

## Changes to Medical Certificates July 2009: Questions and Answers for Medical Professionals

These questions and answers are about the introduction of new versions of the *Medical and Chest X-Ray Certificate (INZ 1007)* and the *Temporary Entry Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)*.

### Can applicants use the old version of the form?

Yes. Until 30 November 2009 we will accept **all** of these versions of the medical certificates:

- *Medical and Chest X-Ray Certificate (NZIS 1007)* dated August 2005
- *Temporary Entry Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)* dated March 2005
- *Medical and Chest X-Ray Certificate (NZIS 1007)* dated July 2009
- *Temporary Entry Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)* dated July 2009

If you lodge an application with an 'old' version of one of the medical certificates after 30 November 2009, we may not accept your application, and we may return it to you.

### Is there a different Medical and X-ray Certificate for applicants for residence and for applicants for temporary entry?

All applicants who are required to complete a **full** medical certificate will use the same form - *Medical and Chest X-Ray Certificate (INZ 1007)*.

### What changes have been made to the certificates?

The format of each form has been updated in accordance with an overall re-design of Immigration New Zealand forms and guidelines and there are some minor amendments to content. There has been no change to INZ's health and disability screening policy; applicants for both temporary entry and residence are still required to be of an acceptable standard of health.

#### *Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1007)*

The main differences in the new July 2009 certificate (compared with the August 2005 certificate) are:

- information for applicants ('Applicant's Notes' – which was previously published as a separate leaflet) added to the front of the *Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate*, on pages which can be detached.
- the format of sections B and D have been amended so that the 'yes' and 'no' option boxes are immediately beside each question, and each question has a space below to write any additional comments (as opposed to the column format of the old version).
- applicants are required to complete their name in a box at the top of the page of the certificate, where indicated.
- some additional notes have been provided at questions in 'Section B: Medical history' to help you complete the form and ensure all relevant information is provided.
- an additional compulsory blood test for applicants 15 years and older is an eGFR or creatinine clearance test (whichever is available).

#### *Temporary Entry Chest X-ray Certificate (NZIS 1096)*

The main difference in the new July 2009 certificate, (compared with the March 2005 certificate), is:

- the addition of a new question for the radiologist to answer at 'Section C: Chest X-ray results'. The radiologist must now answer whether there is evidence of any other (non-TB-related) abnormalities.

- the format of 'Section D: Chest X-ray results for person having the examination' has been amended so that the 'yes' and 'no' option boxes are immediately beside each question, and there is space below the set of questions to write any additional comments.

### **Why have changes been made?**

We updated the medical certificates after carrying out a review. When we developed and implemented migrant health screening requirements in 2005, it was recognised that health is dynamic; and we want to ensure that our medical assessment remains appropriate and continues to evolve.

### **The individual is applying for residence in New Zealand. What health checks do they need?**

There are no changes to health requirements for applicants applying for residence in New Zealand. All residence applicants must submit the prescribed medical certificate *Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1007)* with their application.

### **The individual wants to come to New Zealand on a temporary entry visa. What health checks do they need?**

If they are a citizen of a country that is not 'low incidence countries for TB' or in the last five years they have spent a total of three months or more in a country that is not a 'low incidence TB country', and if they intend to be in New Zealand for more than six months, they will be required to undergo a chest x-ray and will need to complete the *Temporary Entry Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)*.

As per current requirements, they will be required to complete a full medical if they intend to stay in New Zealand for longer than 12 months.

### **For how long is their medical clearance valid?**

As per current requirements, we reserve the right to ask for a medical certificate at any time. However, a medical certificate will normally have a clearance for two years, provided the applicant's health status remains unchanged.

### **Who has the Department of Labour consulted with regarding these changes?**

We have consulted with our Medical Assessors, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. Feedback was also sought and obtained from Medical Examiners both on and offshore.

### **Where do I go for more information?**

[www.immigration.govt.nz/medicalhandbook](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/medicalhandbook). Or email [RICH@dol.govt.nz](mailto:RICH@dol.govt.nz).

In New Zealand you can telephone, free, our Immigration Contact Centre on 0508 558 855.