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6th May 2021

To: Shelagh Thomas, President New Zealand Sterile Services Association
Shelagh.thomas@huttvalleydhb.org.nz

Thank you for your email Shelagh, this letter is an update to inform you on our work to support alignment between Sterile Services and the revised standards AS/NZS 4187:2014 AMD 2:2019.

With the Director General's endorsement, I have been in discussion with the National Directors of Allied Health regarding the implementation of internal departmental audits against the revised AS/NZS standards [AS/NZS 4187:2014 AMD 2:2019](#). We do not provide internal audit tools but recommend services to source their own such as the previous Self-Audit Tool commissioned and published by your association in 2018.

As agreed with the Director General we have a June 2021 deadline to provide a report back on the completed national implementation of internal audits by Sterile Services. Due to the current delay in processing the updated Health and Disability Services Standard we can confirm that their compliance deadline has been extended to February 2022.

Regarding the updated Standard DZ8134:2021, this is only mandatory for those defined in the Health and Disability Services (Safety) Act 2001. The updated Health and Disability Services Standard (the updated Standard) is currently going through Standards New Zealand's approval process. The updated Standard has several amendments which strengthen auditing of sterile supply units in the services the standard applies to. These measures were included with the full support of Standards NZ and will ensure safe services for people in New Zealand.

We provided specific feedback in regard to the relevant clause and believe the following wording will be included;

Clause 5.5.8 - Service providers are able to demonstrate, via evidence of a completed audit across their sterile services in alignment with Standards AS/NZS 4815-2006 and AS/NZS 4187-2014 (or newest version), that equipment has been sterilised prior to use and/or corrective actions have been identified.

I will continue to work with yourself and the National Directors of Allied Health to sustain momentum and progress towards the June update.

Nga mihi aroha

Martin Chadwick
Chief Allied Health Professions Officer
Ministry of Health

- cc. Sue Waters, Chair – National Directors of Allied Health Forum
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