hence it has been decided that most appropriate action is to prevent data entry for NZ cases, during this short lapse period. In practical terms it is considered unlikely that KPIs generated on the relatively small amount of data submitted during the lapse would be attractive to a subpoena. Nevertheless, we take our responsibility to protect your data very seriously, and so have taken the decision to prevent NZ cases being submitted during this time.

Once the NZ legal protection has been reinstated, we will again allow data to be entered for NZ cases, and any cases you had during the lapse time can be safely entered under the renewed protection.

Queries or concerns?

Please contact the audit team on breast.audit@surgeons.org or +61 8 8219 0939.