

Media release

20 November 2012

Time is running out for pharmacists to renew registration by 30 November

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) today urged pharmacists who have yet to renew their registration, which is due 30 November, to renew online before then.

Board Chair, Adjunct Associate Professor Stephen Marty, said the number of pharmacists renewing online was pleasing with more than 50% renewing online so far which is an excellent result.

‘To ensure that everyone who wants to renew their registration does so, hard copy letters have been sent to pharmacists who have already received email reminders but are yet to renew online,’ Adj Assoc Prof Marty said.

‘In the National Scheme, health professionals are responsible for renewing their registration on time. The job of the Board – with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – is to make this as simple and straightforward as possible.’

Adj Assoc Prof Marty said once AHPRA received a pharmacist’s application for renewal of registration they would stop receiving renewal reminders. A new online facility to ‘opt out’ of renewing registration also puts a stop to renewal reminders.

‘Pharmacists who do not want to renew their registration can simply ignore the reminders or go online to ‘opt out’ of renewing,’ he said.

‘I urge anyone due to renew by 30 November who has not yet done so to act quickly as applications received after the registration expiry date will incur a late payment fee.’

The late payment fee will apply to pharmacists who apply to renew during the one month late period outlined in the National Law. It will be payable in addition to the annual renewal fee.

Adj Assoc Prof Marty reminded pharmacists that there were significant consequences for individuals who do not renew on time in the National Scheme.

Under the National Law, pharmacists who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the Register of Pharmacists. As their registration will lapse, those who intend to practise will not be able to practise in Australia until a new application for registration is lodged and approved.

‘Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this so our advice is clear – renew on time. The quickest and easiest way to do this is online,’ Adj Assoc Prof Marty said.

Pharmacists can check that their application has been received via the online receipt service at [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - Renewal Received Confirmation](#). Individuals whose application to renew general registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed.

The listing on the Register of Pharmacists is evidence for employers that a health professional is registered, even if their registration expiry date has passed. Pharmacists can also print off a copy of their registration certificate using AHPRA's online services at www.ahpra.gov.au.

Failure to renew:

Pharmacists who fail to renew their registration by 30 November 2012, or within the following one month late period, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. These practitioners should note that they are not able to practise in their profession until their fast-track registration application has been processed and approved.

For more information

- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200