Information sheet for general practices submitting an expressing an interest in piloting the next Foundation Standard

Pilot period: 1 March 2027 to 30 June 2027

The College's Quality Programmes

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (the College) offers the Foundation Standard and Cornerstone Quality Programmes. Cornerstone includes Equity and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). The College is developing the next Foundation Standard to support safe, high-quality general practice, equity and cultural safety, and help practices identify gaps in their systems and processes.

Why pilot the next Foundation Standard?

To ensure the next Foundation Standard works well in reality across a range of general practice settings and composition.

Which practices are eligible to participate?

Practices with current Foundation Standard certification can express interest in the pilot. Practices with a kōpara (satellite clinic) will also be considered. The proposed approach is to include a range of practice sizes, locations, service models and patient populations.

How long will the practices be given to complete the pilot?

Practices will have four full months to complete the pilot, from 1 March 2027 to 30 June 2027.

What commitment is required?

Participation involves completing the Pilot between 1 March and 30 June 2027, and providing feedback on the draft Standard, guidance and supporting resources. Before expressing an interest, practices need to discuss this with practice leaders and relevant team members and ensure time and support can be allocated. Although participation is free, it requires time commitment from the team.

How will my practice be supported?

Practices will be invited to an online briefing with the Quality Programmes team. The session will explain how the pilot will run, what support will be available, how to provide feedback during and at the end of the pilot, and how to contact the team with questions.

What will it cost to participate?

There will be no assessment costs for practices participating in the Foundation Standard pilot.

What will happen to the practice's Foundation Standard certification after the pilot?
Practices that are assessed against the pilot Standard and successfully meet its requirements will be awarded Foundation Standard certification in the new Standard, valid for three years. The certification arrangements will be confirmed before the pilot begins.

What will practices be asked to do?

Practices will be asked to provide feedback as they pilot the new Standard. Feedback will cover the content, guidance, supporting resources and templates, including what works well and what could be improved before the next Foundation Standard is finalised.

How can my practice express interest?
Practices must submit an expression of interest by **26 November 2026** using the EoI form

For any questions about the pilot, contact the College's Quality Programmes team at quality@rnzcgp.org.nz