

Changes to Medical Certificates 4 May 2010: 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)*.

Can applicants use the old version of the form?

Yes. We will accept **all** of these versions of the medical certificates:

- *Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate (NZIS 1007)* dated August 2005
- *Temporary Entry X-ray Certificate (NZIS 1096)* dated March 2005
- *Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1007)* dated July 2009
- *Temporary Entry Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)* dated July 2009
- *Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1007)* dated May 2010

Note: if you supply people with medical certificates, please use the 4 May 2010 version of the *Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1007)* and the July 2009 version of the *Temporary Entry Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)*.

Is there a different Medical and Chest 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)*.

If you are a medical professional who carries out Immigration New Zealand medical examinations, see our [pages for medical professionals](#).

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 overall content and structure of the *Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1007)* has not changed. INZ's health and disability screening policy has not changed; applicants for both temporary entry and residence are still required to be of an acceptable standard of health.

The key changes to the May 2010 *Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate* are:

Provide advice to applicants on how best to prepare for an INZ medical examination

A new section has been added to the front of the medical certificate 'how to prepare for your medical examination'. This will help applicants prepare for their examination and reduce the number of instances where case officers request repeat tests.

Front loading of tests and reports where clinically indicated

The medical examiner is now instructed to arrange and attach additional tests and/or reports when the examination indicates there is a need for further information. This information will be used by the Immigration New Zealand medical assessor for assessment against Immigration health policy.

By reducing the need for Immigration staff to request additional tests and/or reports from applicants, a decision on the application can be made within a shorter timeframe.

Changes to standard blood tests

The eGFR (or Creatinine Clearance) tests have been removed from the standard blood tests.

The fasting lipids and fasting glucose tests are no longer discretionary tests. Lipids (preferably fasting) and glucose (preferably fasting) have become compulsory tests. The BMI (D2) and cardiovascular (D5) questions which require these tests have been simplified to allow for these changes.

Immigration medical assessors regularly request Immigration staff to arrange for these tests from applicants before an assessment can be made on their health. This creates both delays and inconvenience for Immigration New Zealand applicants.

Making these tests compulsory and preferably fasting will ensure applicants, where the BMI and cardiovascular questions do not require a referral, are not inconvenienced by having to wait for a fasting test. If the medical assessor does require a subsequent fasting test, they will request these.

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 *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. Or email RICH@dol.govt.nz.

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